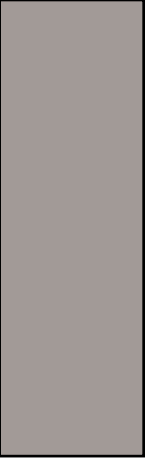


the  
**RUI** / **AITE**  
monthly  
May 2020



# THE NEW TECH ZOO



03

EDITORIAL

06

BUZZ  
AROUND

23

CAREER-  
WISE

35

BEHIND  
THE  
SCENES  
& OP-ED

63

INSIGHT

73

OPEN  
FORUM

84

TECH-  
TRICKED

98

SAFARNAMA

116

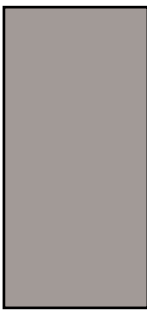
FICTIONAL-  
LY YOURS

131

ART WALL

136

CREDITS



# Hello, readers!

It's officially been more than a month of everyone staying at home. The world has changed dramatically in a short span, and we're watching people in different countries cooperate to combat this challenge. As we stay safe and sheltered, the columnists decided to express the changes within and around us in the May edition of the Rukaiite Monthly.



We have been fortunate to be here, safe at home. But what about the people who are stuck

abroad? Safarnama has reached out to individuals who are presently in foreign countries to gain their opinions and concerns. Buzz Around talks about how COVID-19 has had an effect on an uncertain economy and



fluctuating psychology. Behind the Scenes and Op-Ed have a fascinating collaboration explaining the hopeful side of the pandemic. Fictionally Yours features a story underlying the secrets behind a complicated truth, and a poem talking about the light behind the darkness.



Insight has created a humorous story to brighten everyone's days.



Careerwise has featured our very own Bharatnatyam dancer Swarali Kulkarni, and enlisted the increasing opportunities for careers in Indian Classical Dance

forms. Tech- tricked has spoken about DNA data storages and different machine learning applications. Open Forum has jumped into Isekai, and how we are escaping from the real world into the





fantasies we adore.

These are certainly trying times, but we have a strong community of students and teachers offering each other support.

That's not even mentioning our own friends and families. We'll get through this as a team – as a planet.

Stay home. Stay safe.

The Editorial Team.



# Buzz Around



# A New Tweenteen

Adya Shreya | TYBSc

2 minutes read

Just when the world declared pandemic,  
My thoughts became epidemic,  
Oh mama! I don't know what shall be done  
Oh mama! What if I won't be able to see the sun.

It was my semester that got postponed,  
It was my humour that is no more a bone

I wanted to catch the sight,  
Of Rani Quila, Aurangzeb Lane and Dravid Canal  
With Derek, Hari, Hadid and Yashpal,  
And now see the plight.

I'm lockdown, quarantined and isolated  
All I could do is wash my hands  
Wear a mask and withstand  
And how all my plans are annihilated.

Aghast and unhappy  
I went to my store  
Unboxing my pandora  
Whilst being snappy.





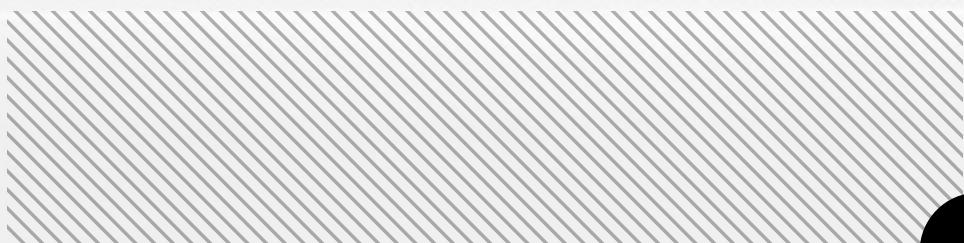
I saw my old photographs,  
Omnium-Gatherium and awards  
For what I drew on board  
A sunflower wrapped Giraffe.

Grandma's recipe of Kosha Mangsho  
And how I added too many chillies  
Failing each time I cook  
Promise to make one day a man show

How mumma decided our routine  
A healthy diet and exercises  
Running every morning  
And not indulge in cuisines.

Childhood in figment  
Daddy brought us puzzles  
And flower printed pencils  
And then each day became a commitment.

I am so happy a bean  
Thankful and elated  
Brimming with ideas  
A new tweenteen.



# Coronavirus and Institutional Imbalance

Riddhi Solanki | TYBSc  
4 minutes read

The outbreak of Coronavirus has meant that the society has to redefine the fundamental principles which has governed it. The rise of the novel Coronavirus has led to a contagion which requires early and quick actions by the policymakers and the government officials. While the so-called developed countries like America have succumbed to the virus, a country like ours has shown great might to curb it in the initial stages. But there are two major challenges that we face: containing the disease and limiting the economic recession in an already slowing economy.

The lockdown has led to complete shut down of the local markets while other MNC's have adopted the tradition of



work-from-home enduring the risks of recession. With additional financial help from institutes like the World Bank and IMF to the countries reeling from the aftereffects of the pandemic, the crash in Oil prices to the travel industry and other private sectors being hit the hardest, the effects of the lockdown are evident. In India, the economic loss estimated is the lowest seen in last 30 years. Major companies like Larsen and Toubro, Bharat Forge, Tata motors etc have decided to temporarily suspend or have led to reduction in their on-going operations to ensure protection of their employees. Moreover, during the lockdown 140 million people lost employment due to various businesses such as hotel chains and airlines cutting salaries or laying off employees. The lockdown has also led to loss of work for daily wage workers which led to major uprisings of migrant workers demanding their way back home from their respective workplaces in key viral hotspots like Delhi and Mumbai.





In addition to this, a large number of farmers across the country are also facing uncertainty as this is believed to be the harvest season. Amidst this chaotic situation, supply chains like Amazon, BigBasket etc are doing their bit in every way that they can to ensure the inflow of essential commodities in localities of need and the areas of containments where people are unable to step down due to the corona threat.

Along with these acts of kindness, there are certain incidences that are heart-wrenching. The most disturbing piece of news that we come across these days is the violence that our Corona fighters i.e. the Doctors, Nurses, workers and also the police officials have to face while performing their duties. While they lay their lives in harms way to ensure the safety of fellow citizens, there are cases reported which cite stone-pelting and spitting on doctors who come to aid the suspected patients. Another issue is the increase in Domestic violence during the



lockdown. As law abiding citizens it is our duty to take every possible prophylactic measure to prevent a mishap during the time of this pandemic. It is said that difficult times call for difficult measures. Will the lockdown be extended? Will we be successful in breaking the infectious cycle? Only time will tell. Until then remember “Jaan Hai to Jahaan Hai”

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# Should MOOCs be promoted?

Shravani Mhaisale | SYJC

6 minutes read

As the corona pandemic spreads rapidly across the world that almost half of the students are out of the class as estimated by UNESCO. Distance learning now is preferred by most students. E-learning portals such as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) which are delivered online and accessible to all have come to student's aid. MOOC'S like **Coursera**, **edX**, **indigenous SWAYAM** have helped students to access with the best online teaching institutions. They enhance learning with short lectures, courses, quiz, peer reviewed assignments and projects. The add-on benefit to them are that students are liberalized by opting for self paced courses too. Sighting India's supply-demand gap, a lack of proper infrastructure, tedious pen-paper tasks and irrelevant topics that are taught



restricts one efficiency by all means. MOOCs offer Indian students the opportunity to learn as well as gain certification of Master track courses from the best professors in the U.S. and Europe. Some MOOCs have started platforms to apply for scholarships. In fact, many universities and industries are collaborating with MOOCs.

MOOCs are controversial. Some say it to be the future of higher education whereas some totally criticize by saying it to be the downfall of education system. As Swami Vivekanand quoted "The education which does not help the common mass to equip themselves for the struggle for life, which does not bring out strength of character, a spirit of philanthropy and the courage of a lion – is it worth the name?" This quote is usually used sighting the exact contrast picture of today's education system. Our turning steps to MOOCs are argued as these versions of college courses are often simplified and may not match the level of the real knowledge. Learners with physical disabilities or from poor economic



societies can't use MOOCs as few courses are premium to one's pocket. Languages too can be a huge barrier. There is nobody to track the palpable improvement of the learner. Many critiques turned up saying that the most of courses from MOOCs have started charging fees for most courses. Medical and engineering fields require practical experience which is devoid of at e-classrooms. Albeit all it's been preferred by most due to very low charges for enrolment and relative lesser periods of course. Digital disparity needs to end for a healthy start of 'Digital India'.

Let's see what our youngsters have in their store for the vogue:

*(The interviewees are from SYJC, corresponding to Shravani Mhaisale, SYJC)*

**1. Do you think MOOC'S are the most effective tools in today's education system?**

**Harshada:** Yes, everything needs a strong system, whether the traditional one or MOOC. But MOOC is useful since we have access to so many windows of our choices.





**Vedant:** Yes, I do think that is the most effective tool in today's situation. These online courses provide plethora of curriculum which is advanced and helps to build up fundamentals.

**Sejal:** According to me, no... MOOCs are not much effective! It is useful in today's world but doesn't serve real purpose on professional term.

**Kashmira:** Yes, I do think that MOOCs are effective because a student can grasp information easily if it is given through virtual medium than the old methods of classes on repeat (Ugghh!)

**Sarthak:** Yes, they can be effective tools. No need to attend college and can acquire desired degree or full-fledged courses at any time. I mean wow!

## **2. How far you or someone you know have accessed these online platforms?**

**Harshada:** Umm, actually my 10-15 friends have made an account and using the same!

**Vedant:** Yes some of friends are using it.





**Sejal:** One of my friend.

**Kashmira:** Honestly, I have never used MOOCs because I was unaware about it nor do I know someone using it as most people I know are unaware (uncertain)

**Sarthak:** Not yet but they are aware of such e-classrooms.

### **3. Can e-learnings substitute our classroom courses?**

**Harshada:** No. Self learning through MOOC and learning in physical attentive masses is different. MOOC give information, knowledge but not experience and practical knowledge.

**Vedant:** Yes of course it's the time to go online .We started from gurukul under the banyan tree till AC class rooms, now it's the time to transfer ourselves to 5 inch mobile/PCs/Laptops etc.  
Technology you see \*winks\*

**Sejal:** No

**Kashmira:** Yes MOOCs are effective in a way for making learning easy. But what I also notice is students in India are more

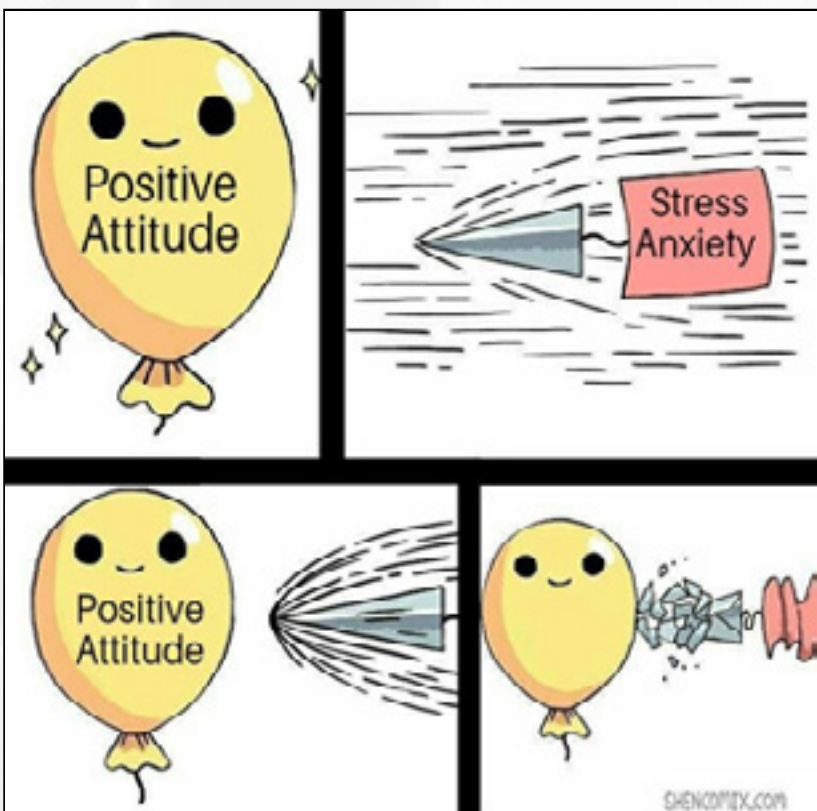


versed with the bench desk and classroom learning and that building up our degree on MOOC will take time.

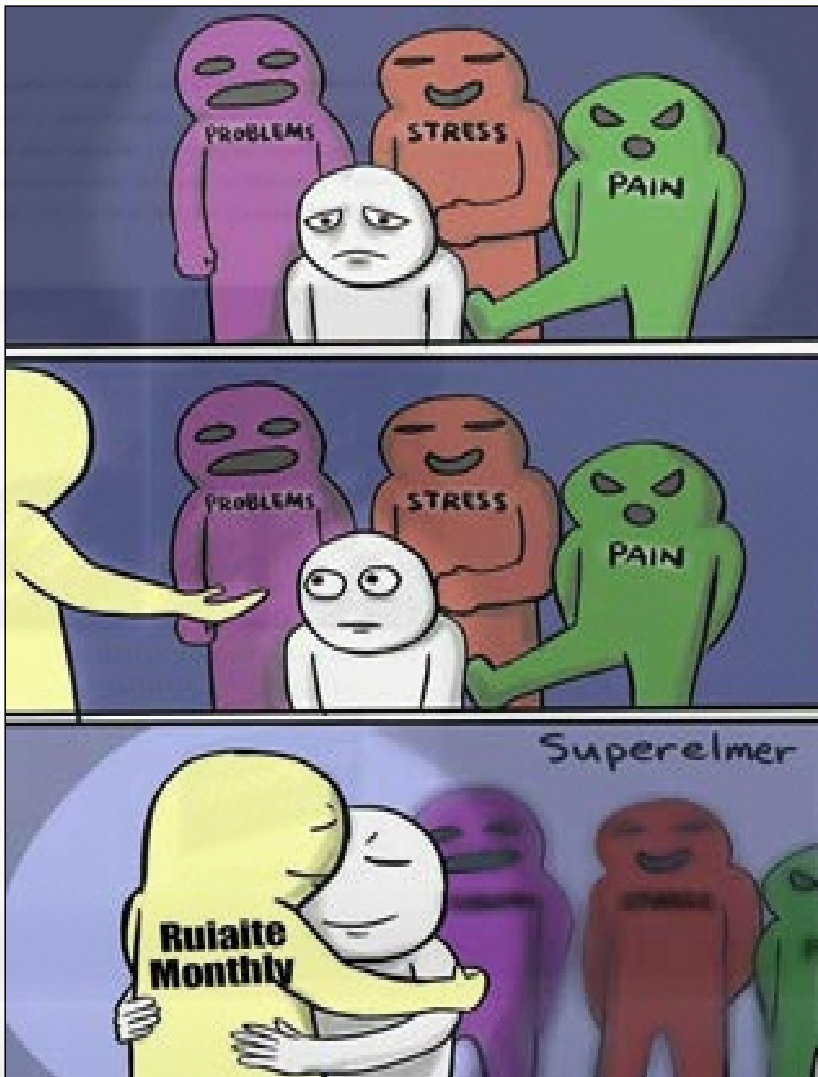
**Sarthak:** They can. But seems difficult in Indian education system which is more affiliated with going to schools and colleges right from playgroups.

Ok thank you buddies! Your responses are well appreciated and helpful for our records. Ciao! Take care and stay safe!

**Everybody:** Yeah, wish you the same Shravani!







Meme Courtesy: Parthana Puthran | SYBA



# Zoombongings: What's that now?

Chinmay Parulekar | TYBSc

3 minutes read

Recent COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the popularity surge of the video conferencing app 'Zoom' due to various reasons. Zoom seems very easy to handle and has a very user friendly interface. But it can be clearly seen that we have to make a trade-off between usability and security.

## ■ What are the Issues faced by people using the Zoom app?

The biggest issue faced by Zoom users is that the conferencing is not end-to-end encrypted, as a result of which the video calls are open to attacks by third parties and AI. Due to this, all the users and their data is open to malicious conduct.





## ■ Which cases released the privacy issues out in the open?

There were several cases of 'Zoombombings' in the US.

Zoombombings are nothing but users being exposed to graphic content of any kind amidst the usage of the app. A lot of cases have been reported of unknown people getting added to the meeting.

## ■ What did Indian government do against these issues?

The Ministry of Home affairs released guidelines for safe usage of the app. The Cyber Coordination centre (CyCord) of the Home Ministry advised against usage of the Zoom app for administrative purposes due to concerns regarding security of the app. Also CERT-In, which is the prime agency dealing with India's cyber-security threats, warned that Zoom conferencing may be a cause of loss of sensitive information and vulnerability towards cyber attacks. Also MHA has launched a challenge to develop Zoom alternatives.



## ■ How did various countries respond to this issue?

Various countries like India, Australia, Germany, US have issued advisories to warn people about the dangers of Zoom's usage. Certain institutes like NASA, Google have totally banned Zoom. Taiwan became the first country to ban zoom usage for all government purposes.

## ■ How can we face this issue?

As a student we may not be facing any grave danger in the usage of the app, yet we should take precautions while sharing details of the meetings and be aware of the guidelines. On a corporate level, people have started using other apps like Cisco webex, blue jeans, Microsoft Teams which are a lot safer than Zoom.







# Careerwise

“Bharatnatyam is an art of expressions.”

Read the Exclusive interview and explore the various opportunities in Bharatanatyam.



# Success in Bharatnatyam

Tapasya Iyer | SYBA  
Shriya Hadavale | FYJC  
10.8 minutes read

“Dance is my meditation, my prayer and my life,” quotes Guru Smt. Uma Rao, a great Bharatnatyam exponent. It is always said, Indian classical dance and music is not just for entertainment but they are designed to elevate your consciousness. Inspired by Shri Parshwanath Upadhye, **Miss. Swarali Kulkarni**, a Ruiaite, shares her experience of the All India level competition and her Bharatnatyam journey. Here are the excerpts of the interview:

1. How has been your journey in Bharatnatyam so far? Can you share your fondest memory?

My journey has been great in this field. Bharatnatyam is my passion. I had my share of difficulties but it has been



amazing throughout. My fondest memory certainly is my Arangetram which I had last year. I had been working on it for a year. And it turned out to be very successful.

2. Speaking of Arangetram, Can you elaborate on how did you prepare for it? What challenges you faced?

The Gurus wait for 8-10 years before they decide if the pupil is ready for Arangetram. This is the case in most of India. In the southern states, they do it at a younger age. You can even see mass arangetrams happening in temples.

When I first started preparing for the arangetram, I was very excited as it was going to be my debut performance as a professional dancer. As we started getting more into the rehearsals, I realized it required a lot more dedication than I thought. We had to practice every day for 3-4 hours for a year. It got challenging. I had to let go of many other opportunities. But I realized later, it was all worth it.



That had been a tedious but a wonderful year! However, I know this is just the beginning. I had just dived deep into the ocean and there was a lot to explore.

### 3. How have you managed a balance between studies and dancing together?

I took small gaps during my board exams. But then I went back and resumed routine rehearsals. My guru has been very understanding and warm which made it easy to catch up with what was missed. I have had many experiences when I had to let go of performing due to exams but whenever I find the thinnest chance that it can be done I do it. At the end, if you have the passion for it, you can manage everything.

### 4. Can you share about your experience of the Indo-Russian friendship meet performance in Delhi?

The meet happened 2 months ago. Our group was selected for this prestigious performance. We had barely 15-20 days



to rehearse and get everything else ready. We practised tediously. As it got closer, we were a bit confused whether to go or not as it was the on start of corona in India and that too in Delhi. But we went anyway. It was a proud moment to be able to represent India. We got great and heart-warming feedback from all the Russian and Indian audience present over there.



## 5. Can you elaborate about the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya and other examination?

There are about nine major examinations. Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal is an institution that promotes Indian art forms. There are no entrance examinations. Once you begin your training, you have to appear for the first examination. Those are the basics that are taught during the first few years. Before each examination, a student has to prepare for a year. The Gandharva curriculum is set to be equivalent to Bachelor's program and is very advanced. After passing the first four, the student can appear for the Visharad Pratham examination. A student appearing for Visharad has to prepare the syllabus of Visharad plus all the exams that they have given before. It also develops your skill as a teacher by introducing nattuvangam, which is a musical instrument played by gurus while their pupils dance. Visharad exams may take a year - or even two - to clear. If one desires to get a Master's in dance



Visharad is compulsory. There are many other institutes too providing the degree like Nalanda, Darpan academy.

**6. Apart from great dancing skills, what are other skills needed to be successful in this field?**

I feel being expressive helps a lot in Bharatanatyam. It's something that comes from the heart. Being able to understand and portray emotion is a talent. For example, if I am playing Yashoda, I need to be able to see and feel Krishna with a motherly warmth in my eyes. Some are blessed with expressions, some develop it with practice. Once it appears on stage, one cannot help feeling overwhelmed.

**7. Do you think this field is women dominated?**

I do think that there are many more number of female performers than male. The fact that this art form was started and performed by females has obviously influenced it. Through the years,



Bharatnatyam has been through many changes. This is the phase in which many male dancers have taken up Bharatnatyam and are performing it beautifully. Dancers like Parshwanath Upadhyay, Pavitra Bhatt and Vaibhav Arekar have gelled their art so well! They are now looked up to as some of the most successful Bharatnatyam dancers in India and are performing worldwide.

## 8. What is the scope of Bharatnatyam in India and in abroad?

There are a lot of options for a career in bharatnatyam. One could be a performer, a dance tutor, a dance photographer, an instrumentalist. There is obviously a lot of competition as many artists are already in the field. Many upcoming artists are joining the field. There is tremendous scope outside India. There are many Bharatnatyam dancers who perform in many countries. Even my guru has conducted many successful workshops abroad. People are very curious about the Indian classical art



forms. As a career, you can earn a lot in this field.

9. With the new western dance forms getting popularity, will it affect Bharatnatyam ?

We always believe that Bharatnatyam is for a class and not mass. Many other dance forms have existed since a while but people who have a taste for it will pursue it.



10. Throughout the interview you fondly spoke about your Guru, Can you tell us more about your guru? How has been your parents approach to dance?



My gurus Smt. Apeksha Mundargi and Smt. Mitali Hasabnis have been more like a mentors to me, not only in dance but in life. They have provided me with so much comfort for me to be able to explore the dance on my own too. They always welcome and appreciate any ideas that I may give. My parents have been my no 1 supporters and fans since childhood. My mother had been dreaming about my Arangetram for years. She was the most radiant and happy person in the auditorium in the d-day. My dad, my sister everyone help me and give tips. They truly are my pillars of support.

### **11. Can you elaborate on your experience of All India level competition?**

It was a great learning experience. I had practised day and night for the competition. It took great efforts to perform there. There were around 500 participants in my category. The performance went really well. As there was a lot of competition from many states, I hardly expected to win.



I bagged the second place. It got me selected for an international Asia Pacific olympiad in singapore a few months later.

## 12. What are your future plans in Bharatanatyam career?

This year I will get my degree in Visharad. After that I plan to appear for the alankar examinations which would be a post-graduation. I wish to become a great performer and open my own dance class someday. Bharatnatyam is something that always makes me happy.



## Facts about Bharatnatyam

1. Bharatnatyam originated 2000 years ago in Tamil Nadu. The term was introduced by Shri. Krishna Iyer.
2. Earlier, devdasis were the ones who used to perform in temples or in courts which is why it was called Dasiattam. The male members of the family used to be nattuvanars, the ones playing the instrument.
3. It is one of the most widely practised Indian dance form.
4. Padma Bhushan Rukmini Devi who was a great Bharatanatyam dancer, was also the 1st women to be nominated as a member of Rajya Sabha.
5. A career in Bharatnatyam as a performer, teacher or choreographer can be high paying.





# Behind the scenes & OP-ED



The world is collectively going through the surreal experience that is the lockdown caused by Covid 19. As everyone deals with this unprecedented situation staying at home 'Behind the Scenes' and 'Op-Ed' collaborated to explore the life under lockdown. 'Behind the Scenes' writes about the little things we didn't realize mattered before the quarantine and the effect it has had on the planet. They also reached out to some volunteers that have been looking out for our furry friends during these trying times. 'Op-Ed' reached out to their dear readers to share their experiences under lockdown and conducted a fun survey on Instagram to know their thoughts. Read on to know what we, as well as YOU readers think!

# LIFE BEFORE QUARANTINE

Tanaya Sheth | TYBSc  
3.4 minutes read

There's a distant thrum of vehicles on the



main road on a breezy February Tuesday morning. You grumble to yourself about how late you will be because of this. Hugging your jacket a little tighter you observe a nearby chaiwalla handing out steaming hot cups of the beverage. It's a regular day, everyone going about their usual business. Waiting lines outside popular restaurants, people lining up for vadapavs, stray dogs merrily chasing each other: it's just another regular day. You reach just in time for your lecture in college and quickly grab a seat next to your friend. As the lecture comes to an end, the bell goes off only for it to sound like your phone's alarm. You realise it's all been a dream, you're back at home, practicing social distancing thanks to the outbreak.

It's funny to see how the smallest things



that could tick us off are now some of the things we miss. Something as regular as traveling in the local train has become a



distant memory. Talk about weekend plans. All we had to do was send a quick text and a plan would be ready.

Clubs, DJ nights, sleepovers, you name it. Who knew one day we'd have to value



these luxuries? There's no one on the streets anymore, there's no more of the regular strangers we see on a daily train to work or college. Remember those times when we cursed the bus for arriving late? Now we're all just waiting to take one more ride on the same bus.

What was your last day out? What were you doing then? Some of us hugged our friends for one last time not knowing

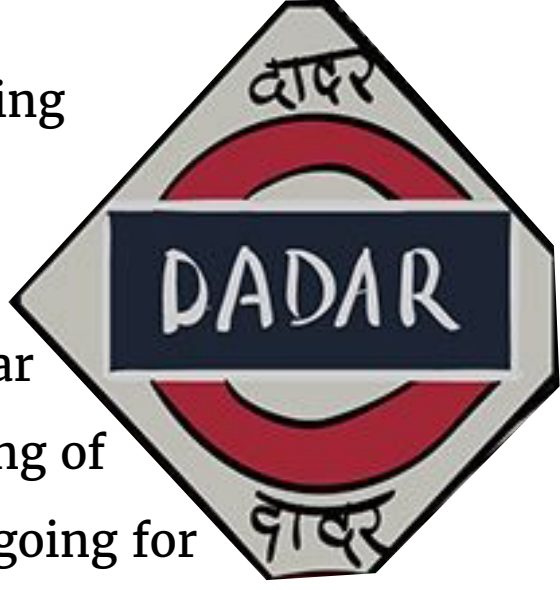


when we would see them next because of this infinite never ending lockdown. Some of us went to our favourite places round the city, one last date, one last night out. People booked

a cab, some travelled on foot, others took the train. How could something so



mundane be something that everyone would miss someday? The desolate look of Dadar station, the screeching of tires on busy roads, going for comedy shows... Everyone is waiting for daily life to resume. To go back to normalcy.



Maybe now that we know that things we took for granted can be easily gone in just a few minutes, a few decisions, we might learn to value them. Till then, we can plan for the day, when we can finally go out and meet our close ones again, to feel the soft rustle of the roadside trees swaying in the breeze and possibly, finally pet that stray dog friend that some couldn't get to meet because of the situation.



# HUMANS' QUARANTINE : BOON FOR THE NATURE?

Neha Nayak | TYBSc

3.2 minutes read

While we are stressing out over who's turn it is in the family to get out of the house to buy groceries or whether we washed our hands properly before reaching out to eat something, a lot of animals are roaming around without any kind of restrictions. Call it 'tit for tat' for the way we scared them away from their own homes once a upon a time prior to the lockdown. The news channels could go at hours on end droning about the ugly side of this lockdown getting us all worried and sick about the future but the positive effects of this whole ordeal simply cannot go unnoticed.



From reports of sudden improvement in





the world, to  
the clearing  
of water in  
canals in  
urban areas

for the first time in decades, from wild animals making their appearances in and around cities, to the sweet sounding birdsong in areas where there used to be none, one thing is absolutely clear: nature is enjoying this small break from us, our daily exploitation and environmental footprint. We could see this lockdown for better or for worse but that fact that nature is smiling again stands strong.

While not all of us can go out freely to see the empty streets of Mumbai in it's full glory, there are pictures taken by a few that have been creating buzz in all family WhatsApp groups. It's the first time ever in decades that the busy city that never seems to rest has been put to a deep sleep like this. Try going on the balcony or stick your head out of the window in case



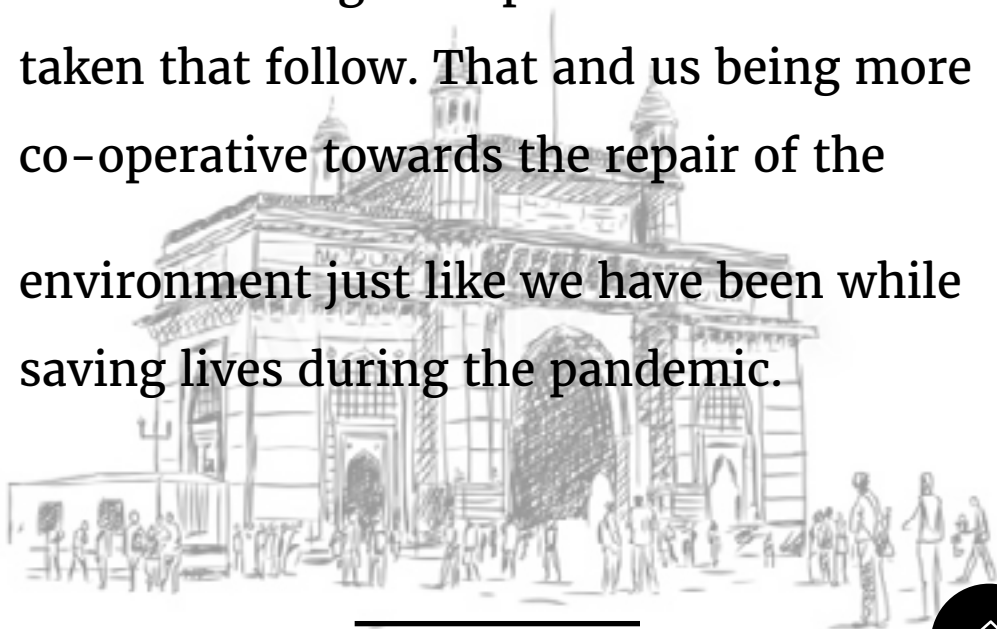


you don't have one. The still crispness of the air and the lack of honking makes you realise how real this whole thing is.

Mumbai feels serene. Something we thought we'd never feel.

The quality of the air has been documented in dozens of countries as experiencing temporary falls in carbon dioxide and nitrogen dioxide of as much as 40 percent. This has certainly reduced risks of asthma, heart attacks and lung disease.

Though this period of lockdown has shown us a glimpse of a healthier and happier world, these effects are only going to last longer depending on not the just the short term impact of the virus but on the long term political decisions taken that follow. That and us being more co-operative towards the repair of the environment just like we have been while saving lives during the pandemic.



# THE PURR-FECT QUARANTINE

Sayli Mokal | SYBSc

Hiya Shah | SYJC

6 minutes read

We all are experiencing Quarantine for more than a month. We have almost become habitual to the constant struggle of keeping ourselves occupied and positive in this situation. However, there are people who are working for the stray animals even now. Who are these angels? What do they do? How did they originate? We tried finding answers to these by interviewing one of them – **Pallari Gajaria** – who is a student of our college. Let's get to know more about them!



Pallari with Anna from Welfare of stray dogs



**Q. What is the aim of your NGO and what constitutes your work as a volunteer there?**

**Ans.** The 'Welfare of Stray dogs' is an NGO that works with dogs



and cats in Mumbai. The aim of the NGO is to eradicate rabies and control street-dog population by sterilizing/ neutering them. WSD also treats street dogs on site and vaccinates them regularly. So volunteers can take up any kind of work that the NGO performs and help with it. Personally, I have helped with the sales of the merchandise of the NGO, worked at the dog kennel where all the resident dogs are given walks and baths by us. I have also helped with various awareness/ educational workshops at events like 'The Windmill festival'. This is just few of the things that the volunteers engage in.



**Q. What are the major challenges you face and how do you deal with them?**

**Ans.** It is probably very tricky to work with the dogs at the kennel. The abandoned dogs generally have some



behavioural issues so we need to be careful that way. However, that's not a challenge but just a learning experience. Otherwise, kennel visits are definitely the most fun and exciting.

**Q. How much time do you spend volunteering?**

**Ans.** Helping them out whenever we can is appreciated. There is no pressure on completing certain hours per week or so. We are informed about the requirement of volunteers and we revert back if we can make it at the time and the location mentioned. If I don't have exams or any other work that's important, then it's usually 1-2 hours a week.



**Q. Could you please share some incidents from your work that you find particularly memorable?**

**Ans.** Like I mentioned earlier, kennel visits are my most favourite. The dogs and cats, being around them, walking them, seeing and learning about all different personalities that animals too can have is very fun.

**Q. According to you, what all qualities or skills should a volunteer, at an NGO like yours, have?**

**Ans.** I believe anybody who loves dogs and cats is a part of WSD. Other than that you just need to be open to meeting new people because we have to work with other volunteers whom we've never met before.

**Q. As an NGO, how do you acquire donations or people's cooperation for your work?**

**Ans.** There are certain trusts that help WSD out. Unless there is no lack of



animal lovers and well wishers, the fur babies in the kennels and on the streets will do just fine.

**Q. Could you please tell us about the work of your NGO in the past few months and especially during this pandemic?**

**Ans.** WSD has managed to feed over 2900 dogs and cats in Mumbai and Alibaug. Recently, they've managed to raise money to feed the hungry horses. Along with the feeding, on-site treatments are still going on. The helpers working at the kennel have been asked to live in the kennel itself and safety for them is also looked after. This is just some of the things that WSD is practicing during the pandemic.

**Q. What are your plans to further increase your NGO's reach?**

**Ans.** WSD believes that the dog population can be brought into control by sterilizing/ neutering them. This will be continued and worked on at its best

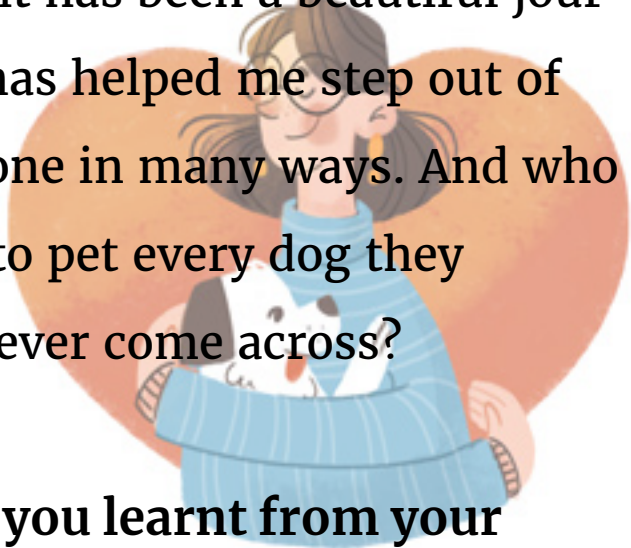




potential.

**Q. What keeps you motivated for your work?**

**Ans.** My love for dogs and cats made me join WSD and it has been a beautiful journey so far. It has helped me step out of my comfort zone in many ways. And who doesn't want to pet every dog they have and will ever come across?



**Q. What have you learnt from your work as a volunteer?**

**Ans.** Animals are taken for granted by humans. We have become selfish to an extent that we do not see anything beyond our own convenience. The animals are living beings too. Working with WSD has taught me that making difference to even one animal's life matters. Help should not necessarily be on a large scale. I also learnt that there are crazier animal lovers in the world than me.





# Lockdown Stories

We asked our readers to tell us about their experience under lockdown and boy, we got a response!

## Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna

Shabduli Shinde | TYBSc  
0.7 minutes read

It was my best friend's birthday on 17 th March so some friends and I decided to throw him a little surprise party on 16 th after the exams! It was a beautiful day and we were very happy! Before we left, I hugged him and said, "See you on 18th!", I didn't know we won't meet after that day. The only thing I cherish is the fact that I remember that the goodbye hug was a long and tight one. I'll get myself all the hugs in the world once this is over.

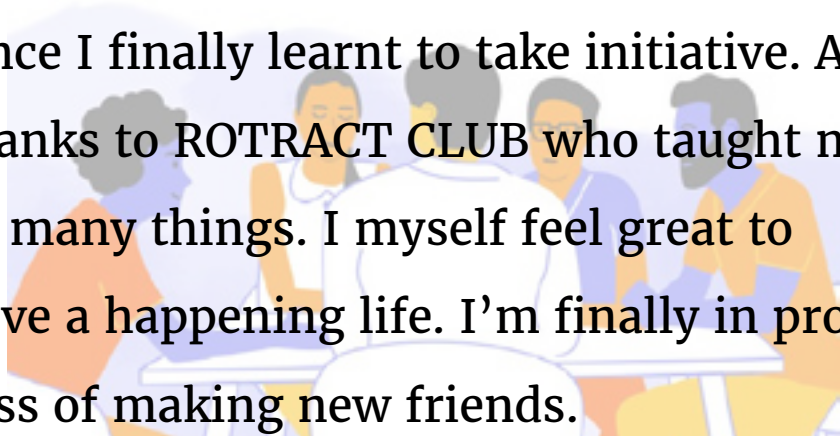


## The New/Old Approach

Saniya Talpade | FYJC  
0.7 minutes read

I was a short-tempered person in school, so making new friends was not my cup of tea; my current friends somehow tolerated me. But all those other friends, I lost them.

During this pandemic, I tried getting in contact with those friends. It was great talking to them after so long. I felt great since I finally learnt to take initiative. All thanks to ROTRACT CLUB who taught me so many things. I myself feel great to have a happening life. I'm finally in process of making new friends.

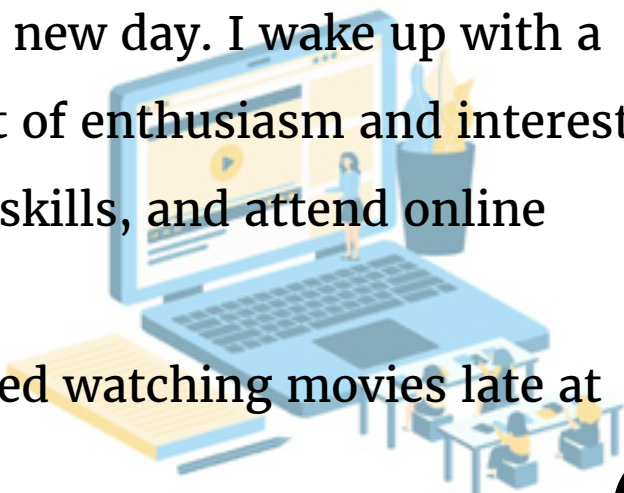


## Optimism OK Please

Priyanka Patil | FYJC  
0.8 minutes read

Everyday is a new day. I wake up with a great amount of enthusiasm and interest to learn new skills, and attend online classes.

I always craved watching movies late at



night with my parents. My wish was fulfilled since they stay at home. I learnt the value of life by stepping outside of my comfort zone and taking up hobbies I would've otherwise found boring, such as cooking and

grocery shopping.

I'm a pretty organised person

and tidying the

house always

brightens my day.



Although the quarantine is a deadly phase, I don't find myself in dejected spirits, because I believe that every cloud has a silver lining.

**United we stand!**

Aastha Thakkar | FYJC

1.3 minutes read

सो गया ये जहाँ, सो गया आसमां....!! Well, the silent streets, no children on bicycles, no couples strolling with little cups of ice-cream, no



late night walks and drives reminds me of this very song! This uncanny melancholy evokes ennui in the jovial wave of life.

Today, the entire world is grappling with an eerie foe—the coronavirus.

But, try to perceive the good. In these poignant times, the

most conspicuous are the acts of altruism rendered by everyone

from doctors to sweepers to citizens

which restores my credence

in humanity. Having always heard anecdotes of

India's concord, this time was

soul-stirring to witness people from all walks of life coming forward for every

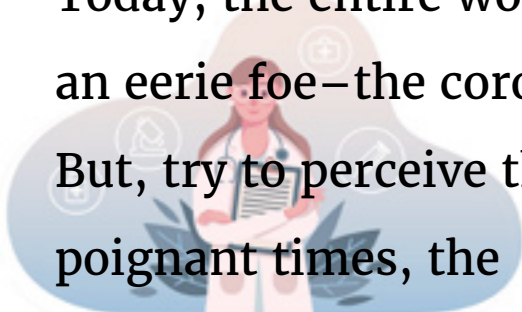
viable thing— from helping

the needy, following lock down, cheering for corona warriors, diya

jalao, donating to PM fund etc. Lastly, everyone loathes staying

indoors but indeed it has moulded us all into stupendous artists,

chefs, authors and much more!

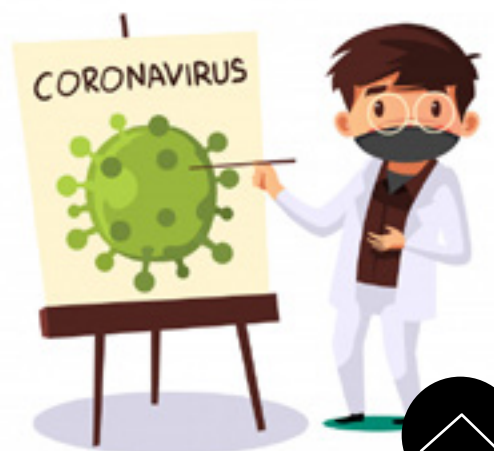


Worst experiences make us stronger. I  
believe India is  
going to be much stronger after this!

## Covid 19'

Sudhanshu Tripathi  
0.6 minutes read

Smiles abandoned our faces,  
Rain trapped on gutters of you  
Bereaved words on lips of all races  
In sight of the new year turned blue  
Multitudes fall incapacitated  
Stung by the sharp spikes of fear  
All scrupulous and being restricted  
From assemblage, both far and near  
Hope stand on the premise  
You are a virus and nothing more  
With you shall be cast in an abyss  
So deep, none will again hear your roar.



# Challenge Accepted

Chaitralee Kelkar | FYBA

0.7 minutes read

This lockdown gave me the opportunity to explore and improve myself thoroughly. In the first phase of 21 days lockdown, I took up the 21 days habit challenge. 21 days habit challenge is a lecture series available on YouTube which includes 21 small talks on positive changes in habits and self-development. As I started following the 21 days habit challenge gradually I learnt to stay away from the distractions while cultivating the good habits. These 21 days greatly transformed my thought process into cautious, conscious and mindful state.





# New Captain of the House

Vrushali Gadkari | FYBA

0.9 minutes read

My father is a Merchant Navy Captain. My mother has been waiting for an opportunity to join him. And since me, an only child, becoming relatively independent, such opportunities have been scarce. So with my 17 day study leave starting, we thought this was the time. All arrangements

were made

and

she



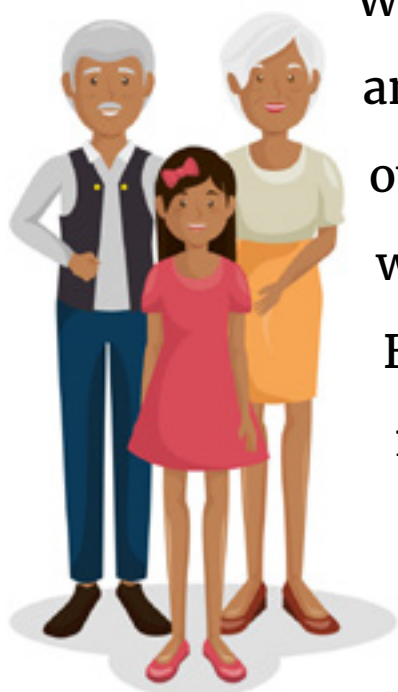
left, to return by the end

of the month. But then the pandemic set in, and I found myself managing a household with a set of grandparents.

We're way into April now, and both my parents are overseas, with no idea of when they will return.

But I've found that I can manage a household with my grandparents.

I'm proud of myself.



# Lockdown Se (Self)Love Tak

Nikita Shah | MITHIBAI COLLEGE

0.8 minutes read

Six years ago you wouldn't see me without a book under my arm. I had been unfaithful and had thrust away my books to foolishly enter another 'cooler' realm of society. I find myself coming back to those simpler pleasures.



I've been swishing, dabbing and splattering paint of the liveliest colours

on my canvas. My playlist has been stuck on repeat for days as I groove to WHAM's Jitterbug and UB40.



I cleaned up those dusty shelves and organised a Rainbow bookshelf. Finally, I swirl into a pretty outfit to keep up spirits and smile at my reflection. I'm loving myself again.



# Lockdown ki kahaani

Sanchit Sharma | TYBSc

0.9 minutes read

घर पे रहता हूँ

पर कोई गम नहीं

बचाना है खुद को

क्योंकि मचा है हड़कंप यहीं

ये एक कहानी नहीं

इतिहास बन रहा है

तुम भी बताओगे आने वाली पीढी को

यहाँ दूर रह कर भी विश्वास फल रहा है

मेरे जानवरों का थोड़ा बुरा हाल है

खाना नहीं मिल रहा

उनका थोड़ा कम गुज़ार है

पर मेरी प्रकृति खिल-खिला रही है

रोज़ कुछ आँकड़ें बढ़ते देख रहा हूँ

वे आँकड़ें नहीं इंसान हैं

डर है कहीं

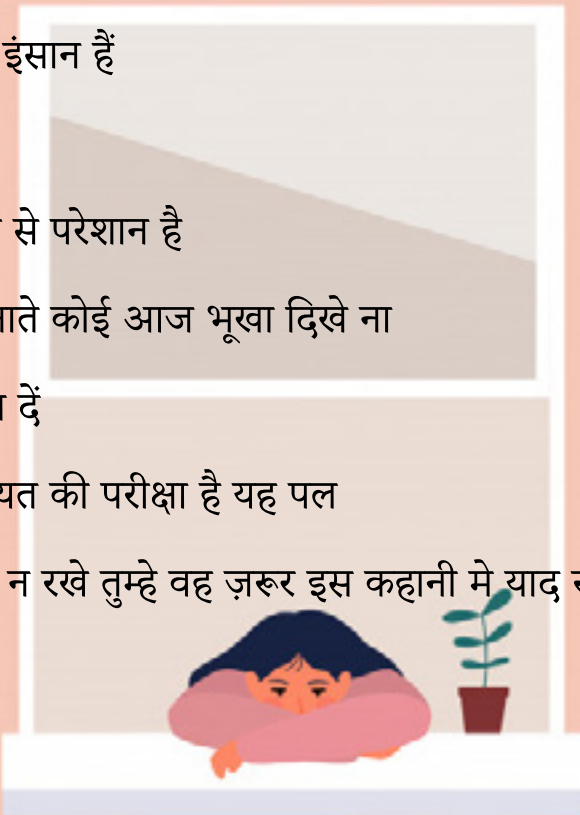
कहीं कोई भूख से परेशान है

इंसानियत के नाते कोई आज भूखा दिखे ना

उसे कुछ खिला दें

क्योंकि इंसानियत की परीक्षा है यह पल

और कोई याद न रखे तुम्हे वह ज़रूर इस कहानी मे याद रखेगा.....



By Shabduli Shinde | TYBSc

Disha Shanbhag | SYBA

Vrushali Gadkari | FYBA

Hritvi Acharya | FYJC





# Lockdown Survey

We took to Instagram to conduct a fun survey to get your opinions on the lockdown!

Like we promised we have featured the best responses to our questions in this issue. Read on to be entertained!

What's the craziest thing you've heard during lockdown?

## What's the craziest thing you've heard during this lockdown?

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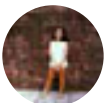
@praty\_tai

Rasam defeats corona virus



@nishant\_shiva

Having a beard attracts corona virus



@a\_smol\_hooman

Heard a powada on corona



@omkardhurat13

Corona is an insect!



## How do you think life after lockdown will change?

---



@surabhii.joshii

Wearing masks on local trains



@rucha13\_art

We will stop taking things for granted



@krishnavii\_

Hugs will be a social taboo

## What's the best food you have cooked in the lockdown?

---



@shammbhavii

Samosas



@sanchit\_29\_11

Pizza



@prii.\_1003

Paneer Tikka



@\_anu\_.shende\_

Gulab Jamun



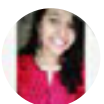
@theholdinghands

Peri peri cheese garlic bread



@ishikajaiin

Cake, Lasagna, Pizza, Jalebi, Gulab Jamun, Veg Biryani



@itskneecollage

My tears



*Special Mention*





## What out-of-comfort zone activity have you done during quarantine?

---



@tanayakarway\_

Workout and choreographing dance



@shubraa\_m

Sleeping for 12 hours and more



@aditirithe\_

I tried to eat tomato out of the bhaji which I hate. PS: I still hate it

## What do you miss the most during lockdown?

---



@\_abhishekbarve\_

Speed of life



@prank\_aaa

Local train



@shrustea\_naik\_.19

Empty home



@aaditya023

Having a walk at Shivaji park



@poorni\_sound

Going out for a walk in the garden



@notmanjari

Kurla?



@shrutimenon\_13

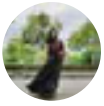
Local trains, stray cats and doggos



@pratham\_batwal

Pudhla station Dadar





@madhu\_singh26

Deadlines which kept me on track



@shubraa\_m

Hostel life



@isha\_rajwade

Meeting Ruia catts and playing with them

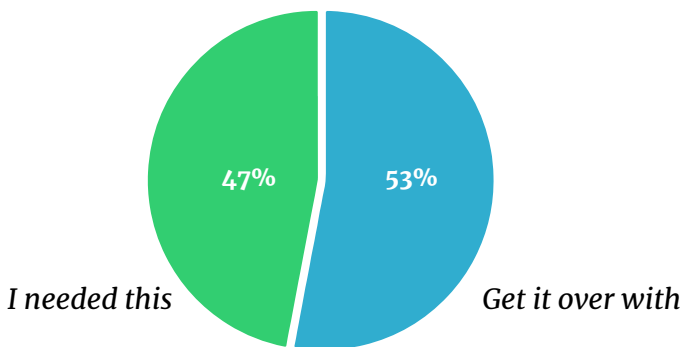


@barbozadevin

Going to college and saying 'I hate coming to college!'

## What do you feel about the lockdown?

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While we are safe at home during this pandemic, let's take a moment to acknowledge how the pandemic is greater than just staying at home, with health care workers, sanitation workers, scientists as well as other essential service persons working tirelessly around the clock to contain the damage caused by this deadly virus. We at Op-Ed and Behind the Scenes believe we can beat this disease one case at a time and one day at a time.



# Insight



# Funny side up!

Anushka Nagarmath | SYBA

3 minutes read

It's been a gloomy vacation. Boredom engulfing everyone, uncertainty playing peek-a-boo and yet frustration is our constant companion. So, we decided to take a break, to flip up the funny side of our life.

This time, we at insight tried something crazy and new, the wabblegame. This is nothing but a game, where one person starts a story and then you go around turn-by-turn, adding to the story. It usually results in very illogical, funny stories, and can be played in person, or over the internet. We obviously maintained social distancing and had great fun doing this unusual jamming session. Do give it a try with your gang of friends or family members. But before you put on your story-writing hats, hop on this humorous journey with a philosophical turn!



# How does the world lose itself in laughter?

It shakes, it shivers, it tilts and knocks itself off-kilter at every breath that is helplessly punched out of its lungs. It forgets the gravity weighing it down. It forgets the burden of life that it bears. It forgets the vast loneliness of space. In that moment, it remembers only how light it feels, down to every bone, all its knots loosened and free.

Does it then become happy? Does it then finally grasp what it has been seeking for so long? Is this what we all search for?

In those few minutes, it feels just like that. When we clutch our bellies helplessly, bodies bent over themselves, aching in a way that doesn't really hurt. In those few minutes, we let go of this world a little. Let go of the need to take ourselves seriously all the time. Let go of the instinct to find patterns, find designs, to make sense of everything. Instead, we learn how it feels to just hold ourselves and simply — be with this. Be with laughter. Be with the





humour. Be with this life.

Does it then fill us completely, every part that has every known longing?

Never. Instead, it sinks us into the moment, incomplete and empty-handed as we are. It moves our hearts, alive...

Reminds us that life can feel like this too: cheeks straining with smiles, tongues heavy with each giggle ripped out of our chests. It holds us just like life, fleeting and fading. Knows that when it leaves there will be lives to worry over, offices to return to, woes to mourn— knows that there will always be a world that needs to turn again. But in that brief moment of being suspended within our delight, in that brief moment before we forget yet again— it allows us to live.

And maybe just that is the punchline.





# The Wabblegame

Esha Belekar | SYJC

Lakshmi Kalarikkal | SYJC

Sayli Mokal | SYBSc

Sara Chavan | TYBA

Tanvi Padia | TYBA

8 minutes read

The seamless clouds seemed to be embracing the sea at the horizon. It was nearly sunset and the setting sun peeked through a gap in the clouds making the scene picturesque and serene. Not that the cat perched on the kitchen table cared for any of that as it blinked big, turquoise and vaguely judgemental eyes at Andrew where he was dripping onto the carpet.

“What are you looking at kitty?”, demanded Andrew, arching one eyebrow up. He cryptically murmured about the killer cat eyes Pebbles was making, when the telephone rang.

Pebbles was going to enjoy this call, it knew that. Andrew's weird stories to hide up his stupid accidents were nothing less of an entertainment for this poor grumpy cat. After all, Andrew had stuck almonds up his nose while swimming in the pond



once. He was surely an unusual housemate, and a personal butler.

He answered the phone with a slow and long "hello" in a tone that could make a witch feel shy. He heard a disgruntled, tired but familiar voice answer on the other end, "Who filled the bathtub with bricks and why has my shampoo been shifted to a bottle labelled 'Crow Rage'?", his childhood best friend, Jade asked.

Jade had been his best friend since time immemorial - joking! They had met during some competition in third grade. She had beaten him of course, quite literally. It was not a fond memory. But now he had taken his revenge in several ways already, so he had decided to put those old memories behind him.

Slowly that became their tradition, their bond of friendship. Both taking revenge on each other for so long that none cause was greater nor any reason.

"Not me!" he answered defensively. "You know I would never."

"Honey, only your pea-sized brain could



think of so stupid a prank,” Jade’s ringing laughter filled Andrew’s receiver. Jade was debating whether she would march right up to her neighbour and throw one of those stupid bricks at Andrew’s now sheepish face, she was sure he was making.

Andrew, meanwhile, scratched his head and laughingly coughed out, “Well, you know, you should try out the hair wash. You’ll be impressed how much thought I put into that one, Jadda”, using his childhood nickname for her.

Andrew knew he'd have to repay for his deed later some day. Jade was a better punisher. If she didn't make it big in this world, the Devil will surely hire her for her innovative comebacks after death in hell. Those days, when Andrew walked around their neighbourhood with shades, because Jade had sugared off his eyebrows for a cruel prank once... those memories still cause an ache in his forehead at times. He had to cover it up with some Voldemort supporting ramble. He'd learnt to treasure his eyebrows since then.



But now wasn't the time to think of his fate. He still had a few days to enjoy.

Later in the evening, when he heard Pebbles make unusual, silly, unpleasant sounds, he slowly walked towards the door. Almost expecting some stupid prank, he carefully peeked out. To his horror, there lay his most favourite pair of socks, shredded to pieces. Pebbles was nibbling on what was left of it. Ignoring the sting of the moment, Andrew smiled in spite of himself. He knew even then that, this was only the beginning of his problems. He was sure that Jade would make his life even more miserable. At times he even wondered if Pebbles was in league with that Queen of Umbridge Land.

It was early the next morning that the actual nightmares began. He opened the main door to begin his daily routine - going for a jog in the park nearby, when he nearly tripped over a large, ancient looking trunk. Once he'd regained his balance, he hesitated. But finally, curiosity got the better of him and he leaned down to open the trunk. It was like even nature



was holding its breath to see how badly Andrew was going to be hit. He quickly threw open the lid and the next second, he was running out of the gate screaming.

Jade was there, holding onto the turrets of the fence surrounding his house for support as she laughed. He rounded on her, furious.

"Really?" He asked. "A snake? That's too far!" She wiped tears of laughter from her eyes before replying.

"A *rubber snake*, thank you." She smirked. "I'm not actually trying to kill you. Not yet."

Andrew reddened with embarrassment, trying to salvage his pride somehow. And suddenly yelled, "Shit! How could I forget! No, no. Jaddaaaaaaa!!!" Andrew stomped his foot around and looked at Jade with panic in his eyes.

"Today is the day. THE DAY, JADDA."

And Jade's eyes shined with clarity. How could she forget, indeed? She had been busy for days, planning this very surprise.



Seven years back, on this very day, Andrew's clumsy prank had gone wrong and had cost Jade her luscious brown hair. Third grade, one competition, that stupid chewing gum and a disaster in the hands of an angry defeated boy. Jade had beaten Andrew's teeth out, and the quarrel somehow ended into the beginning of their friendship.

He just didn't realize that while he had been busy screaming his head off over the rubber snake, he had left the door of his house open, for the mice to enter. Jade's rubbery distraction had worked after all! But that tiny thing would be dealt with, he thought. At least now there was some fun exercise for lazy Pebbles to move itself off the kitchen cabinet. How optimistic of him!

As he walked Jade into his house for some breakfast, Pebbles lay snoring on the sofa, snuggling some shreds of torn socks, and the mice milled about the house, as a new audience for Andrew and Jade's weird pranks to come.





# Open Forum

 CINEMA

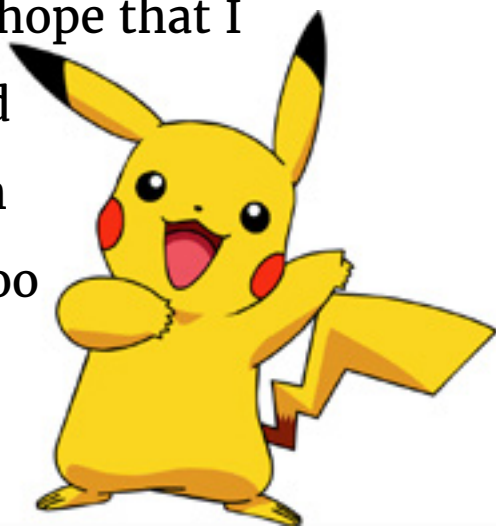


# A World of Difference

Aditya Negi | SYBSc

5.1 minutes read

When I was eleven or so, before going to bed, I would fervently hope that I would awaken and find myself in the Pokemon world. Admit it: you, too have fantasised about leaving this boring, conventional world to enter a fascinating fictional universe.



Alas, reality isn't so kind. I have given up on hoping by now and so have you. But we can be forgiven our childish impulse. A fantasy setting, if it is any good, is an escape. It has the power to drag you in, to bring itself to life. Even if it's backward, primitive, or downright dangerous, it is seductive enough to be worth returning to over and over. (Take the demigods of Camp Half-Blood with their life expectancy of twenty years at birth, or the dystopia of the Hunger Games). It would be a deeply unimaginative sort



who couldn't see the appeal of going over to the other side of the page or the screen.

Lately, stuck at home, I've been exploring a genre of Japanese media which plays

that appeal to the hilt, called Isekai. Isekai simply means



'another world'

in Japanese. The setup is

simple: the protagonist is a youth living in modern-day Japan who is spirited away, like Dorothy or Alice, to a strange new reality. Often this happens via death.

Trucks have a strange affinity for the protagonists of the genre - I wish I could explain. But there are other ways too.

Perhaps the progenitor of the Isekai craze, Sword Art Online, had the main character getting stuck in the virtual reality of a video game. Another series, Re:Zero, dispenses with these - the protagonist is unfortunate enough to simply vanish from familiar Japan and



and reappear smack-dab in the middle of a medieval fantasy city.

It's also worth talking about some common tropes for the protagonists. Often, they're disillusioned teenage guys, feeling out of place. After they're teleported, they gain some unique, special powers - like super swordsmanship, or incredible magical ability, or whatnot, which leads to them being appreciated and loved. It can sometimes feel like the genre wears a badge labelled "wish fulfilment" in bold. Often, the result is pure humbug with little worth - "pretty much perfect for middle schoolers who want to be a cool sword guy", as a friend was complaining about Sword Art Online.

That said, there are absolutely some fascinating deviations from the usual formula. The Saga of Tanya the Evil, for instance, is about a cynical middle-aged HR manager who is punished after death by being thrown into a war-torn world as a young girl - and promptly becomes the



country's most ruthless, most valuable military asset. Ascendance of a Bookworm is about a young librarian buried alive under a pile of her own books – and reborn into a as a peasant child, in a world where books are hand-written on parchment and cost a fortune. Survival in the new world requires skills from the old, and isekai is at its best when it explores the consequences of being a fish out of water.

The Isekai genre has simply exploded over the past decade, and alongside the usual formula the market is surfeit with parodies, too. Special mention to Konosuba, the funniest Isekai on the block. Kazuma Satou, legendary shut-in NEET, dies in a freak accident. To his initial delight, he finds himself reincarnated in a medieval fantasy world similar to the RPGs he's played, with an immortal goddess at his side. To his eventual dismay, the goddess turns out to be an incompetent goober, he's saddled with a crazy mage who can only cast once



a day and a delusional paladin who enjoys taking hits more than dishing them out - and the world seems intent on ruining his day...

I'm enjoying my time delving into the quirks and the charms of this genre. It might be peak escapism, but we all need an escape now and then. So indulge your fantasies and enjoy getting Isekai'd!





# CAN I GET A DO-OVER?

Natasha Desai | TYBSc  
4.1 minutes read

Streaming services are certainly at their peak right now, as most people turn to movies and shows to pass time in this lockdown. A lot of crowd-pleasers and new favorites have cropped up on social media feeds as a result. A particular trending one is the movie *Little Women* – the 2019 version, that is Louisa May Alcott’s novel which has been adapted into a screenplay several times before, and the newest rendition has been lauded as a fine take on the timeless coming of



age story. It did have its fair share of critics questioning whether it was even necessary to remake something that, in their opinion, had already been done well.

Remakes and reboots of shows and movies have had their ups and downs these past few years. Some, like the American version of the Office, and the new Flash, did very well.



Disney's live action remakes of classics... not so much. The audience is pretty clear about their expectations from remakes: if it isn't broken, don't fix it. Aka, try not to deviate from the source content to the



extent where the old favorites cannot be recognized anymore. But there's a fine line between staying true to the original vision and what would basically constitute a rip-off.

Disney actually saved face in terms of reboots with the Ducktales animated series that started in 2017. It's a revamp of the original 1986 cartoon, but in glorious, high quality animation. It combines the best of the comics and the old show, providing good, healthy characterization to previously neglected characters, and doing justice to the beloved ones too. Almost no one has anything negative to say about the remake, even though many were skeptical and terrified that the show would ruin their childhood memories when it was announced. The movie adaptation of the popular Broadway musical Cats, on the other hand, didn't fare as well. The realistic CGI put everyone off right off the bat, and many complained that the magi-



cal quality of live musicals had been completely lost in the movie. Several musicals have been remade into movies with a Broadway audience's approval, like Mamma Mia and West Side Story; Cats just couldn't make the cut.



Some people refuse to change their stance on reboots, citing specific failures as examples and uttering time and again that nothing could beat the originals. I think they're missing the point. It was never about being better than the first



iteration; it was creators seeing what they could do with the material they adored. Actors, writers, and singers constantly want to put their own spin and flair on their idolized works, and more often than not, it's led to fantastic pieces of art. You often see people working on these remakes talking about how much they admire the original creator, and how privileged they feel to be walking in their shoes. I think it's brave for someone to walk up to a piece they've been inspired by and go, "Hey, I want to see what I could do with this." It's certainly a decision that requires a lot of thought and skill - but as so many shows and movies prove, it's often worth the effort!





# आता फक्त काही दिवस बाकी...

गौरी आंबेडकर | TYBA  
3.8 minutes read

ती सहजचं गॅलरीत बसली होती. गॅलरीच्या बाबतीत ती खूपचं नशीबवान, कारण तिच्या गॅलरीतून अथांग समुद्र दिसतो आणि मोकळं आकाशही साक्षीला उभं असतं. आकाशाच्या बदलत्या लीला न्याहाळणं हा छंदच जणू तिला जडला होता. दुरवरून येऊन एकमेकांत मिसळणाऱ्या लाटा ती पाहत होती. हे स्वप्नवत रम्य दृश्य ती रोज पाहत होती. पण कुणास ठाऊक का, आज तिला ते नव्याने जाणवत होतं. ती पटकन खोलीत जाऊन कागद पेन घेऊन आली आणि नकळत पांढऱ्यावर काळं उमटू लागलं.

प्रिय रुईया,

आजपासून बरोबर पाच वर्षांपूर्वी याच दिवशी मी शाळेतल्या मैत्रिणींबरोबर सहजच माटुंग्याच्या डी.पीजमध्ये पावभाजी खायला आले होते. रुईया कॉलेजच्या आजूबाजूचा परिसर आवडला होता. नक्की काय आवडलं होतं, असं विचारलं तर कारण नाही सांगता येणार. पण आपण रुईयातचं यायचं असं मनाशी ठरवलं होतं आणि पुढे तसं घडलंही.

अकरावीत सुरुवातीला हा परिसर, वातावरण सगळंच खूप नवीन होतं. प्रत्येक लेक्चरनंतर वर्ग बदलावे लागायचे. ज्युनिअर कॉलेज आणि



सिनियर कॉलेज अशा दोन पसरलेल्या इमारातींमधून आपला वर्ग शोधून काढताना तारांबळ उडायची. बऱ्याचदा मधल्या गार्डनमध्येच निवांत विसावले आहे. कॅटीनमधल्या फ्राईड राईसवर मिसळपावावर मनसोक्त ताव मारला आहे.

या शोधाशोधीतचं तिसऱ्या मजल्यावरच्या रीडिंग हॉलशी आणि लेडीज कॉमन रुमशी(LCR) ओळख झाली होती. दोन इमारतींना जोडणारी गच्ची ही माझ्या खास आवडत्या जागांपैकी एक. गच्चीवरून सभोवतालच्या दादर-माटुंगा परिसरावर एक संक्षिप्त दृष्टिक्षेप टाकता येतो. डोक्यावर पसरलेलं आकाश आणि समोर विस्तारलेलं हिरवंगार दडकर मैदान. मित्र मैत्रिणीबरोबर बरोबर सावली शोधून या गच्चीत गप्पा मारत बसलं की तास दोन तास तिथल्या वाऱ्यासारखे निघून जायचे.

क्वॉड्रॅंगल (quadrangle) मधली गम्मत आणखी निराळी. तिथे बसलं की कधी उठवसचं वाटत नाही. एकीकडे रेल्वेकन्सेशनसाठी लागलेली मोठी रांग आणि दुसरीकडे आपल्या ठरलेल्या जागांवर ठरलेल्या वेळेला बसलेले विद्यार्थ्यांचे वेगवेगळे ग्रुप्स. तिथे बसून डबाही शेअर केला आहे आणि सुख दुःखही वाटून घेतली आहेत. नेहमी गजबजलेला असणारा हा quad तिथल्या प्रत्येकाला आपलंसं करून घेतो. Quad मध्ये एनसीसीची शिस्तबद्ध परेडही चाललेली असते. तर एखाद्या कोपऱ्यात धुमधडाक्यात वाढदिवस साजरे होतात.

एफ वाय ला सिनियर कॉलेज सकाळचं होतं.



७:४५च्या पहिल्या लेक्चरला

पोहचण्यासाठी एक कसरत करावी

लागे. याचं दरम्यान एक खास नातं

जुळलं ते कट्टा आणि कटिंगशी. बाबूचा

बटाटेवडा आणि सदाचा चहा हे एक अप्रतिम समीकरण.



परिसरातल्या अनेक नामांकित हॉटेल्सच्या चविष्ट पदार्थांची चव जिभेवर अजूनही रेंगाळते आहे. पण कट्ट्यावरच्या चहाची सर कशालाच नाही हेसुद्धा खरंच !

पावसाळ्यातलं रुईया हे सदैव चिंब भिजलेलचं! पावसाने जरा जोर धरला की गेटच्या बाहेर गुडघाभर पाणी हमखास साचतं. कोसळणाऱ्या पावसात छत्रीचा काहीच उपयोग नसतो. मग शांतपणे छत्री बंद करून पावसाचे थेंब अंगावर घेत आणि बाजूने सुसाट वेगाने जाणाऱ्या गाडीचे



फवारे चुकवत कॉलेजपासून स्टेशनपर्यंत अनेकदा aquatic सफारी केलीये.

पुढे तिला खूप काही लिहायचं होतं. अजून बरंच काही सांगायचं राहिलं होतं. कॉलेजमधल्या प्रत्येक जागेशी निगडित आठवणी होत्या आणि मित्र-मैत्रीणीबरोबरच्या असंख्य गमतीही होत्या.

आणि तितक्यात बाबांनी हाक मारली , 'इकडे ये गं! बातम्यांमध्ये सांगताहेत पुढच्या महिन्यात टी. वायच्या परीक्षा घेणारेत बघ. अभ्यासाचा काही पत्ता आहे का ? तितक्यात आई स्वयंपाकघरातून बाहेर आली आणि म्हणू लागली , 'दिवसभर नुसतं खायचं , प्यायचं आणि झोपायचं याशिवाय काही उद्योग आहे का तुला ? बघताबघता शेवटचं वर्षही झालं. आता ग्रॅज्युएट होशील यंदा.'

'आई परीक्षा राहिलीये ना अजून. कॉलेज संपलं नाहीये गं', इतकं बोलून ती पुन्हा गॅलरीत गेली आणि एका मागून एक उसळणाऱ्या लाटांकडे टक लावून पाहू लागली.





# TECH-TRICKED



# TensorFlow : Enabling Machines to Learn

Prasad Mokal  
3.9 mins read

From Fraud detection to Netflix's movie recommendations to even Snapchat, there's no denying that machine learning has transformed the way world functions with computers and we barely notice. With the mind-boggling amount of data being generated everyday, data analysis techniques are quickly being taken over by machines to refine and produce better performance. Machine learning involves an artificial neural network learning a given dataset and performing the task based on its experience. A crude example, say the network is fed thousands of user preferences on a streaming service, then it's algorithm will recognize minute patterns in the data and following them it will start making its own predictions and also improve upon it. So far, major ML applications were only complex industrial





tasks to be met by large tech-conglomerates. As a result, the tools to employ ML were only available to high-end software firms such as Google, Facebook etc.

Jump to 2015. Google's Brain Team releases TensorFlow, an open-source library written in Python specifically for creating machine learning models and neural networks. Initially meant for internal use among Alphabet Inc. companies, today TensorFlow has over 1500 repositories on GitHub (stored code submitted by millions of independent developers). Neural networks often operate on large arrays of data in form of tensors, hence the name TensorFlow. Due to its flexibility in code and compatibility, it can be run on 64-bit platforms such as Linux, MacOS, windows as well as mobile platforms such as Android, iOS etc. It's compatible with multiple hardware like CPU, GPU and Google's TPU (Tensor Processing Unit). Simply put, these are a bunch of codes that you can borrow to



create a machine learning model that helps you, for example, to identify different types of kittens!

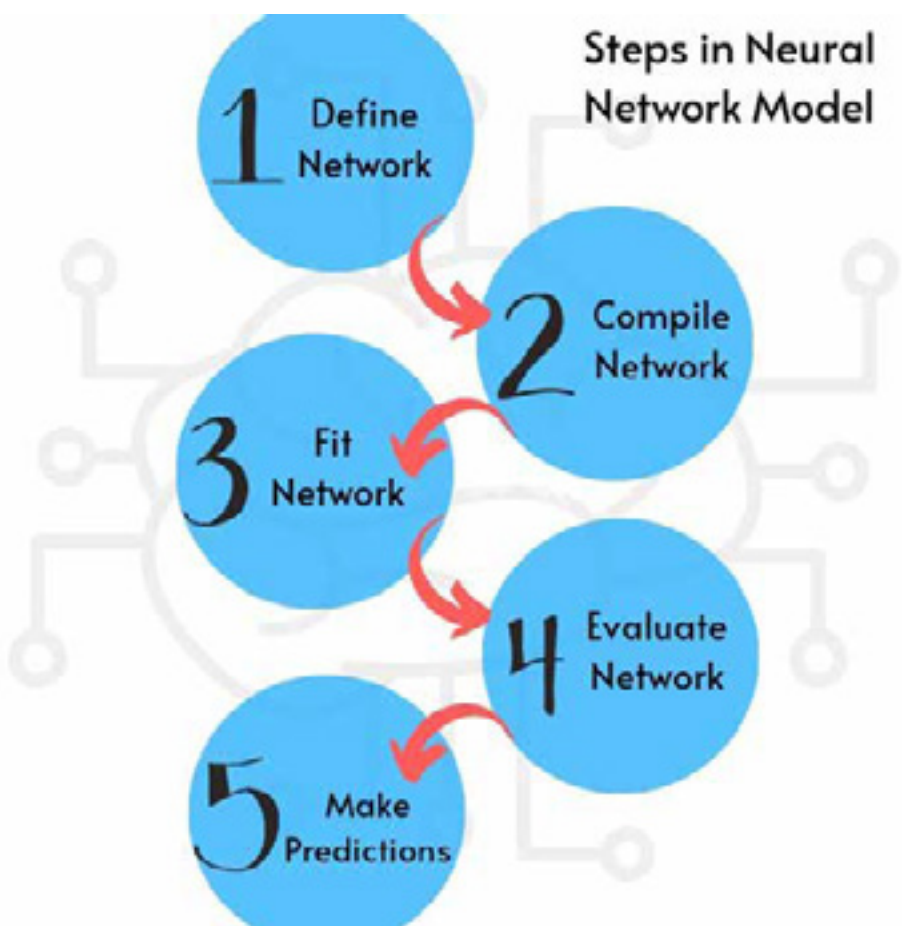


# TensorFlow

For beginners, TensorFlow uses user-friendly API such as Keras in Python. First, the program imports a training dataset and labels it into respective classes. Then to build a neural network, various layers (each layer is a single line of code basically) are connected to process the data. These layers arrange the data linearly and assign each class a score to identify. Then during compiling, accuracy parameters such as the loss function are added. The model's objective is to always minimize the loss function. The optimizer keeps updating the model on the basis



basis of the loss function. Then the model is trained on the training data over a large number of cycles. Each cycle produces better accuracy than the last. As the model 'learns', it is then taught to evaluate the accuracy in terms of probability. This allows the model to predict the class of any test data (image, audio, etc ) depending upon the dataset it was trained with. This is a very basic interpretation of creating a machine learning model.



With the introduction of TensorFlow lite, it is now possible to make typical ML models on low-end devices like Androids



and micro-controllers. This has proved to be huge boon to small-scale developers who aim to create light software like image-detection, handwriting recognition for everyday use.

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## UTILISING SPACE AS A HEAT SINK!!!

Suvin Mayekar  
4.1 mins read

The summer is in its prime. As a consequence, to beat the heat we tend to use our air conditioners extensively. Many air conditioning units use freon as a refrigerant which is a CFC or chlorofluorocarbon that results in ozone layer depletion. Not only that, but it also consumes a vast amount of energy and sticks out in our electricity bills. But this is about to change, thanks to a new photonic device that can cool to below ambient temperature while consuming no energy.

India currently has one of the lowest access to cooling. But, it will in near

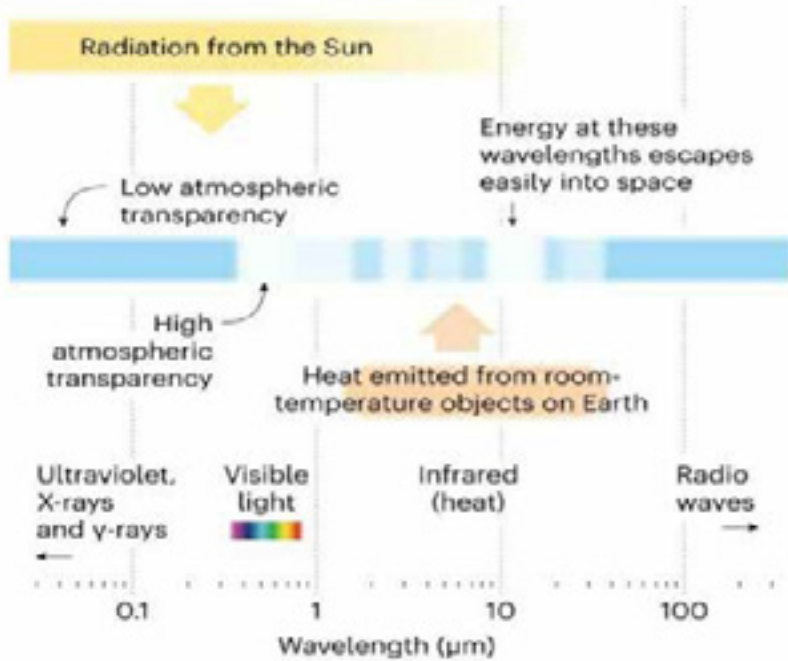


future see a significant growth in cooling demand. It is speculated that India's cooling energy consumption is expected to grow 2.2 times by 2027 over the current baseline. Space cooling in buildings will continue to dominate India's cooling energy demand at around 60 per cent share and room stock in-use will reach 170 million units by 2027. By the same period, worldwide energy consumption linked with cooling will exceed that of heating.

Hence, a passive cooling system that can cool without an external input will definitely be of help in regulating global energy consumption. Cooling translates to achieving and maintaining a temperature below that of the ambient temperature. At night, passive cooling can be demonstrated using a technique known as radiative cooling. For this a device exposed to the sky is used to radiate heat to outer space through a transparency window in the atmosphere between 8 and 13 micrometers ( $\mu\text{ms}$ ).



Peak cooling demand, however, occurs during the daytime.



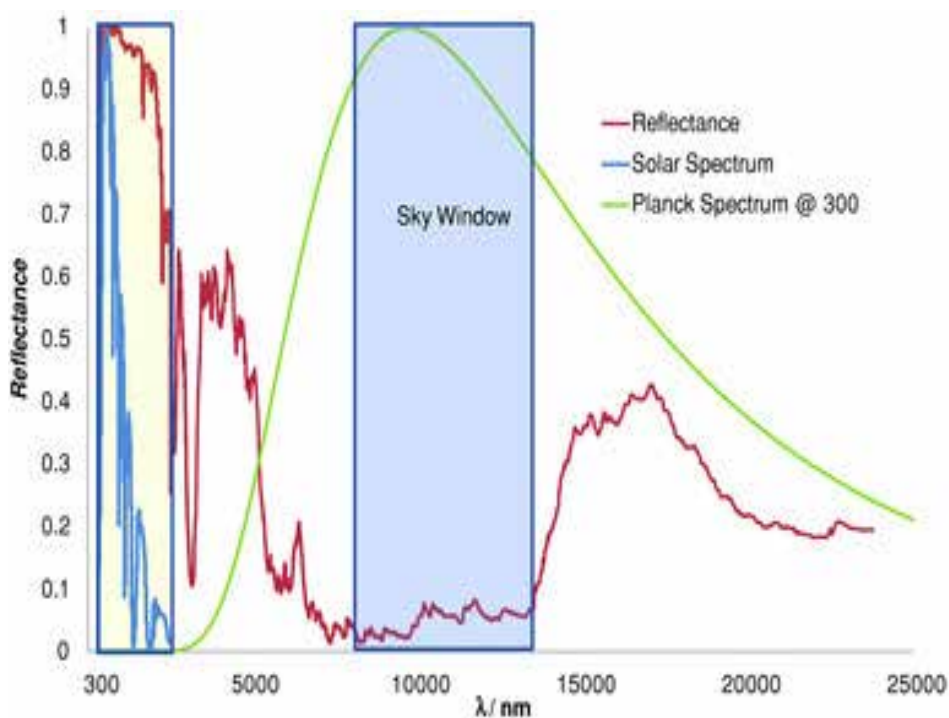
Daytime radiative cooling has not been a success anytime before because when the radiative cooler itself is facing the sun, it gets heated up.

But then physicist Shanhui Fan and colleagues, at Stanford University, by incorporating thermal photonics approach have made a device that hits the mark. The team invented an integrated photonic solar reflector and thermal emitter that comprises seven layers of  $\text{HfO}_2$  and  $\text{SiO}_2$  that reflects 97% of incident sunlight while emitting strongly and selectively in





the atmospheric transparency window. When exposed to direct sunlight exceeding 850 watts per square metre on rooftop, the photonic radiative cooler cools to 4.9 °C below ambient air temperature. It has a cooling power of 40.1 watts per square metre at ambient temperature. These results indicate that an adaptive, photonic approach leads to new technological possibilities for energy efficiency. Also, the cold of the space can be used as a renewable thermodynamic resource, even during the hottest hours of the day.



Therefore the device appears to be the first to achieve such cooling under direct sunlight without consuming energy.



The researchers claim that a device like theirs could someday cool a building through direct contact, or by cooling water that is then pumped through the building. It is possible to manufacture the device using commercial fabrication techniques i.e. one can combine it with conventional solar powered air conditioners to make cost effective, low carbon cooling systems. This device can be made using cheaper materials and can also help increase efficiency of solar panels. All in all, consumers would be investing in a complete package.

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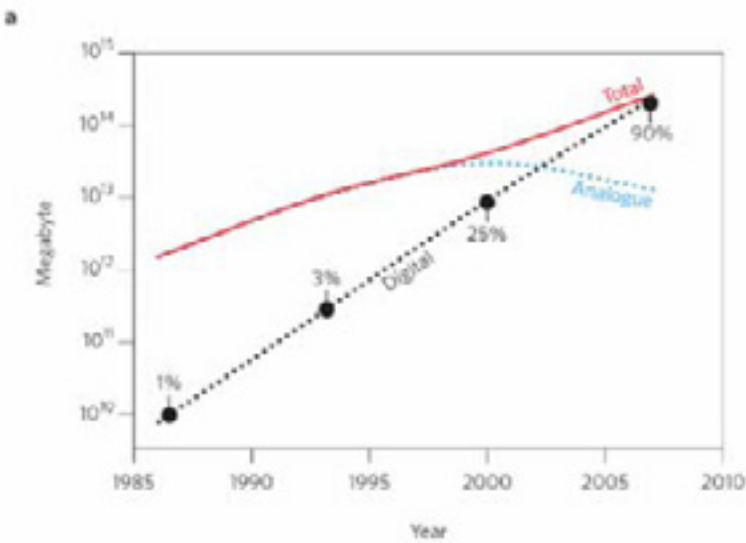
## Data Storage of the Future

Aniruddha Dhawane  
4.1 mins read

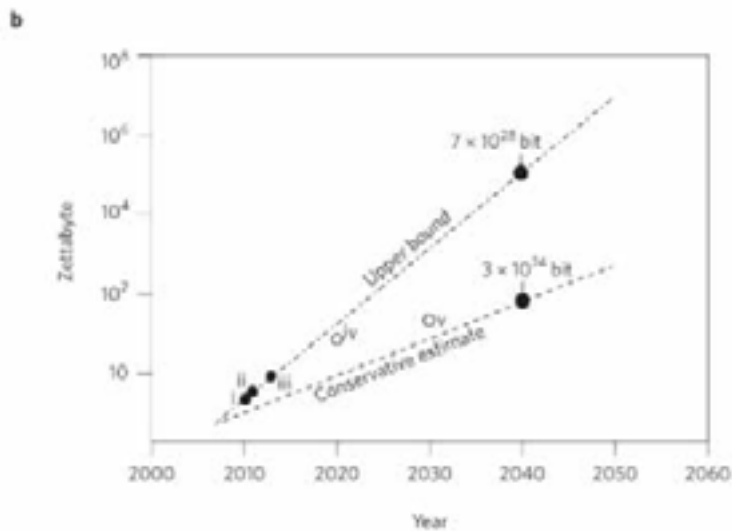
With the data production of humans rapidly catching up to our capacity to source microchip grade silicon, the need for alternative data storage devices has really skyrocketed in the past five years.



By 2040 our projected global memory demand ( $3.75 \times 10^{11}$  terabytes) will exceed our silicon supply.



(a) Timeline of stored analogue, digital and total data where the percentage values refer to the fraction of stored data that is in a digital format



(b) Projected global memory demand, i, ii, iii are actual figures and iv and v are projected



While a variety of different options are being explored by industry experts and academics alike, one of the most promising is storing data in DNA! With data storage densities far exceeding conventional data storage, all of today's data storage needs of  $\sim 10^{22}$  bits could fit in a  $10 \times 10 \times 10 \text{ cm}^3$  box, and  $\sim 1 \text{ kg}$  of easily available *Escherichia coli* DNA would satisfy projected world storage needs in 2040!

Metrics	Hard disk	Flash memory	DRAM	Cellular DNA
Read/write latency	$\sim 3\text{--}5 \text{ ms per bit}^*$	$\sim 100 \mu\text{s per bit}^*$	$< 10 \text{ ns per bit}$	$< 100 \mu\text{s per bit}$
Retention	$> 10 \text{ years}^*$	$\sim 10 \text{ years}^*$	$\sim 64 \text{ ms}^*$	$> 100 \text{ years}^{\dagger}$
ON power	$\sim 0.01 \text{ W per GB}^*$	$\sim 0.01\text{--}0.04 \text{ W per GB}^*$	$\sim 0.4 \text{ W per GB}$	$< 10^{-11} \text{ W per GB}$
Aerial density	$\sim 1.07^{\ddagger} \text{ bit cm}^{-2}$	$\sim 10^3 \text{ bit cm}^{-2}$	$\sim 10^3 \text{ bit cm}^{-2}$	Not available
Volumetric density	$\sim 10^3 \text{ bit cm}^{-3}$	$\sim 10^3 \text{ bit cm}^{-3}$	$\sim 10^3 \text{ bit cm}^{-3}$	$\sim 10^9 \text{ bit cm}^{-3}$

With large companies like Microsoft, Intel, Micron, etc. funding DNA storage projects and academics working on it, a few methods for the storage and retrieval of data have been developed but it basically comes down to treating the nucleobases of DNA as a binary system. Just as your everyday appliances communicate and store data in 1's and 0's, the four nucleic acids adenine, guanine, cytosine, and thymine can be treated as a system



of binary code by assigning each of them a value eg. A-00 C-01 G-10 T-11 and sequencing them.

A few novel methods do exist however. A team of researchers published a paper in early April 2020 in which they used guided enzymes to sever bonds linking nucleotides to create 'notches' in the sugar-phosphate rails. The presence of this notch meant 1, and its absence symbolised a 0. By using such a method, they completely cut costs linked to synthesising unique strands, required by the above described method.

Yet the costs linked to DNA data storage (currently it costs about  $10^{-7}$  USD to read and  $10^{-4}$  USD to write per bit) and its speed and difficulty in reading keep it from coming to the forefront. However, there are undeniable advantages to this technology like high data density and vastly longer lifespans than conventional data storage (an everyday magnetic strip last for a maximum of 30yrs but DNA can theoretically hold data for hundreds of





thousands of years). In a future, not too far away, the same thing that stores our ancestral data might also store your favourite cat gifs!



# Safarnama



# Details from people on field!

Disha Shah  
Sanjana Bhate  
Maitri Kate  
Rasi Gulati  
Mitawa Mukta Aneesh

14.8 minutes read

This month Safarnama interviewed two Indian students, one Indian family and one Indian employee stuck in different countries abroad during this trying time. All of them helped us understand the situation outside India a little better.

Pooja Vaidya recently shifted to Amsterdam, Netherlands with her husband and daughter for a work assignment. Janit Bilve is a student in USA and Disha Sankhe is in Canada for her under-graduate studies. Ojas Chaudhari, our very own alumnus, former Column head of Safarnama and a former ex-editor of RUIAITE Monthly, is in Spain as an English language assistant in a school.

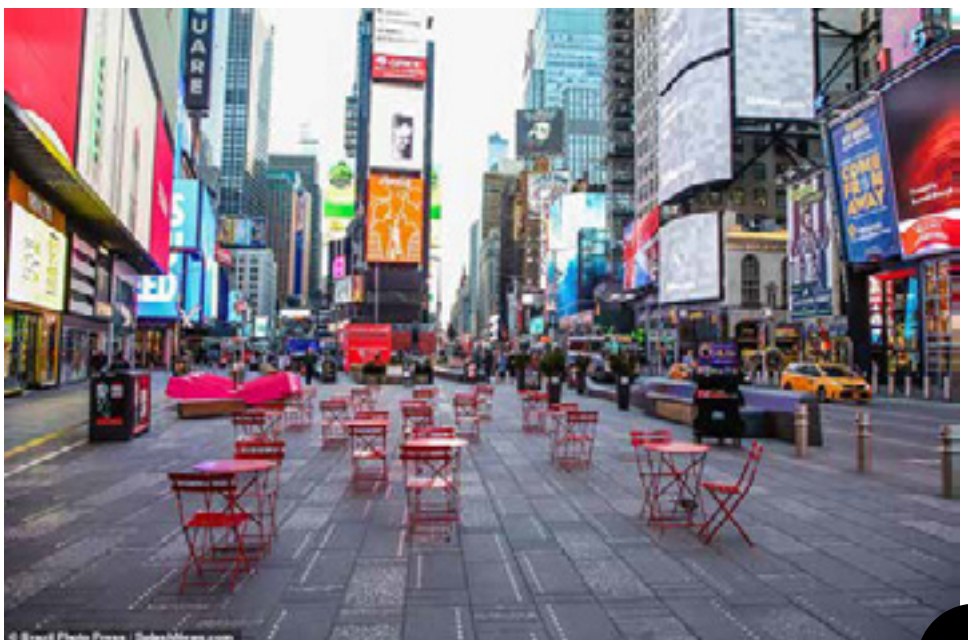


What is the lockdown situation in their respective countries?

**Family from Netherlands** – Currently, cases are increasing day by day. There is a lockdown in place, however not as strict as India. The situation is gradually getting better in Europe.



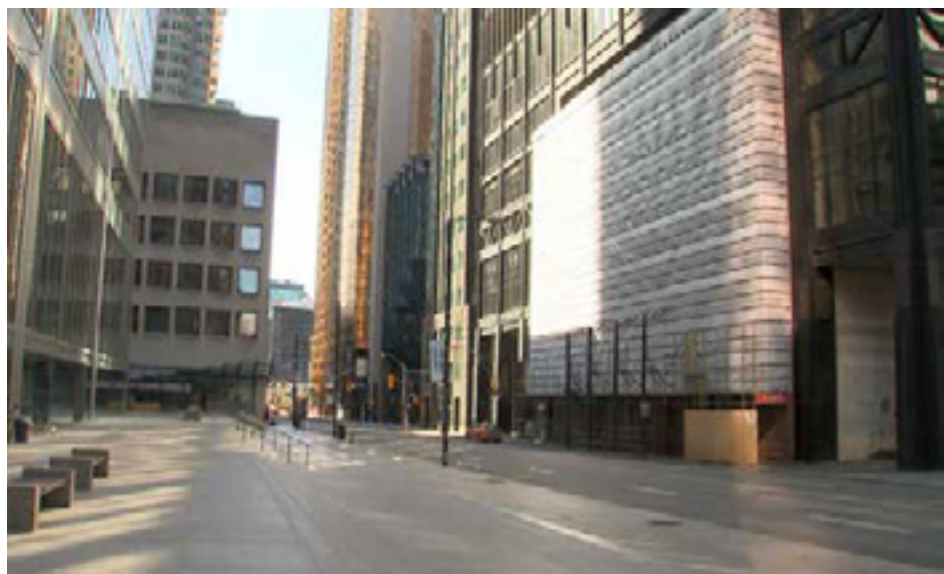
**Student from USA** – Shelter is in place by State Government. No official lockdown by Federal Government.





**Student from Canada** - There has been an increasing number of cases, however it is not as bad as some other countries.

There's no government enforced lockdown, but staying at home is recommended. Most people have been told to work from home (varies company to company). Any gatherings above 5 people have been prohibited. Services such as Amazon and UberEats have been operating fairly well.



**Employee from Spain** - As of 26th April, we have over 2, 20,000 cases and more than 23,000 deaths. However, the number of new cases has started going down ever so gradually. Until a few weeks ago, we would hear about 15,000-20,000 new cases daily. Nowadays, the number





tends to be between 5,000–10,000.

However, it still remains significantly high. Nevertheless, the government has decided to ease the restrictions slightly in the coming days. We have been under a nationwide lockdown since March 15th. It has been extended three times already, and is due to end on May 9th as of now.

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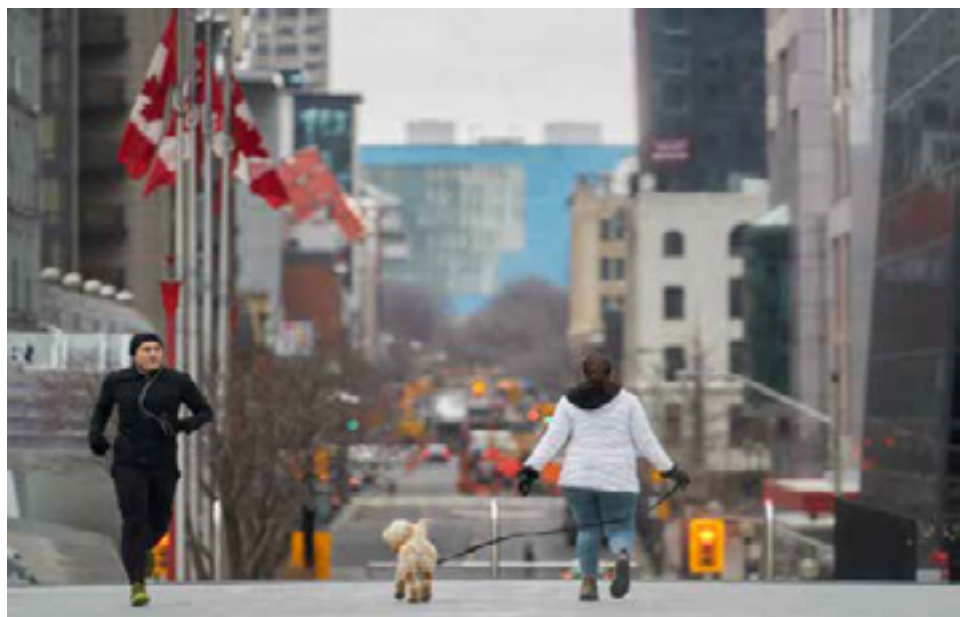
**Have you been contacted by the embassy/government for any relief measures? What are the measures taken by the government for its foreign visitors?**

**Family from Amsterdam** – There has been no change as far as visa is concerned that affects us. My husband is currently on a two-year work visa, while my daughter and I are on a family visa.



**Student from the USA** - Government has provided \$1200 to taxpayers earning less than \$75,000 a year. For visitors I am not aware of any policies.

**Student from Canada** - No, I haven't been contacted by anybody as of yet, nor have I contacted anyone from my side.



**Employee from Spain** - The Indian Embassy in Spain has been extremely cooperative with all Indian expats. At the beginning of the lockdown, they made us fill Google forms with our contact information for their reference. They regularly update us about government decisions locally and in India. They also organise webinars with prominent Indians personalities from time to time. They also made us fill a more detailed

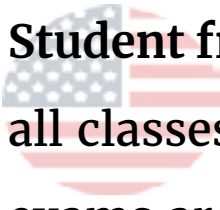


Google form to ask for personal information that could be useful in the event of an evacuation. As for the Spanish government, they have decided to suspend the visa expiry of all foreign residents stranded in Spain for the time being.

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**Would you please explain to us your Work from Home/ Study from Home situation?**

 **Family from Netherlands** - We came here two months ago, just before everything started, which made it really difficult for us as we are so new and now stuck at home. We only go out for essentials and to get some fresh air really. I am enjoying spending time with my daughter. We are doing everything we would otherwise do but just at home or over the phone. My husband is working from home.

 **Student from USA** - Currently conducting all classes on Zoom and assignments and exams are online. I will be graduating in May so maybe once the flights to India open up, I will be visiting again.



**Student from Canada** - My university program involves a 4-month internship throughout the degree. I was meant to be working this summer, but due to the work from home situation, my job has been cancelled. I am currently looking for other opportunities (most likely to be work from home as well). The summer term for students has been moved online (all classes). I may come back to India if flights restart, and I am unable to find a job.



**Employee from Spain** - All teachers in Spain are still working tirelessly from home, by organising online classes and digital lesson plans, and by correcting online assignments. The language assistants have been asked to assist the teachers in any way possible if needed. So, I



have been helping out my colleagues in creating worksheets or attending online classes from time to time. I am expected to take my return flight on 30th May and reach home on the 31st, but that remains an uncertainty as of now.



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**What are the other challenges you are facing because of being stuck in a foreign country? How are you coping with the situation?**

**Family from Netherlands** - I do have meltdowns as I miss everyone back home, and I miss my house help. My daughter is really getting bored as she cannot go see her friends. We are spending some time every day doing something we love. We as a family sit together and have a nice painting session. Hobbies






help you a lot to cope with anxiety during this time. We are trying to make the most of it.

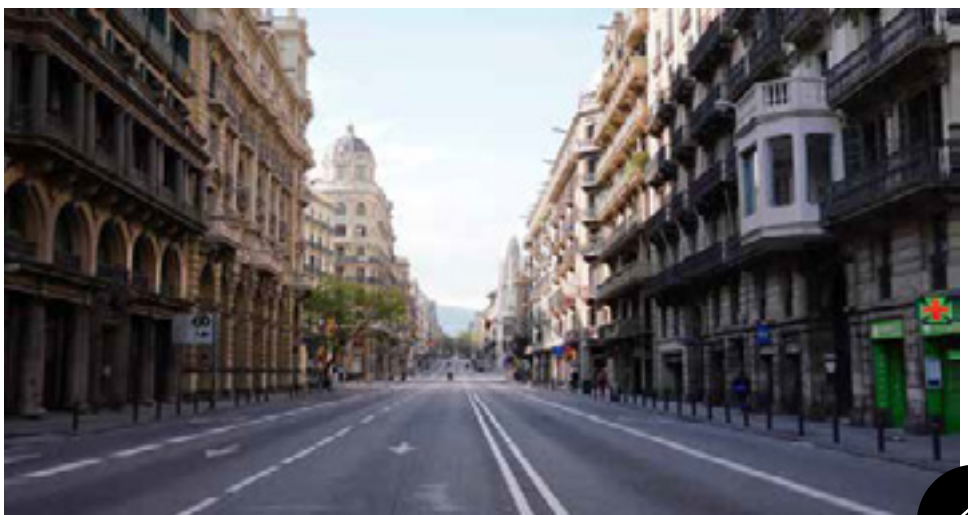
 **Student from USA** - For me personally, since I'm graduating, one of the main issues is the affected job market. Hiring is slow and companies aren't responding well. Campus job placements are cancelled as well.



 **Student from Canada** - Getting back to India is an issue due to the lack of flights and lockdown. Most borders are closed until further notice, not much that can be done. Personally, do not feel anxiety or nervousness about being here. Sometimes it feels like it may be safer here, as there are more resources when compared to the number of people in the country. Traveling seems like it would be quite hectic.



**Employee from Spain** - I would say that the main challenge is not knowing when I will get to return home. My visa expires on May 31, and although the Spanish government has offered foreign residents a visa expiry waiver, I would prefer returning home as planned. The second worry is keeping myself safe. To that end, I go out only to buy groceries, and even then, I take all possible precautions. Thankfully, the situation isn't as precarious in my city and in my region as it is in the north of Spain. As for coping up, I watch Netflix, read books, try cooking something new, talk to friends and family, and play games like Scrabble with my housemates from time to time. Strangely enough, it has led to me to establish a semblance of normalcy in my life.



**What do you miss the most about your life before the virus and what are you looking forward to the most after the situation eases up?**

**Family from Netherlands** – We had decided we would go out and about, see Europe and experience a new life in Amsterdam. However, we are unable to go places. Hoping we can visit some places after everything gets back to normal.

**Student from USA** – To have the option of going out whenever I want and spend time with friends.



**Student from Canada** – Not being able to interact with many people is difficult, as I live alone. All my roommates have



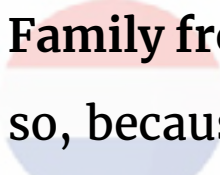
returned to their respective places with family (within the country). It gets lonely and boring. I was preoccupied with exams, which just ended, but now there is nothing to do. Going outside and meeting friends will be nice when the situation clears up.

**Employee from Spain** - Andalusia is a beautifully sun-kissed region of Spain, with its panoramic beaches, sumptuous cuisine, historic cities, enticing Moorish architecture, and warm hearted people. It feels sad to be at the heart of it all and yet for it to be so far to experience! Life before the lockdown was really fun. I used to enjoy teaching my students at school, go out for tapas with my friends or my colleagues, have karaoke nights on weekends, do weekend trips, and whatnot! The pandemic took away life as we all knew it. I just pray to be given a chance to do all of it again before I leave Spain, since my time here is limited.

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**Do you think this would affect your future travel decisions?**






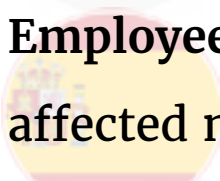
**Family from Netherlands** – I don't think so, because once this pandemic is over everything will be back to normal. So I will explore new countries without any fear.



**Student from USA** – Definitely not going out in the coming months.



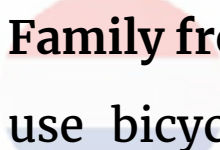
**Student from Canada** – I definitely won't make any unnecessary travel plans.



**Employee from Spain** – It has already affected my travel decisions. I was due to go to Bordeaux, France, for a weekend trip in early April. I had another weekend trip planned to Faro, Portugal, in mid-April. And I was even thinking of visiting the fabulous city of Granada somewhere in May. Needless to say, all those plans will only remain plans, for the time being, at least.

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**What do you love most about your respective country?**



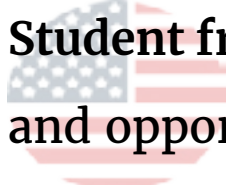
**Family from Netherlands** – People here use bicycles a lot. It's a very disciplined






country. There are canals everywhere, Anika and I enjoy sitting in the balcony and watching ducks and boats passing by. I like my surroundings; it's nice, clean, beautiful and COLD.



 **Student from USA** - Mostly the lifestyle and opportunities available, however this is all dependent on the city you live in.



 **Student from Canada** - It's a nice environment. I like my university and my friends.





**Employee from Spain** - I consider Spain to be one of the most beautiful countries in Europe. Its diversity is astounding. Each region has something different to offer. The region I am in, Andalusia is by far the most well-known Spanish region. Nearly all the cheerful Spanish stereotypes out there find their origins in this coastal state. It's famous for its Semana Santa (Holy Week) processions during Easter. But the first thing that comes to my mind when I think about Andalusia is its beautifully styled Moorish architecture. This influence goes beyond architecture, to food, customs, costumes, etc, but it is the most evident in its architectural marvels. (To give you a quick example, if you are a GOT fan, you will defi-



nitely remember the scenes of the palace and gardens of the Dornish Prince, of House Martell. The beautiful palace and those lush green gardens are actually located in Seville, the capital of Andalusia. Those scenes were filmed at the famous Alcazar Palace in Seville. What I love most about living in Spain are the people. They are all so friendly and welcoming. They have always been kind to me. I always say that the Spaniards know exactly how to enjoy life, and also how to party (very important!). I also like the local food here (the seafood in my city and province is to die for), and since I am an architecture/history aficionado, I love being able to appreciate these beautiful buildings and relive their history every single day.



## Did You Know?

Canada's lowest recorded temperature is as cold as temperatures on Mars. (-63 C was recorded in Snag in 1947)

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# **Fictionally Yours**

**In these boring times where you don't even know the date and day, here's a story that will kick in some energy into you and a poem that will give you hope to expect a better tomorrow.**





# A Vero Abduci

Chaitravi Kothawade | FYJC

10.7 minutes read

“The OTP?” the driver asked me. I repeated the numbers on my screen and got inside the cab. The window was open and the cool breeze soothed me as I gazed at the starry sky.

A few moments later, the cab suddenly screeched to a stop. Curious, I looked at the driver from the back. I followed his confused gaze to see a figure lying in front of us on the road.

I unlocked the door and hurried towards the unconscious man, the driver following behind me. My eyes widened as my feet hastily came to a stop.

“Keith?” I whispered, feeling a pang in my heart. The man lying before me, bleeding profusely, passed out, was my boyfriend.

"We have to help him!" I said to the driver, terrified, my legs shaking.



\*

“Amnesia?”

“Yes,” the doctor said. “In his case, it’s dissociative amnesia. He may have forgotten some events or even some people from his life.”

The doctor continued explaining to me in detail while I sat there, trying to grasp everything, trying to understand what was happening. His parents had been informed and they came rushing as soon as they got the news.

They were surprised to see me.

Apparently, Keith had never talked about me, his girlfriend.

“My... girlfriend?” Keith asked me in confusion, leaning back on the hospital bed, awake and well.

I nodded, slowly. I explained to him about how I found him, passed out on the road, bleeding.

“We were going to meet that night,” I



said in a low voice, gulping my sorrow.

“I see,” he said to himself, deep in thought.

Finally, he said, “I’m sorry.”

“For?” I asked.

“For not remembering you. For scaring you like that,” he smiled.

‘I trust you,’ his eyes said.

I smiled back.

‘It’s fine,’ my eyes replied, shining with tears that were threatening to fall at any moment.

“She has been here everyday since your accident, so don’t let her go, Keith. Her love is pure,” his mother advised, unpacking the homemade lunch.

“I know,” Keith smiled.

Days passed. Those days slowly turned into months. Keith’s forgotten memories never came back.

He had remained strong throughout and



had stubbornly insisted on creating new memories to make up for the forgotten ones. I couldn't have been happier or more grateful. I gladly agreed.

“What are you doing?”

I pushed my huge hat aside and squinted at him over my shoulder. The sun shined over him in the blue sky.

“Giving this cute little baby a home,” I replied, pointing to the small plant and the hole I had dug in the soil behind our house.

“That's so like you,” he smiled and shook his head. “Giving others a home when they need it.”

I chuckled, feeling my cheeks flame, and got back to my work.

“I still can't believe you lived in that house, in that area,” he said to himself. “Why did I never help you?”

I had taken him yesterday to my place. I didn't want to, but he had demanded to know if the area I lived in was safe.



Needless to say, he was shocked.

For someone so rich, he, of course, wasn't aware that areas so poor even existed in the city.

“I might have been failing financially, but I still have my self-esteem,” I answered. “Also, I never told you.”

“From now on, you are staying with me,” he declared out of the blue, shocking me.

“I can't,” I replied, as I turned to face him. “You have already helped me enough.”

“Who even said I was helping you?” he grinned.

---

“Marriage?” Keith's mother was shocked.

The wedding of one of the richest people in the world – to me, it was everything. The greatest memory of my life.

I sat now in our room, gazing outside the window, as our three months old baby slept peacefully in his cute, obsessively





decorated crib.

I wondered if the car was still there, lying in dust, broken, lonely, after all those years.

I see, you might be confused. Let's go five years back, to where it all started.

“You are fired!”

The words rang in my ears, as my heart continued to pound, as tears continued to flow, as I gulped one shot after another.

The bills were due. After losing my parents four months ago, I was going to lose our home too. I lost my job today. Life was hell. Living was difficult.

“That bastard!” I cried. “After everything I did...”

“Let out your sorrows,” my drunk friend, Alane, patted my back and encouraged me. “Curse all you want.”

“Life's so unfair,” I sobbed, my head aching and my thoughts in a mess.

After my sobbing and rambling, I stepped



out of the club. I wasn't that drunk, seeing I could walk without tripping or stumbling.

"Hey, Kylie," Alane tapped my shoulder from behind.

"I'm so sorry but please take care of this for me," she said and shoved a small bag in my hand. It was transparent and contained white powder inside it. I instantly knew what it was.

Trouble.

"Wh-Why are you giving this to me?" I asked, panicking, trying to put it back in her hands. "This is..."

"Sorry, Kylie, but please keep it with you until I come back," she said in haste. "I need to do something."

She shoved it back in my hands and thanked me and hurried away in the opposite direction.

I sighed in dejection. Just what was going on?



I fumbled for my keys as I sat in the car. I gripped the wheel and closed my eyes, trying to pull myself together. The engine purred to life.

Seconds later, I heard a sickening thud.

Of course, the day had to get worse.

“Oh no,” I whispered, my hands on my mouth, as I shook with disbelief, looking at the body with terror pounding in my heart. "No no no."

I continued whispering in denial as I bent over the body, trying to identify him. He felt strangely familiar, as if I had seen him somewhere.

I dug into his pockets, covering my hands with my handkerchief. I made sure I didn't get the blood on me as I took the wallet out of his pocket and scrambled for his identity card.

‘Keith Anson.’

I fell back on my behind in fear at the name. What had I done?



Keith Anson. The heir of a very famous business company.

“What the heck were you even doing here? Why were you here?” I screamed at his unconscious body, tears flowing down my cheeks, as I suddenly realized just how serious this was going to be.

It would have been less terrifying if it wasn't someone as important as him.

My mind began calculating – the bleeding man, the broken car, the alcohol level in my blood, the bag of white powder which was now resting in the back seat, my difficult life, the power this person had... I was doomed. Unless...

Unless I decided I didn't want to be.

“No,” I whispered. “Never. I won't let it happen.”

Grabbing the business card with my handkerchief, I placed it back inside his wallet and put it back in his coat, my fingers shaking the whole time.

I got into the car, reversed and turned,



Keith Anson mocking me in the rear view mirror as I drove away from my doom.

The car stopped in the junkyard. I hid the bag underneath the front seat and hid the keys in my jeans and walked away from the junkyard, exactly ten minutes away from where Keith was lying, bleeding and alive, waiting for help.

Then, I called for the cab.

He was still alive.

Now that you know, let's come back to the present.

---

I continued to look at the tree outside the window, underneath which, the bag still lay buried. The broken car, which had been scrapped with the secret, faded away in the deepest depths of my mind.

I turned my head to look at my reflection in the mirror. It slowly smiled back at me, praising me, for saving myself. For getting out of that hellhole my life was





and being able to live a cherished,  
carefree life.

Why? You think you would be any  
different?





# THE WORLD

Vaishali Kanekar| SYBA  
2 minutes read

Once upon a time there was a little girl  
All she wanted was to see the world  
Her little feet bumped into everything  
It was just the small cage she lived in  
One day some dark clouds appeared  
Like a huge blanket, covering her with  
fear

It left the little girl trembling in fright  
Hoping for the sight of bright light.

Across lived a little boy, nearly her age  
Except he had a mother who always  
cared.



Lonely in the night, the cold made her  
shiver.

It pulled her eyes open, wondering at the  
snow

Cold white balls danced in the air

She counted and counted until it was dark  
again

Finally the night ended, the sky was  
bright



A ray of hope teased her eyes

Her blue eyes opened, and noticed with  
happiness

A loving hand caressed her forehead,  
saying:

“Hello my dear, it’s time to roam  
around!”

She giggled at the beautiful face standing  
above.

“Time to play,” her heart squeaked  
overjoyed.

Excited she rose to catch up with the  
light.

Before she stepped forward suddenly she  
fumbled

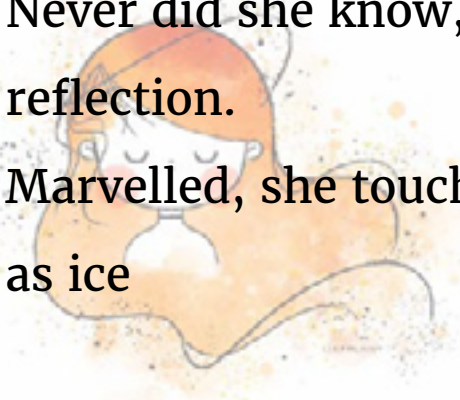
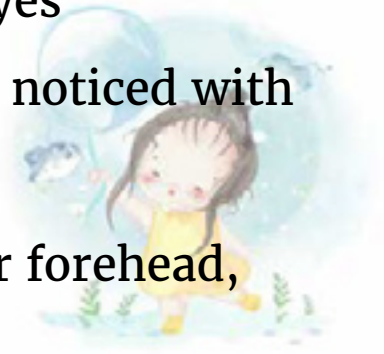
Excused her clumsiness as she turned  
around

Only to see a beautiful angel, staring with  
no sound.

“She is beautiful” she exclaimed, just like  
the girl in the window

Never did she know, the shape of her own  
reflection.

Marvelled, she touched her, she was cold  
as ice



Fearing the last dreadful night  
she chose to move towards the light.  
Once upon a time there was little girl,  
Who was seen dancing in a world,  
full of all the love and care she'd ever  
hoped.



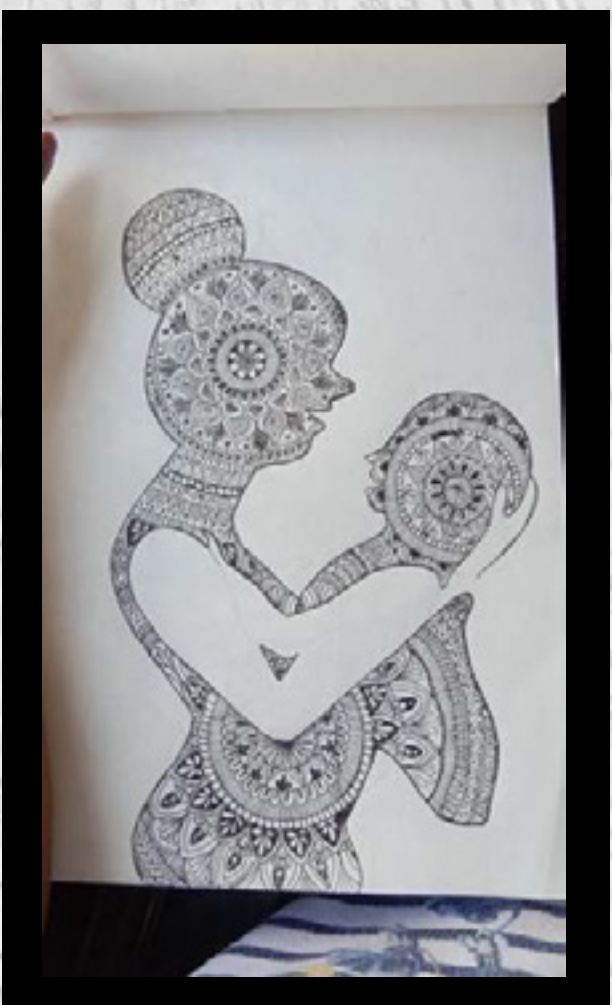


# ART WALL

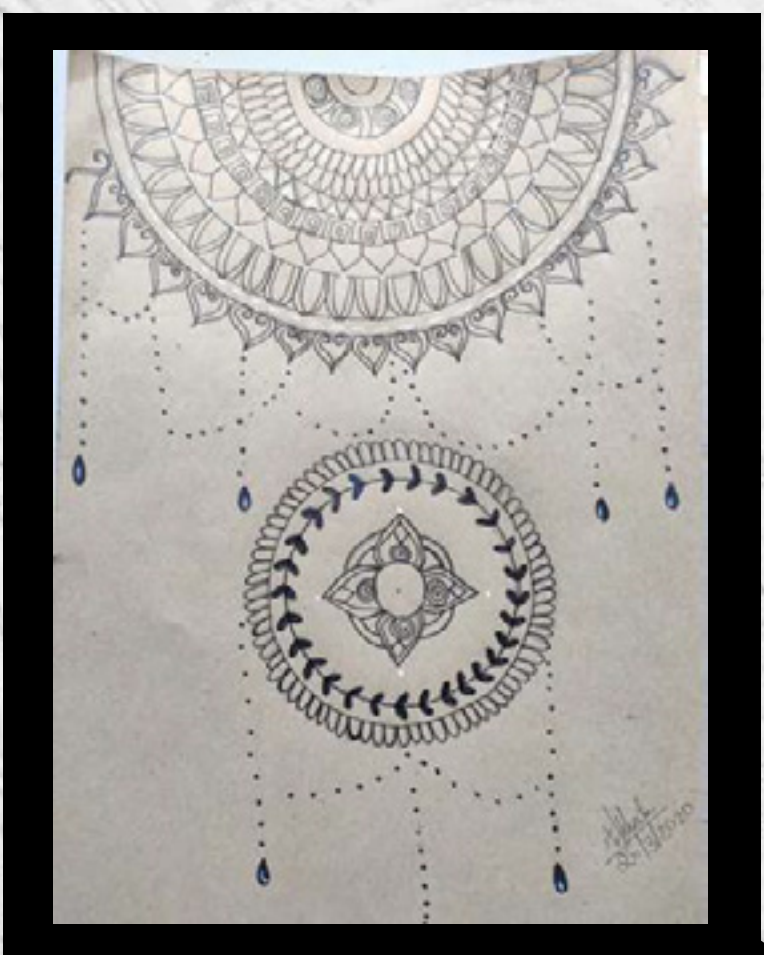




Shrutika Vane



Asavari Shinde



# Drawing Competition



Hemangi Pawar  
SYJC | Arts

Mihir Kelkar  
SYJC | Arts







# RATC

Shreyasi Karapu



It is wonderful how the streets have gone silent and now the dogs rule them. Most of them wonder why the humans are caged in their houses.

Surprisingly, street vendors have gained importance as the markets shut down.

The air is fresh and clean, and it feels



like nature is breathing again. I fear that if humans once again become a part of the picture, it'll be contaminated. The scene in the window is no less than a picture or a work of art we cannot touch.

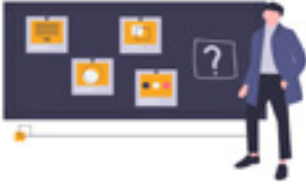




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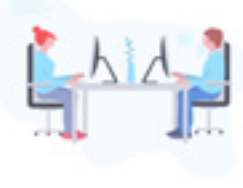
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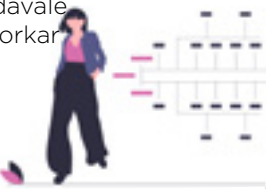
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Tapasya Iyer  
Prajakta Patil  
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Tanvi Padia  
Anushka Nagarmath  
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Disha Shanbag  
Mrunal Sapale  
Mithila Kudalkar  
Hritvi Acharya



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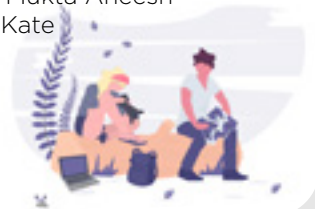
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Vaishali Kanekar  
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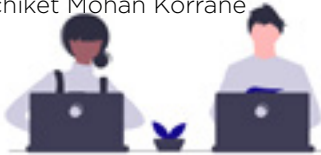
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Mrunal Thakur  
Amruta Joshi  
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