

the RUIAITE monthly

MOVING BEYOND PAPERS



EDITORIAL A MARCH FORWARD!

Yet another academic year has flown by! As we present you the last edition for this academic year, we marvel at how wonderful this journey has been for the monthly this year. Not only have we experimented, but also improved on many counts, the feedback and love showed to us by you readers and our dear professors have been indeed delightful! It has helped us grow and mature. Team Ruiate Monthly cannot wait for the new academic year to start! As we hand you over this last edition of 2018/19, we also confer our sincere thanks to all our readers.

This month we bring you the penultimate guide to wonderful work in Greek Mythology in Fictionally Yours (includes our own as well, just saying). Doesn't the code of Chivalry entice us all? Oh the Knights in Shining armour rescuing the distressed damsels, you think that's all in the past? Join us in the Open Forum where we discuss chivalry in the modern age.

In this month of international women's day, Behind the Scenes introduces you to Her-story, stories of women who battled against all odds and became beacons of hope for millions in times that put them under strictest social norms.

Insight is all set to take you to a trip in the psychological realm of Reality as they discuss existential crises, what if's and a lot more. Do not miss this one! If you ever wondered about the technology behind fake news, we give you one more of its aspect to think about- the AI who is behind it. What exactly do we mean by that? Well, you will have to read Tech-tricked to find out.

Didn't we all enjoy the prolonged winter this year? The ever hot Mumbai chilled a bit, didn't it? But why we wondered. So our Op-Ed team decided to investigate and found some rather interesting news. Read on to know more. Travelling is fun, planning the trip is even more fun.

However, the same cannot be said of packing and low budgets. Well, no more! Safarnama is going to be your Guru here. Read it for the tips for your summer trip. While you are at it, check our Art-Wall for some eye-pleasing artworks as well!

The month of February saw one of the most devastating terrorist attacks on the Indian soil. Buzz-Around, therefore, analyses this horrendous Pulwama Attack. With the importance of Armed Forces highlighted in recent times, Careerwise gives you a one-stop guide into Defence Careers. We also have some wonderful tributes to these sons of the soil, whose protection ensures the safety of us civilians. Check out the Students Corner to read what your fellow Ruiates have to say about the Indian Army.

Happy Reading!

PS: This May we have a surprise for you, stay tuned to know more!

Dear Soldier,

What's peace exactly?

Yesterday, I was sitting with my family, chatting and laughing, having a good time. Would that qualify as peace? There's someone fighting downstairs...bickering with each other to have the parking space for their vehicle, and the noise dies. Is that peace? I can have a sound, good night's sleep...without any nightmares. Maybe that's peace?

Maybe it is. It's very easy for me to assert things, because never have I experienced how the earth shakes when there's an explosion. Nor have I seen bodies of my own countrymen lying in a pool of blood and flesh, charred and dismantled.

The sun rises, people of my country wake up as usual on time, and carry on with their routine. Suddenly, a horrifying news makes its way to us: the news that someone has killed the soldiers of the Indian Army, which boils the blood of the entire nation. Again, we sit on the couch, catch up with the situation, turn the TV off and go to sleep saying that it was an unfortunate event, and the perpetrators must be punished. That's it. After all that rigmarole, it's status quo.

Those who are safe in their homes have the privilege to cry over trivial issues. They're also privileged to not value the safety and security they have, without doing anything. What do we know about real loss? The families of those who sacrificed their lives, they're the ones who have to fight the battle with feelings of loss and trauma. Loss of a loved one. Loss of the sole breadwinner of the family. And loss of the one who was trying to prevent the nation from slipping into a state of war.

You may not know who I am, but through this letter, oh intrepid hero, I would like to convey that I have faith in you. People have faith in you. We stand by the defense forces, and are proud of you. Because you are the ones who laugh in the face of danger and face the demons of destruction who are on a mission to inflict terror in the minds of the people. Because you are the ones who make us believe in the defense forces of India. And, you are the ones because of whom, we can sleep at night, safe and sound. We stand by you, dear soldier. May it be peace (and God forbid) may it be war.

Yours Truly,
A common man.



PULWAMA TERROR ATTACKS

On February 14, a CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) convoy of vehicles was attacked on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway at Lethpora (near Avantipora) of Pulwama district by a suicide bomber. He crashed a Mahindra Scorpio SUV laden with 300 kilograms of explosives into one of the buses, which was carrying 35- 40 troopers, at 3:30 pm, killing 40 CRPF personnel and leaving 35 injured. The responsibility was claimed by the Pakistan-based Islamist terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad. The suicide bomber was identified as Adil Ahmed Dahr, a 20-year old school dropout who was a resident of Kashmir and member of Jaish-e-Mohammad. This dastardly attack was the deadliest attack since three decades of Kashmir's insurgency.

Deep shock and anger were felt across India. The grief-stricken families of the martyred jawans demanded that strong action be taken by the Government. People all over the country protested and offered floral tributes to the martyrs. Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured that

the sacrifice of the soldiers would not go in vain and said that the security forces had been given a free hand to retaliate. Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale summoned Pakistan High Commissioner to India Sohail Mahmood to his office and issued a strong demarche over the attack. India also removed Pakistan's 'Most Favoured Nation' status.

Leaders of all political parties condemned the attack as well. Many world nations, including the United States, strongly warned Pakistan not to provide safe havens to terrorist organizations. The situation in Kashmir has been tense since 2014. Since 2016, the number of terrorist incidents has seen an upward trend. The state witnessed 1,700 instances of terrorist activities (about 28 a month) during the last five years, according to government data. In a written reply by Minister of Home Affairs Hanraj Aher, it was acknowledged that a total of 1,315 people were killed in the state due to the acts of terrorism. The number of terrorist incidents rose by 54.8%, 6% and 79.53%

in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively. The number of casualties - of civilians, the military, and terrorists alike - has been increasing.

Several regions in the Valley have been affected with homegrown militants. The Pulwama district has seen a high volume of terrorist encounters. Indian Air Force carried out pre-dawn air strikes on the biggest camp of JeM in Balakot region of Pakistan at 3:45 am on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. The Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale issued a statement later saying that it was a non-military, pre-emptive strike to stop another attack, in which a very large number of terrorists, trainers and commanders were eliminated. This action of IAF was welcomed by our countrymen. Due to these incidents, bilateral ties have been affected between the two countries, there is tension in the border areas and the country is on high-alert.

-SWATI ACHWAL

SIMPLY PUT: IMMEDIATE RETALIATION AFTER PULWAMA ATTACKS

On 14th February, a JeM terrorist carried out a cowardly attack on the CRPF convoy resulting in the death of 40 jawans. The nation was mourning but actions needed to be taken. The Indian government reacted and took the following steps:

1. Withdrawal of MFN status

This was the first big step India took post the attacks. It withdrew the most favored nation (MFN) status from Pakistan. This now means that Pakistan won't get preference in trade agreements.

2. Custom duty hike

India announced a 200% hike on the imports coming in from Pakistan. India mostly imports fruits and nuts along with gypsum, sulphur, leather goods etc.

3. Stopped sharing of water

According to the Indus Water Treaty (1960), India has a complete right over the rivers Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej. Nitin Gadkari announced that water from these rivers won't be shared with Pakistan; instead, it would be diverted for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

4. Suspension of bus service

India suspended the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service post attacks. It was a key bus service connecting Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan occupied Kashmir.

5. Air strikes

On 27th February India replied to the attacks by conducting air strikes on the terrorist base camps across the Line of Control in Pakistan occupied Kashmir. 12 IAF Mirage 2000 dropped 1000kgs of a bomb on these pads with casualties unknown. In retaliation, Pakistan conducted its own air raids. However, a PAF F16 jet was shot down by India for violating its airspace.

We as a country have entered a new zone of how to deal with conflict. We're no more a passive country. This isn't the end but indeed the beginning of a new chapter.

-PUSHKAR BHATLEKAR

TOP NEWS

1. At least 40 CRPF jawans were lost in Pulwama district of J&K when a Jaish-e-Mohammed suicide bomber attacked CRPF convoy.
2. Indian Air Force successfully destroyed a terrorist base camp in Balakot, killing more than 350 terrorists.
3. IAF plane shot down, pilot Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was taken captive by Pakistan army.
4. Union Budget 2019 announced: Tax cut for the middle class, relief for small farmers.
5. BJP and Shiv Sena again form an alliance in Maharashtra for upcoming general elections. Also, BSP and SP do the same in Uttar Pradesh.
6. West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on a collision course with the center after a huge showdown between the state police and officials of the CBI over questioning Kolkata Police chief Rajeev Kumar.
7. International Olympic Committee decided to put all future international events in India on hold as India denied a visa to 2 Pak. shooters.
8. Robert Vadra questioned by ED in money laundering case.
9. Deaf protesters faced lathicharge from Maharashtra police in Pune while they were demanding for their rights.
10. 'Period. End of Sentence', a documentary on Menstruation in India, Wins an Oscar.

-ADYA MAJUMDAR



TWITTER TWEET:

Right now between Pakistan and India, there is a very, very bad situation. A very dangerous situation. We would like to see it (hostilities) stop. A lot of people were just killed. We want to see it just stop. We are very much involved in that (process).

- Donald Trump

CAREERWISE

With the Pulwama attack, the airstrikes, and all the buzz in the country, there are many people aspiring for a career in the armed forces. There are people who wish to serve their nation but are not aware of the process to apply for the same. So, to be a part of this prestigious field here is all the information you need:

INDIAN AIR FORCE

Flying high into the air at unmatched speeds must have been a childhood dream for many. But only a few are able to turn these dreams into reality. And being able to serve the nation as one of its frontline defenders just makes it even more sought after. Well, that is what makes the job of an air force officer a dream job to have even after all the rigorous training. One gets his first opportunity to start preparing to become an Indian air force officer after passing the 12th grade. The UPSC conducts the NDA exams for admissions to the National Defence Academy twice a year. To be eligible for this exam, one must have passed or will be

appearing for 10+2 with physics and mathematics. Also, the candidate should be 16 ½ to 19 years of age at the time of commencement of the course. Only Indian men are allowed to appear for the exam. On qualifying the exam you get admitted to the NDA along with fellow army and navy aspirants. Candidates are shortlisted for Indian air force after the initial selection procedures. These candidates go through a rigorous three-year training program at the NDA. It is followed by specialized training at one of the training centers after which they are commissioned as Permanent Commission Officers and posted as pilots at the Indian air force bases.

One can also get into the Indian air force after completing their graduation or engineering. Engineering students can give the Air Force Common Admission Test or the AFCAT. After clearing the AFCAT, you need to clear medical tests as per the air force standards and the Air Force Selection Board (AFSB) interview. If you are selected then you are called for training to the Air Force Academy. In case you didn't opt for engineering after 12th, you can give the Common Defence Services (CDS) exam to get into the Indian air force. On clearing this exam the candidates have to give the medical tests and the AFSB interview same as that for the AFCAT.

INDIAN ARMY

Army – one of the most prestigious and challenging jobs in India. Have you ever imagined what life would be like when you have to face dangers and challenges at every moment for the nation? How would it feel to let the mind be completely filled with patriotism?

The Indian Army is the largest component of the Indian Armed Forces. The primary mission of the Indian Army is to ensure national security and national unity, defending the nation from external aggression and internal threats, and

maintaining peace and security within its borders. It conducts humanitarian rescue operations during natural calamities and other disturbances. It is the 2nd largest standing army in the world. Here is the information about joining the Indian Army. There are 5 steps to join the Indian Army-
1) The JAG Entry
2) CDS Examination
3) TGC Entry
4) Special Entries for NCC
5) University Entry Scheme: This being a Permanent Commission job, only male

candidates can apply for it. There are 2 interview schedules for the entrance—the first one is held at the campus whereas the final one is held at the SSB centers. The eligibility criteria for all the 5 ways are different and the age group ranges from 19-27 overall. Apart from all these technical qualifications, one needs to have the virtues of bravery, extreme love for the nation, the courage to give oneself completely for the nation's security as well as physical strength. If you have all these qualities, then wait for none and aspire to inspire.

INDIAN NAVY

A country surrounded by oceans on 3 sides requires the strongest naval forces. Do you wish to enjoy your life in the oceans in a ship but with complete alertness and patriotism? The Indian Navy is the career for you. India uses its navy to enhance its international relations through joint exercises, port visits, and humanitarian missions, including disaster relief. The Indian Navy is increasing its capabilities as a true blue-water navy; its doctrine states that this is for the collective good of nations. The Indian Navy is divided into the following broad Categories:
• Administration
• Logistics and Material
• Training
• The Fleets
• The Naval Aviation
• The Submarine Arm

The Marine Commando Force (MCF) known as MARCOS is a Special Forces unit that was raised by the Indian Navy in 1987. Here's how you can expect to be inducted into this prestigious arm of our defense forces.
UPSC Entry- UPSC holds examinations twice a year for Permanent Commission entry to the Indian Navy. There are two ways to go about it—The NDA (National Defense Academy) / INA (Indian Naval Academy). There is also a third NCC entry which doesn't need any examinations. Upon qualification, the interviews are conducted by the SSB (Service Selection Board) in various parts of the country, followed by a medical test by the Indian Navy.
Non-UPSC Entry – Direct Entry SSC and PC - These consist of both PC and SSC. Women can

enter certain categories of SSC posts. These Direct Entry PC and SSC schemes are usually accompanied by an SSB interview and medical fitness test. Interviewees are shortlisted typically based on their education and percentage scores, Engineering ranks, etc. There are positions whose eligibility spans the following:
10+2 Tech Cadet Entry
University Entry Scheme (UES)
Special Naval Architects Entry Scheme (SNAES)
The men in white are the ones responsible for safeguarding coastal boundaries around India and are the very reason we sleep peacefully. So, if you fancy a career in the Indian Defense forces and the honor of being part of maintaining the health of our marine border, tease your mind with the possibility of joining the Indian Navy.

INDIAN ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE ENTRIES FOR WOMEN

Since 1992 women candidates are being inducted into Indian Armed Forces and have shown the highest degree of professionalism. In India, women are granted only the Short Service Commission. However, the time is changing and lots of steps are being taken to allow Permanent Commission to women also. Many girls want to be a part of Indian Armed Forces but may not be aware of various entries and the eligibility conditions.

So, this article is exclusively for the female aspirants who want to join armed forces. This article will give insight into the new entries through which women can apply and it will also clear all doubts regarding age and educational qualifications.

INDIAN AIR FORCE

AFCAT Entries: Female candidates who want to fly high in the sky or dream to be an Air Warrior of IAF then they have to clear an exam named AFCAT. AFCAT stands for Air Force Common Admission Test. It is held twice in a year. You can opt for the following branches by AFCAT exam:
Flying branch: Women candidates of age 19 to 23 years can opt for flying branch. Female candidates have the

opportunity to fly transport aircraft or helicopters but they are not eligible for fighter aircraft. Technical Branch: Female engineering candidates of age 18 to 28 years can opt for a technical branch. There are two types of technical service whose educational qualification conditions are given below:
Aeronautical Engineer (Mechanical)
Aeronautical Engineer (Electrical)
Administration and Logistics: Graduate in any discipline from a recognized

university with an aggregate of 60% marks OR a Post Graduate degree/ diploma in any discipline from a recognized university with an aggregate of minimum 60% marks. Non-AFCAT Entry:
Meteorology Branch: In this entry, candidates are short-listed and called for SSB interviews at Air Force Selection Boards. Age group in this entry is 20 to 25 years and 27 years for Ph.D. candidates.



INDIAN ARMY

UPSC Entry: Women candidates of age 19 to 25 years can apply for this entry. They have to clear an exam held by UPSC which is conducted twice a year. NCC Special entry: This entry is only for NCC women cadets who have 2 years service in NCC senior division army and have minimum B grade in C certificate exam. SSC-Technical Entry: For women engineering students of age 20 to 27 years. JAG entry: This entry is especially for law graduates. The age required for this entry is 21 to 27 years which is notified along with the vacancies by additional directorate general recruiting in the month of April or October.



INDIAN NAVY

Executive branch- SSC- Air Traffic Controller
SSC- Observer
SC- Law
SSC- Logistics
Engineering branch- UES SSC (Naval Architecture) SSC Naval Architecture
These were the various entry schemes for female candidates who want to join the mighty Indian Armed Forces. So girls, start preparing, touch the sky with glory and enjoy life without limits.



BEHIND THE SCENES

His Herstory

"You aren't supposed to study!" "We're here to cook food and bear children, studying is not meant for us!" She used to hear such jeers every day. Her interest in learning was developed through the continuous efforts of her husband, Mahadev Govind Ranade. This author, scholar, and social reformer caused her to undergo a radical transformation.

She is none other than Ramabai Ranade, one of the first women's rights activists of the 19th century!

She was born in a small village, Devrashtre, in the Sangli district of Maharashtra, on 25th January 1863. In those times, educating a girl child was considered a serious sin and people were against giving women the same rights as men. Naturally, her father did not educate her. Her life underwent a drastic change after her marriage with Justice Ranade in 1863. She was an eleven-year-old illiterate girl, while her husband, addressed as the "Prince of Graduates", was a graduate of Bombay University with first-class honors.

Govind Ranade started to teach her despite facing opposition and hatred from the women in the family house. In that era of social inequality, Ramabai made it a mission to educate herself so

that she could be an equal partner in the active life led by her husband. Through her own tremendous hard work and her husband's continuous efforts, she mastered Marathi, English, Bengali, history, geography, and mathematics. She had successfully escaped from the old-fashioned ideas of society. She went on to become one of the most prominent personalities in the field of women empowerment. Justice Ranade was strongly against the evil practices of untouchability, child marriage, and sati. His dynamic vision about the social reforms inspired Ramabai in her further social work.

The once-illiterate girl had now become an expert in the art of public speaking, both in English and Marathi. She was well aware of her capabilities and was all set to soar high in the sky. She began her work for the Prarthana Samaj, established by her husband; she herself established a branch of the Arya Mahila Samaj in Mumbai. She had also established the Hindu Ladies Social and Literary Club in Mumbai and started training women in languages, general knowledge, tailoring, and handwork. She spread awareness about women's education and self-reliance. She was a founder and president of "Seva Sadan Society" in Mumbai and in 1886 she also established the renowned first girls' high school, Huzurpaga. The Seva



Sadan in Pune was started in her own ancestral home. Now, it offers facilities like hostels, training colleges, vocational centers, etc. She relentlessly worked for the welfare of women throughout her life and is a true icon of feminism. She is literally the human form of "dream big and strive for it." She lived her life like the Phoenix bird which rises from the ashes and glides in the sky!

Anandi Gopal Joshi, also known by the names 'Anandibai Gopalrao Joshi' and 'Anandibai Joshi' is the first woman of Indian origin to graduate with a degree in medicine in the US. She became an inspiration to generations of women wishing to pursue further education.



She was one of the earliest female physicians in India. Anandi was born in Kalyan in present-day Thane district on March 31, 1865. Anandi was named 'Yamuna', and kept that name till her marriage, after which her husband Gopalrao Joshi gave her the name 'Anandi'.

Though he had married a child - a criminal offense today - Gopalrao Joshi was a progressive thinker and a strong supporter of women's education.

Anandi was fourteen when she first became a mother, but her baby died in ten days due to lack of medical care and facilities. Facing such immense trauma and sadness at fourteen, she decided to do something about healthcare in India. She told her husband that she was determined to become a doctor - a physician. He supported her decision and backed her entirely to study medicine.

Anandi's husband wrote a letter to an American missionary requesting if Anandi could pursue her education in the United States. He even inquired about a suitable job for himself so that he could accompany her. But in 1883, when Gopalrao Joshi was transferred to Serampore in present-day West Bengal (Bengal province at the time), he convinced Anandi to go to the United States by herself. He told her to set an example for all other women in India to pursue their higher education.

Anandi applied to the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania and was granted admission. She traveled from Calcutta (present-day Kolkata) to New York by ship. She began her medical training at the age of nineteen. While in America, her health, which was already not a hundred percent from her days in India, further deteriorated due to the cold weather and unfamiliar diet. She even went on to suffer tuberculosis.

Despite all that, she stayed motivated to complete her MD in medicine. Her journey had been so inspiring that she got much publicity in the Indian press, and on her graduation, the then Empress of India, Queen Victoria, sent her a congratulatory message. She had become the first woman of Indian origin to study and graduate with a degree in medicine in the United States. Anandi Gopal Joshi went on to inspire generations of women to pursue their higher education.

When she returned to India in 1886, she received a grand welcome and was appointed as the physician-in-charge at the Albert Edward Hospital in the then princely state of Kolhapur (in present-day Maharashtra).

On February 26, 1887, just over a month before her 22nd birthday, Anandi died of tuberculosis or TB. Her dream of opening her own medical college for women was left unfulfilled. Her death made headlines across India and the entire nation mourned her passing. As a mark of respect, her ashes were placed in a cemetery in Poughkeepsie in New York.

In her honor, the Institute for Research and Documentation in Social Sciences or IRDS, an NGO from Lucknow, still awards the 'Anandibai Joshi Award for Medicine' in honor of her early contributions to the cause of advancing medical science in India. Even the Government of Maharashtra established a fellowship in Anandi Gopal Joshi's name.

Though she was often disregarded as a mere romance novelist in her time, there is more to this female author than what meets the eye. Her biting irony and sharp storylines still stand out refreshingly and vividly in a crowd of writing talent. She is best known for her novel 'Pride and Prejudice' which has become an iconic romance among all age groups, having been adapted into various movies across several countries. However, her works weren't as well-recognized and acclaimed during her time as they are now. Patriarchy was at its peak in 1800s England, and Jane Austen was certainly not someone to adhere to the rules of the society. According to society at the time, being a woman meant marrying early for financial security, being a woman meant that there wasn't a need to study, and being a woman meant keeping the man of the house on a pedestal.

Jane Austen notes down her astute observations about women and society with clever commentary. Each of her novels features strong heroines having quirks and weaknesses yet putting their best foot forward to create a place for

themselves and to be taken seriously. Aligned with rich supporting characters, an underlying meaning within each conversation, and reflections of thoughts of the general public, each of her stories is a favored subject of study in English Literature and cultural history. Having not been a mere 'Plain Jane' by choosing her career over raising a family certainly earned her a lot of criticism but it did not let it get to her. Standing up to a society which hindered women from pursuing a writing career, in a land swarming with patriarchal criticism, Jane Austen indeed made it clear that women too had an equal right to building a career and could not be relegated to living a domestic lifestyle alone. Boisterous stories filled with anarchic fantasies of women empowerment that mark her writing legacy have inspired women to stand up for themselves and also helped them in realizing that questioning the eccentricities of the society is the only way to move past injustice. Jane Austen indeed made feminists swell with pride in a world filled with prejudice.



Lise Meitner was an Austrian physicist who worked on nuclear physics and radioactivity. She became one of the first to discover that a uranium atom would split when bombarded by neutrons. Many regarded her as the most important woman scientist of the twentieth century. She was the third of eight children born in a Viennese Jewish family in 1878. In 1908, two of her sisters converted to the Catholic Church while she converted to Protestantism. She entered the University of Vienna in 1901 and quickly learned that physics was her calling under the guidance of Ludwig Boltzmann. After earning her doctorate in 1907, she went on to study with Max Planck. There, she began working with a chemist, Otto Hahn. He worked on the chemistry and her on the physics of radioactive substances. Both of them achieved many laurels in the field of nuclear physics, competing with Irène Curie and Frédéric Joliot amongst other foreign groups.

Enrico Fermi produced radioactive isotopes in 1934 but had no leads on uranium. Here, Meitner roped Hahn and Fritz Strassman into a collaboration to probe further possibilities. In 1938, she was forced to flee from the Nazis. She loved her research but when it was confirmed that her life was in danger, she left hastily with only two small suitcases. She kept up her correspondence with Hahn.

Hahn and his team continued trying to

obtain 'uranes', a form of uranium, to research its radioactivity further and learn more about the chemistry of nuclear fission. However, over the Christmas holidays in 1938, Meitner had a visit from her nephew, Otto Frisch, a physicist. They realized that though Hahn was a good scientist, the results obtained by him didn't make sense. Stopping at a tree stump to do some calculations, Meitner suggested they view the nucleus like a liquid drop. Frisch, being better at visualizing, drew various diagrams about how the atom might split and Meitner worked out the math simultaneously. They had made a breakthrough and kept contact through long-distance telephone.

Hahn went on to publish the discovery and left Meitner's name out of it. This could have been due to rising tensions of Nazi Germany. For the discovery of nuclear fission, Hahn was awarded a Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1944 and Meitner was not acknowledged at all. Scientists soon realized that it was Meitner who discovered the phenomenon and was later invited to the Manhattan Project for the manufacturing of atomic bombs. She was deeply saddened that her research had given rise to such destructive weapons. She refused to work on them, insisting, 'I will have nothing to do with a bomb!' Despite this, she continued her studies on nuclear reactions and further contributed to the construction of Sweden's first nuclear reactor.

Historical figures are not all men. Women have always made significant contributions to society and have at many times played a vital role in history. Facing misogyny in almost every field, they still managed to leave their mark on the world. These were a few women amongst them. By this article, we attempted to throw some light on their lives and their achievements. In a world with the growing participation of women in various fields, we surely have to thank the women in history for their inspiration.



Existential Crisis?

What is Reality? Do we really exist? How is existence related to Reality? Well, every now and then we find ourselves pondering upon such questions. But what do the realms of Physics, Psychology, and Philosophy have to say about this? Keep on reading to know more, but first here's an Insight into Column Insight's Discussion-

On Existence and Reality

H: Oxford dictionary defines existence as 'the fact or state of living or having objective reality'.

S: What do they mean by objective reality?

A: I guess something that is common to everyone and people can't have subjective perceptions of it?

S: But then, wouldn't that make us robots? We all have a unique perception of our reality and meaning to life... why make it objective?

A: That's true, but perhaps it's more of a concrete view than a philosophical one.

L: An objective reality exists

independent of us, though.

A: Yeah, I think the definition kind of talks about the things that are just - there, like reality in its most basic form, the things we all see, the things we all perceive?

S: So, can Existence be restricted to the World of Particulars, and Reality is perceivable only in the World of Ideas? (In reference to the theory of Plato). Existence is physics. Reality is metaphysics.

T: But can we or can we not separate existence and reality?

S: Well, I think reality doesn't give a damn about the Existence of mortals. So, even if Earth was to go barren, the Reality of this Universe will still continue to be.

L: But isn't our existence what defines reality? Whatever the truth may be, our perceptions of it are all we have, so is looking for an objective reality fruitful? At all?

A: Umm.. sometimes we do assume that existence is like a prerequisite to reality. As in we know something exists, we assume that it is real in this time and place. But how far are we ruled by our own perception and views, since we can never step out of our bodies, can we ever actually know just what is real?

S: But, as various thinkers and scholars mention, our perception is very limited. Come on, we can't even hear and see things that exist if they are beyond the particular range. Then how can we say our perception is necessary for defining Reality? Also, perception is a faulty measure of Reality. * philosophy giving me death stares *

H: Physically yes, our perception is limited. Cognitively though, it is what makes us unique as a species. And hence, reality can never be objective in that sense.

T: Yes, and only through perception can we perceive reality. It's the starting point and maybe just enough because all we have gathered and amassed, this knowledge about life and existence is through us. Our perception led us to look at reality this way.

S: But that is human's take on 'Existence of Reality'. Is it really so?

T: Hmm. Like if I were a lion how do I think of reality? Or maybe any other species, or object even?

H: Would I even think about it? Because

I cannot. Then it would just be seeing the world as it is. But what is this 'as it is'.

T: Ah! The realist.

S: So, this philosopher had said that 'if oxen and horses could draw, the horses would draw Gods with the head of a Horse, and Oxen will do the same with an Ox as their God.'

T: Okay. I believe that through this form of human being, I am endowed with my perspective to existence. There is no right or wrong, it's all part of the bigger picture.

S: Agreed.

L: The bigger picture is inaccessible though, isn't it? Whatever methods we may employ; we will never be able to

view the bigger picture or even our little pocket of reality objectively.

T: Maybe we should try interacting with other species, not just by language but find different ways to do so. Because there is a variety of species. And variety is the species of life.

S: Well, does Reality change with Change of existence? Or is reality absolute, and it's only us mortals who keep giving our small bubble of reality a subjective existence?

-Lakshmi Kalarikkal (FYJC),
Anushka Nagarmath (FYBA),
Sara Chavan (SYBA),
Tanvi Padia (SYBA) and
Himani Joshi (TYBA)



What if the sun you saw was actually an orange fruit in the sky?

THE JOB OF A WHAT IF....

What if the actions you perform are already written by someone beforehand?

What if you are just a part of someone's dream whose existence will get erased when the person gets up? Every what if is an instance of exploring a number of alternate possibilities to the same concept.

The question itself is loaded with the fact of there being various possibilities to our

commonly held beliefs and is a mirror to our attitude of accepting things without questioning. The questions on existence and reality are two of the biggest what if's in philosophy. Every answer to such questions is a different way of living life. Such questions in philosophy are not just for contemplation but for giving a perspective towards life. The life of a common man, an existentialist, a skeptic, and a realist would be very different from each other because they conceive reality in different manners. A person who is not a materialist will not be attached to the material pleasures of life, rather would be minimalist in the wants of life.

A philosopher digs deep into these questions to change the world of an individual which is basically is his/her thinking. He/she opens different dimensions to the same concept and triggers our attitude of questioning. The job of philosophy is thus to raise many such what-ifs and leave us to wonder about the horizons of thoughts and life and give us a chance to give a different meaning to life. So the next time you encounter anything in life, do not forget to ask, what if?

-Aaditya Jadhav,
MA in Philosophy (2nd year)



ON PARTS OF REALITY

One of the many interesting topics in physics which challenge our notion of reality is The Theory of Relativity. Now, let's say, I have two observers A and B (for the sake of simplicity). I gave both of them identical and calibrated scales (which for the sake of this thought experiment, can extend indefinitely) and a clock each, which are identical and synchronized. Now, say A and B are far out there, somewhere in the universe, traveling in different directions at different speeds. Now, before I sent them out, let's say I asked them to measure and record the following three things about 3 events E1, E2 and E3 (say different supernova explosions):

- 1) The distance of the events from where they are
- 2) The time of the events as seen on their own clocks
- 3) The order of the events in which they appeared to occur to them

Now, the interesting thing here is, the Observers A and B wouldn't agree on any of the above 3 observations. They both will measure different distances and different times of the events, no matter how accurately they do it and it has nothing to do with being right or wrong. And this is all because of how light works and how it has a speed limit. Now, both A and B are correct. From their own frames of references, yes they are.

But then, what does it mean to us? mean, what would I deem real? I mean, nothing that I am seeing or measuring is correct, or real. Distances I measure, the time of things happening, is it all relative? Then what is real? Turns out, what is real is Causality: the relationship between cause and effect. A mathematical term called the Space Time interval, measured of the two events regardless of who or where

the observer is and how fast they are going, it comes out to be the same. And it is indeed related to the distance and the time measured by the observer. So, even though the small things changed, the overall result is the same. So, all our perspectives are just part of the truth. Just a part of reality. Everything that arises out of the universe, is also part of reality. Everything that exists, even our thoughts and feelings, they too have physical effects, and they arise out of physical interactions. They all makeup reality. And do we exist? Of course, yes. If I don't, then whatever strings hold and make me turn, I'd grab and climb them to meet that devilish puppeteer who planned this terribly beautiful plot. And if I fail, then I didn't exist anyway.

-Advait Unnithan,
TYBSc Physics

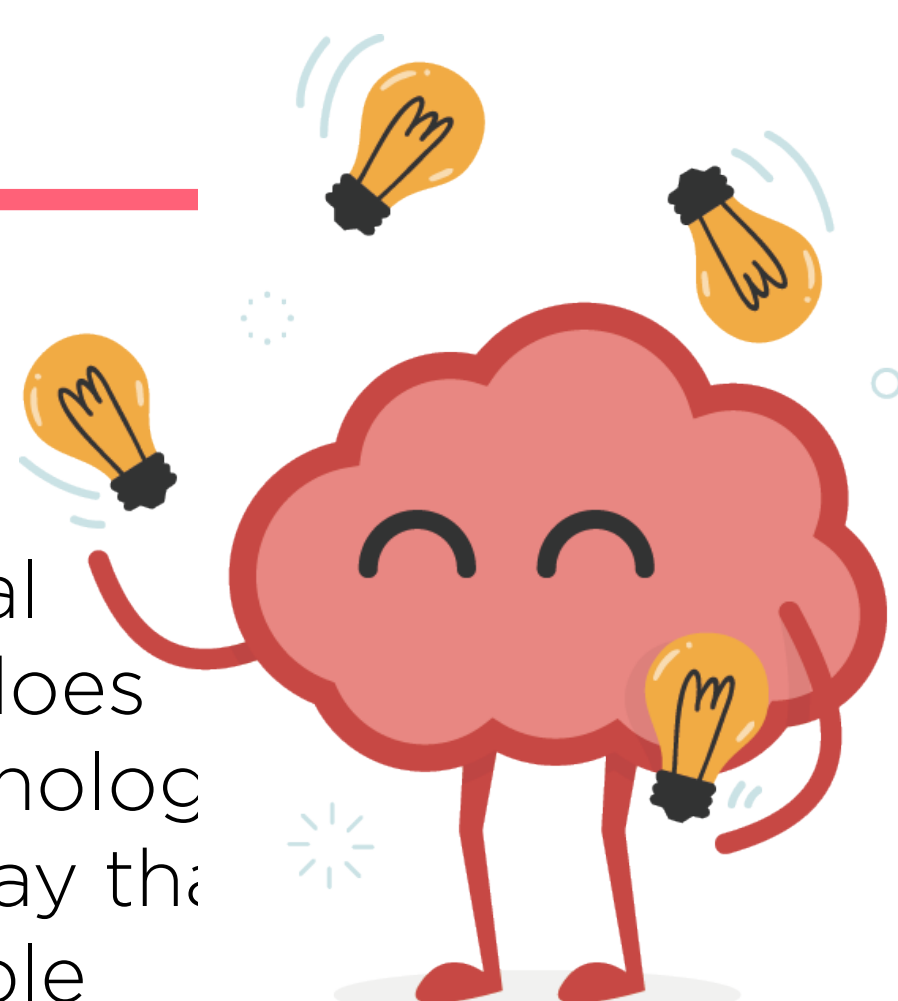
The Psychological Perspective

"Humankind cannot bear very much Reality"
-T.S. Elliot (1943)

Psychology, for the layman, is mind reading. The psychologist is that magician being that is able to effortlessly dive into minds and fish out our deepest darkest secrets. This has always been treated as one of our myths but is this really the case? Maybe reading minds is the key to reality. The mind is the focus of psychology and Existence is centered on this mass of pink blob securely nestled within our cranium. We might go so far as to say that our existence on this blue and green space is limited by our biology. The subject of subjective and objective reality was first raised by French philosopher Rene Descartes. What we sense is our reality, opined Descartes. The mind constructs our existence and this, in turn, is our accepted version of reality. What we are, who we meet and where we are from will drastically change the existence that we build for ourselves. Taking this a step further,

our existence is chained to neurochemical reactions and maybe the outside world does not even really exist. A client with a psycholog disorder like schizophrenia would likely say th the voices in his head tell him to do terrible things. That constitutes their existence and is as real to them as the reality of such a voice being absurd to us. The external "real" world was too much to bear and the voice perhaps even becomes a comforting companion almost as real as the voice of a loved one. There is no one existence, there is no one reality and all that we can really be sure of is that our world at least for a bit is very much our own little controlled reality.

-Adithya Ramesh,
MSc Clinical Psychology (2nd Year).





OP - ED

Winters are back...

'Frosty mornings and tasty mugs', phrases such as this instantly remind you of winter. There's an earthy joy one receives drinking a hot beverage in winter mornings.

What would be the earliest memory you have of winter? Mellow sun? Or a dark, gloomy, foggy day? A sharp, unpleasant cold morning? The one when you experienced wanderlust or on the contrary, the one when you didn't want to wake up early? The silence that descended upon night when all sought a warm spot under the quilt, even the neighbourhood strays? Diwali or Christmas? Numb fingers and chattering teeth? Feet that refused to leave the warm under layers of blankets? Chai-pakoda? Piping hot instant cup noodles? Fond memories and nostalgia? Dark, depressing thoughts, best forgotten with that long winter night of the past? A movie you would love to watch? People interpret this period in many ways.

Yet here we are, the time being almost half past three, sun rays traveling through thick clouds, and the fan rotates lazily overhead. Though it would be the first week of December, the temperature in Bombay everyday adamantly ranges between 30° and 25°C. That's winter for us. Whenever it arrives, it brings vague wistful feelings along with it.

Winters returned, but why?

The unusual winter retreat that Mumbai has been subjected for a past couple of months makes me wonder whether this is a revenge on all the casual jokes on Mumbai winters that Mumbaikars have been facing for ages. It is so cold that most of us have rummaged our wardrobes and got hold of their pristine winter clothes that they have never ever used. This seems funny at first glance, but is it though really?

On a more serious note, these sudden cold winds in the city have arose many questions among the minds of the city dwellers. We shush discussions on it every time on account of global warming but we fail to realise that this is an aspect of global warming too. Without taking you on anymore guilt trips, here's the deal.

The cold winds of the Arctic have been spreading southwards towards Europe and us due to the weakening of the westerly current. This has resulted into pushing of a type of low pressure winds called Western Disturbances to the

southern instead of the expectant northern India, that is, the Himalayas. Due to the presence of these winds the environment and the atmosphere of our country has been severely affected. Places like Churu in Rajasthan have been reported to have temperatures as low as -1.1°C.

This unseasonal winter has had more effects than just getting to use a cool wardrobe (if you know what I mean). The prolonged cold weather has also affected the community health. There has been an increase in the number of infections that are associated with cold temperatures like ear infections, influenza, bronchitis and various allergies.

The most direct impact has been on agriculture since crops are extremely sensitive with time, temperature and other factors that come along with the climate. The cold has resulted in reduced areas of key rabi crops like rice, wheat and pulses in the country. This will lead to a rise in prices of pulses and cereals in the future.

But this may have positive effects on the tourism in the country. Indians love to go to hill stations to have a break from the usually sweltering temperatures. With the winter going on longer than usual hill stations are booming with patrons who want to chill out (if you know what I mean) for a bit longer.

More than anything this has had an effect on the annual seasonal changes. The usual season forecasts are affected due to the anomalies we observe in weather. This might have a huge cascade effect that can cause disruption in various walks of life.

Let's just say that we hope the environment is not thrown off balance and the measures, taken globally to retain the health of our environment bear fruits.

- Shabduli Shinde, Disha Shanbag.

Good or not, winters have returned. To a common human, this may be another reason to wear those coats and sweaters for a longer time, but to a writer, it can be far more than that....

Winters and the Cutting Chai

The mercury dipped to 13 degree Celsius in Mumbai this year and while for rest of India, that's just mild winter but for us, it was chilling.

Getting up in winters is in itself a herculean task for us students and to get up and come to college for a 7.45 am lecture makes it worse; and what more to help us go through this tiring time than our own cutting chai!

A cutting chai in Mumbai is half a cup of tea, which is less in quantity and price but just enough to refresh your senses. Non-Mumbaikars may roll their eyes on our immense love for the brewed beverage, but only we know how important tea is for us on a cool winter morning. From bed tea to the evening cup of chai, it won't be wrong to call us a nation of tea drinkers. Cutting chai literally translates to 'cut into half' which means a small quantity of tea. Initially, cutting chai was only offered at 'tapri' or chai stalls, but now many modern cafes are also serving it along with accompaniments.

There are many tea stalls around Ruia which have helped me pass through winter, one among them being Abid Bhai's tea stall opposite college. For years, he has armed the students of Ruia, Podar and Welingkar with his steaming hot fix. The chai is especially spicier than the other places. How does that happen? Tea tastes the better the more you boil, says Abid. He also serves biscuits with it, free of cost. And if somebody still doesn't know what cutting chai means, try sipping one on a cold winter morning, you will fall in love with it!

Want the recipe? Why not! Brew tea leaves with ginger and cardamom powder along with milk. Boil it for a longer time until the colour turns darker and the flavour of cardamom is dominant than ginger. Your very own cutting-chai is ready!

- Lekshmi Pillai



फिरुनी आला शिशिर हा...

वाहत वाहत आले वारे वृक्षलतांना हळूवार स्पर्शित बावरून ते शिरशिरित मग अंतरात ते शिरते झाले नकळे कुणासही काय जाहले इतुके पटकन अकस्मात तर	अडखळले दूर वाजते राऊळी घंटा तयाचाच चालावया आसरा अकस्मात का धुके दाटले अरुणोदयाच्या काळी नकळें
सरे रात्र ही तरीही कुणी ना पुनरपि फुलाण्यालागी धजले	तयामुळे ना दर्शन आम्हा सूर्याच्या उदयाचे होते.
पहाटवारा गार किती हा कान्तीवरती येऊन धडके शहारून ते देहावरती बघ रोमांच उभे राहिले सहज मनमनी विचार आला काय होईल रे कांतीचे ?	असा अचानक कसा परतला नकळत हिवाळा असा थोदल उडे मग सर्व जीवांची त्यातुनीया सावरता पुनश्च एकदा सिद्ध होते जे उमलण्या सर्वाथें मिटून निजले पुन्हा एकदा गारव्याची चादर मिळता सुंदरानन
असाच वारा नाजूक देही पडता-पडता काय संभवे?	थोडा सुखद अन् थोडा दुःखद पुनश्च दाटला पहा शिशिर हा
दवबिंदुंची टपटप कानी सतत येऊनी रे आदळते वृक्षांमधुनी अनिल कसा बघ वेणूनाद हा करी सुमधूर	आला बहुधा पाहण्या आपुल्या प्रियेचेच ते सुंदरानन
सूर-तालांचा संगम झाला उषःकाली बघ सुंदर सुंदर मैफल जमली अनोखी पहा ऐकू येती भैरवीचे सूर	थोडी लाजून थोडी शहारून सामोरी जाई "घरा" प्रियकरा
धुक्यामुळे गो वाटही न दिसे पाऊल मध्येच	त्याने दिलेला थंडीचा शालू नेसून देई तया आलिंगन
	हेरेंब भावे

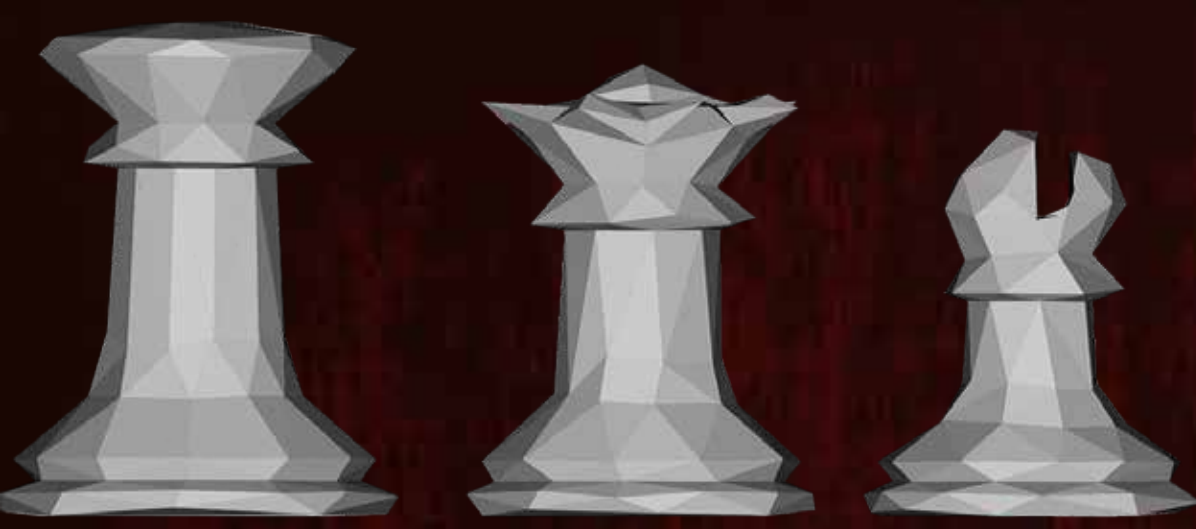
ती हिवाळ्यासारखी होती!

गोड गुलाबी.. दिसणं तसं वागणं.. पण तेवढीच बोचरी!	हा हिवाळा जिवाळा लावायचा!
ती काही पहिलीच नव्हती पण मला आता दुसरीला बघायचं देखील नव्हतं.	ती थंडी ना मुंबईची होती ना पुण्याची ना माथेरान, महाबळेश्वर, पाचगणीची
तो थंड ऋतू आयुष्यात कायम राहावा असं वाटायचं.	ती थंडी होती चादरीवर चादर ओढून झोपल्यावर देखील हळुवार जाणवते ना तशी
खरंतर उन्हाळ्या पावसाळ्या सारख्या खूप जणी येऊन गेल्या,	ती त्या उबेची फॅन होती मी मात्र थंडीचा दिवाना एवढंच फरक होता तिच्या आणि थंडी मध्ये कि
काही तप्त तर काही त्यावर फुंकर घालणाऱ्या...	थंडी असताना झोपावस वाटायचं बिछाना जवळ करून
पण ही मात्र हिवाळ्यासारखी होती,	आणि तिला पाहून खूप काही करायची प्रेरणा मिळायची...
धुकं पसरवणारी.	यावर्षी तर हिवाळा सुद्धा आला परत आणि ती?
वाटायचं धुक्यातून अंधुक दिसावं तसं सगळं दिसत असताना न दिसणाऱ्या थंडी सारखं तिने जवळ यावं आणि मायेची शाल पांघरत ऊब घावी,	असो.... ती खरंच हिवाळ्यासारखी होती.
काहीतरी मोठ्ठ करण्यासाठी!	
बोचरी थंडी असताना अंगाला शहारे येतात तसे मनाला शहारे यायचे तिला बघून.	मृणाल सपळे
ती आली की वातावरणात टवटवी यायची,प्रफुल्लित व्हायचं सारं.	

By the time you read these articles, the winter winds would have probably taken a U-turn. The mornings won't be cold anymore and the need of coffee to stay up late at night and study for the exams will take over the normal tea time. But remember, the few extra moments we spent in the bosom of winter were the new definition of bliss. Our love for the season has nothing but increased. As the last pair of woollens go back into their cosy closet space, we long for the season, patiently awaiting its arrival.



OPEN FORUM



A Chivalric Code for The Modern Ages



The other day I was returning home from college with a friend in a 5 PM train. We were standing, but then neither he nor I had hoped to find a seat; daily train travel is the quickest cure to unrealistic expectations. Nevertheless, my friend cast a jealous eye towards the ladies' compartment, which was right next to ours. Why, he wondered, did women get special treatment in trains and buses - and even shared autos? And when he did finally catch that fleeting empty seat, why did judgemental fellow passengers expect him to give it up for a girl?

The first question has a clear but unpleasant answer. The second phenomenon I have not personally observed. In my experience, people in public transport are too apathetic to be judgmental. Still, my friend's resentment sums up the modern perspective on chivalry - that it is an outmoded ideal which condescends to women and discriminates against men.

Yet chivalry isn't dead - I am (and many others are) still moved by the image of a dashing knight slaying evil and doing right by both friend and foe. I remember cheering Sachin Tendulkar when during a match he walked even when given not-out - doesn't such sportsmanship

contain the allure of chivalry? The courage of the Army in disaster relief operations - isn't that modern knighthood? Call me outdated, but I think that there's something not just beautiful but also relevant in the tales of Sir Arthur's Knights of the Round Table - in fact, something far more relevant today than ever.

Chivalry isn't a concrete, immutable rulebook; it is a shifting set of ideals. The original chivalry was an unspoken military code for ensuring the safety of nobles. Along the way, it was adapted into the heroic ideal generations of people know and love. There has been a new understanding of the chivalric code for every age. The racist organisation Ku Klux Klan claimed to be knightly, but so did the Boy Scouts. Chivalry is shaped by humans and it, in turn, shapes them.

To me, chivalry is the opposite of insensitivity. It is seeing the bully cowing down his victim and not looking the other way. It is fighting trolls online without stopping to their level. It exists in the little acts of selfless kindness we do for others. And as I understand it, the Order of the 21st Century Knights is open to everyone with the courage and selflessness to join.

Perhaps it is time to set out my chivalric code, my Knightly Commandments, for the Internet age. I'm not claiming to be definitive - it's impossible to be - but I hope my attempt will be worth something.

1. The essence of the code is inspiring others to be and do good.
2. Shining armour isn't necessary, but a dignified outward appearance is.
3. Courtesy to both friend and foe.
4. Others first.
5. Stand up for those who cannot stand for themselves - always.

I never said the list would be terribly original. In fact, I think the only essential commandments are #1 and #5; everything else is dressing.

Most likely, consistently living up to this list of five short sentences is outright impossible, as my frustrated friend may tell you. But if nothing else, this call to the new knighthood is a lance through the heart of cynicism, a banner held aloft proclaiming the resistance to the I've-got-mine attitude of our age.

- Aditya Negi



Marked with Memories

The onset of warm weather means the discarding of jackets in favor of T-shirts and shorts, especially during the muggy evenings. Two weeks ago, apropos attire donned, I was strolling around my society waiting for my friends when two younger kids I know stopped me, pointed to my knee and asked, "What happened?" I realized they were pointing to a scar and told them the odd tale of me deciding to run down a steep hill at full speed on a dare. They exchanged bewildered looks before whispering, "Doesn't it look bad? You should put something on it so it goes away!"

Look, I'm a klutz, and an outdoors loving, sporty, run everywhere type to boot. Suffice it to say that I've pulled some ridiculous stunts and (somehow) gotten away with only marks all over my limbs. Plenty of them, each with bizarre, cringybut somehow nostalgic tales behind them. My friends have similar ones. Falling off walls, crashing cycles, misjudged goalkeeping, an errant game of tag - and more. Those stories are practically inked on my skin in the form

of scars up and down my body. There are also blemishes from tales I'd rather not recall, but luckily the funny ones outnumber those. For me, they're physical reminders of a childhood spent well. For onlookers, they're apparently startling and off-putting.

Scar removal is popular, and for understandable reasons. Prominent, jarring disfigurements are not the kind of marks anybody would want; the damage it can do to one's psyche, from both their appearance and the reminder of what they went through can be massive. There's also the entire basket of self-appreciation: people erasing marks because they feel it will make them look more polished and untouched. Some refer to this as vanity, but I won't. I don't think it's a crime in any way to be true to your image of what you should be and look like. Which is precisely why my scars won't be going anywhere.

I've had a great life so far, with no major regrets: certainly none marked by the physical wounds I've suffered. Every fall,

every ill-timed jump taught me more about how I - how this body of mine works. Today, looking at the dents in my forehead and elbow makes me laugh, even though I recall crying buckets when they were fresh injuries. No cover-ups or full sleeves in my future - I'm perfectly fine with imperfect skin. And if you're curious, ask me: I may not share your opinions on scars, but the stories behind mine, I think, could make anyone laugh.

I'm a walking album of myself! And personally, I think that's rad.

- Natasha Desai



Dear Ruaite,

Hi there! Since this is my last chance to say something to you, I decided to write you a letter. The reason why I choose a letter this time is that letters hold a special place in my heart ever since I read Pride and Prejudice. Mr Darcy wrote Elizabeth a letter addressing her accusations against him and it was I who fell in love. Not just with him, but with letters in general. I have never received a letter, save for one from my best friend. But I have wrote many - to my crush, to grammar - the recipients have been numerous. And now, you are one of them.

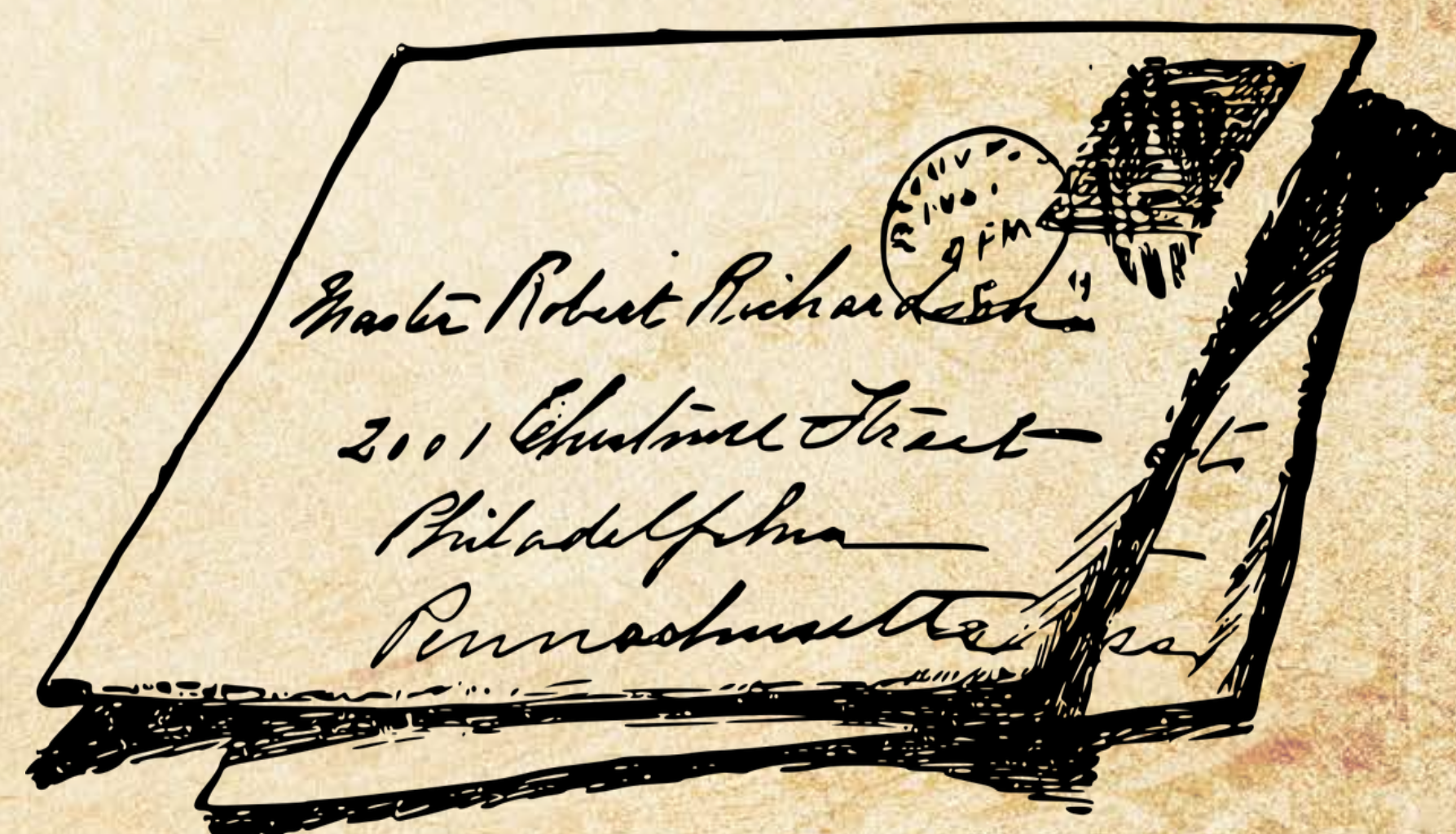
I became a part of your team two years ago. I hadn't realized how much I loved writing until I actually started it. However, after a couple of months, I realized that I liked writing in a particular way - which was fiction. And hence choosing Open Forum was a good decision, I loved the freedom it offered me. I didn't want to be tied to a particular genre.

In my school days, I used to admire and sigh over the artistic genius in my classmates, and wonder why I didn't have it. But working for you made me realize I had at least some creativity in me, and that I could channelize it in a way that it could result into something good.

There have been articles for which I had to read up and in the process, came to know about things I normally wouldn't have. I realized the importance of deadlines, too! Although, there have been quite a few months in which I have procrastinated so much that I ended up writing the articles on the day of submission!

But the point is, one of the most memorable part of my college life has been the time I have worked for you. So, thank you.

Love,
A serial letter writer.
- Sayli Mayekar.



TECH-TRICKED

Agritech Startups

More than half of the population in India practices agriculture and the sector contributes only 17% to the GDP. This clearly indicates that the farming community has very poor operational efficiency, lack of organized marketing platforms for selling goods produced, improper storage facilities, logistical problems, and most importantly no wise use of technology. Along with these issues, the agriculture sector in India has also experienced many unavoidable challenges like floods, poor seed quality, drought, drastic changes in seasons, decreasing groundwater levels, and many more. Many startups and investors are teaming up to address these issues in our agrarian economy. These startups are working hard to provide sustainable solutions in storage mechanisms, quality seeds, logistics and so on, thereby changing the conventional way of farming. Agritech startups are making the best possible use of technology to improve the agriculture sector and the condition of farmers in India.

Aarav Unmanned Systems, incubated at IIT Kanpur, is one of the many agritech startups which has leveraged automation and technology to improve farming. This startup is building drones

and other aerial vehicles to aid farmers in surveying and inspecting by providing accurate 3D maps of terrains and improving decision making by optimizing irrigation, fertilization, pesticide distribution, and failure warnings. Aarav Unmanned Systems was initially an agritech startup aiming to scale up precision agriculture but now has diversified into building drones for enterprises in many fields.

Most of the Indian startups have been urban-centric, catering majorly to cities and towns. But in recent years, we have observed an increasing trend in the number of startups venturing into agriculture. This is a good sign and indicates that there is more stuff than loan waivers and budgetary allocations that will help the Indian farmer. The government's role will be crucial in improving the condition of the agriculture sector. The current PM Narendra Modi who is heading the BJP led NDA government has aimed to double the average income of a farmer by 2022. We have also seen in the recent fiscal budgets that the government is allocating money for use of technology in agriculture for producing maximum possible yield and

to increase the income of farmers. In the coming years, the role of government will be very significant in the growth of agritech startups. We can clearly notice that financial relief to farmers will possibly help farmers have more money in their hands, but it will be these agritech startups that will increase the productivity levels and operational efficiencies in farming. Intello Labs, a Bengaluru based agritech startup founded by Milan Sharma, was awarded 'India's Most Innovative Top 50 Emerging Software Companies' by Nasscom. This startup uses artificial intelligence and computer vision to monitor minute details for each plant like fruit quality, soil conditions, overall harvest evaluation and more. This startup in most cases has achieved an accuracy of over 95%, beating the human eye. The technology involves the use of satellite images, enabling farmers to get enhanced insights with just a few clicks. The agritech startup scene in India will continue to expand and explore. We will see many viable business models and sustainable solutions to address challenges in the agriculture sector.

-Smeet Poladia

Literally The Best From The Waste!

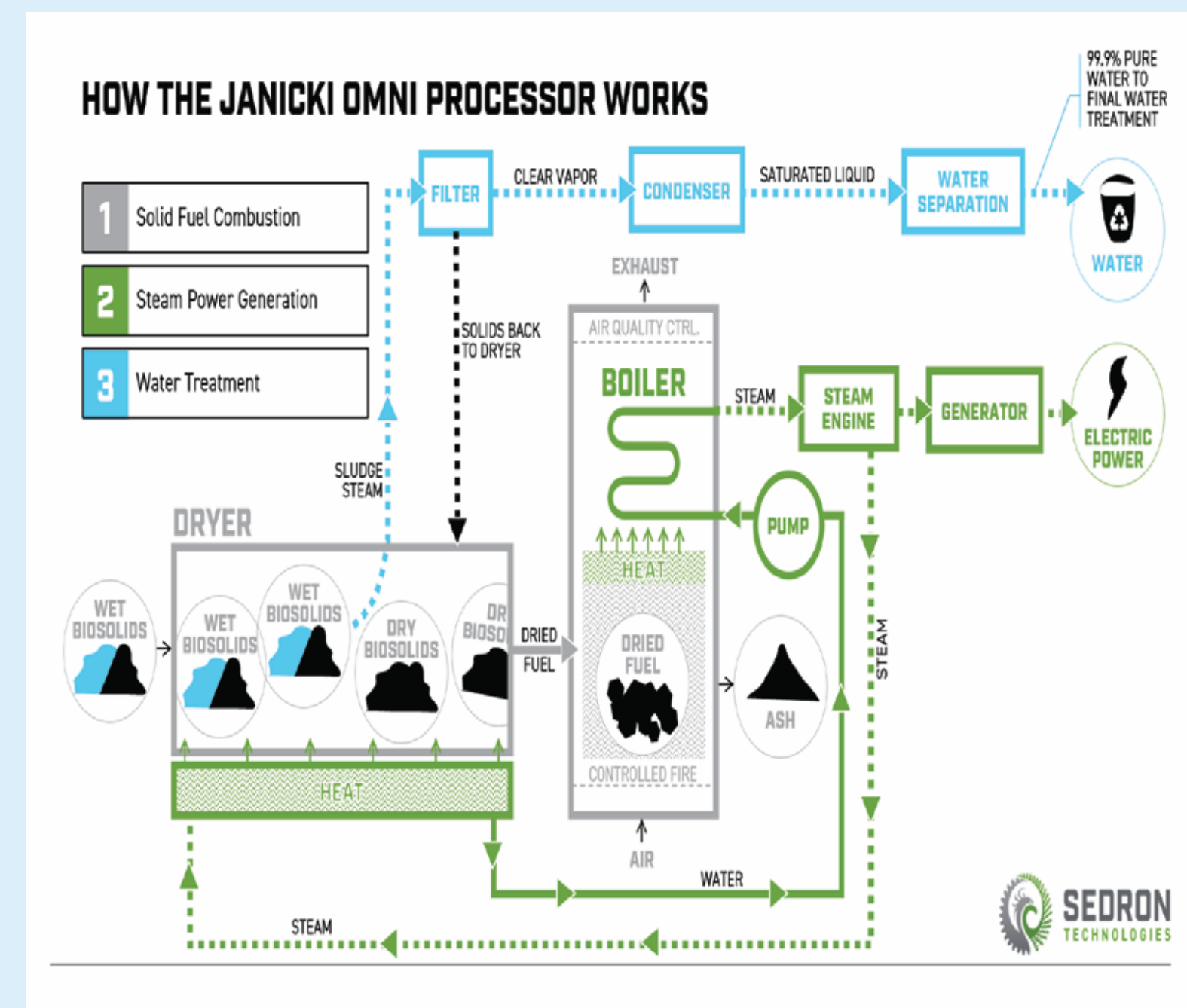
To be able to sustain life, the basic needs of humans should be fulfilled which are food, shelter, and water. It is said that humans survive by the 3's rule i.e. one can stay alive without food for 3 weeks and without water for 3 days. Without water and to be more accurate, without drinking water sustainability of humans plummets down to zero. That's how important water is. Although 71% of the Earth's surface is home to deep blue water bodies, only 3% of these bodies actually contain drinkable water or freshwater. Most of this fresh water is used in industrial plants and for other purposes. Hence the availability of drinking water becomes lesser. Because of this many of the thinkers and businessmen have put in their efforts in innovative tech or ideas which can conserve the resources that we use daily. An example of this in the case of water conservation is 'Omni Processor' or 'Omni Processor System'.

Omni Processor is a name proposed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for a group of physical, biological or chemical treatment processes to process fecal sludge. Fecal sludge is basically a mixture of human excreta and water. The wide use of Omni Processors is actually seen in developing countries, in regions that lack hygiene facilities and where sewage systems are unavailable. One of the main treatment aims is pathogen removal to stop the spread of disease from fecal sludge. The term was coined by a staff of the Water, Sanitation, Hygiene Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2012. It is not a trademark for one specific product or technology. Several research teams are

currently developing various types of Omni Processors with funding from the foundation. Combustion, super critical oxidation, and pyrolysis are some of the methods which can be employed in an Omni Processor System. The term "omni" in its name refers to the fact that an Omni Processor machine can process a variety of waste streams or fuel sources.

An example of Omni Processors is Janicki. The functioning of Janicki starts with Solid Fuel Combustion. Bio-solids or other wet waste streams enter a dryer where the moisture is evaporated. The dried, solid waste is now a fuel that proceeds to a fire where it is burned in a very controlled fashion, reducing the solids to dry fly ash. The exhaust from the fire is conditioned and filtered to meet strict regulatory emission standards before it is released to the environment. As a stand-alone process, this successfully processes the waste stream but is extremely energy intensive. To improve the process efficiency, it combines Steam Power Generation in the mix. The heat that is generated by the controlled fire heats water in the boiler pipes to create steam. This steam is fed to a steam engine, which runs a generator to produce electricity. This electricity is then used to power the whole Janicki. It also produces electricity that can be sold or used. The exhaust, or waste heat from the engine which is steam, travels back to the dryer where it provides the energy required for drying the incoming wet waste. At that point, it is condensed back to water and is pumped back to the boiler to repeat the cycle. These two processes together provide a

self-sustainable processing solution. Water treatment completes the system. The moisture that is leaving the dryer from the wet waste stream is in the form of steam. This steam goes through a series of filters and is then condensed, distilling the water. If desired, this water can then be treated all the way to clean drinking water or be used for other recycle or reuse water applications. Useful heat can also be captured from the condenser to be used for a variety of purposes.



Thus, Omni Processor is an initiative towards a better tomorrow through the conservation of resources available today. It is necessary to understand that as technology will progress, Omni Processor System will become more intricate and efficient. Hence, technology is a means to make real the ideas which are beneficial yet reel in real time.

-Suvini Mayekar

-Glossary:-
•Pyrolysis: Decomposition because of high temperatures

Fake News AI

When a section of the scientific community started warning people about the growth of artificial intelligence the rest of the world said it was just paranoia. Then Elon Musk in 2018, said: "I think the danger of AI is much greater than the danger of nuclear warheads". Suddenly it wasn't just "paranoid scientists" ringing the bell but the kind of entrepreneur one expects to build stuff using AI. And now we learn that AI can even write fake news.

OpenAI is a non-profit research company seeking to create a "safe artificial intelligence". Musk is among its co-founders, alongside bigwigs such as Sam Altman, Peter Thiel, and Reid Hoffman. Though he has left the company, Hoffman has said that it has developed an AI that is so good at writing that it will be kept locked away from the public. The researchers said it was simply too dangerous to let this tech have a go in the real world.

The company's machine learning system, called Generative Pre-trained Transformer-2 (GPT-2) is capable of generating text based on brief writing prompts. The result is very close to human writing. Consider this: GPT-2 was fed with two lines that read: 'A train carriage containing controlled nuclear materials was stolen in Cincinnati today. Its whereabouts are unknown'. And it wrote the rest: 'The incident occurred on the downtown train line, which runs from Covington and Ashland stations. In an email to Ohio news outlets, the U.S. Department of Energy said it is working with the Federal Railroad Administration to find the thief. "The theft of this nuclear material will have significant negative consequences on public and environmental health, our workforce and the economy of our nation," said Tom Hicks, the U.S. Energy Secretary, in a statement.' Another example of the news generated by the AI was, 'Russia has

declared war on the United States after Donald Trump accidentally fired a missile in the air. Russia said it had "identified the missile's trajectory and will take necessary measures to ensure the security of the Russian population and the country's strategic nuclear forces." The White House said it was "extremely concerned by the Russian violation" of a treaty banning intermediate-range ballistic missiles. The US and Russia have had an uneasy relationship since 2014 when Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimea region and backed separatists in eastern Ukraine.' Clearly, this is immaculate work by a robot. Immaculate fake news. With fake news already wreaking havoc across the world — from attempting to influence elections to triggering murders and riots — the fear is real. After all, a fake news-writing AI won't be bound by human morals.

-Rishabh Vishwakarma

SCIENCE OF EVERYTHING

— AN ALTERED STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS —

A recent study conducted by AIIMS revealed that almost six crore Indians are addicted to alcohol and 72 lakh to cannabis. As this topic is a serious concern, we'll be looking into it this month. Addiction is the repeated involvement with a substance or activity, despite the substantial harm it causes, because that involvement was (and may continue to be) pleasurable and/or valuable. But how does addiction develop in an individual? To know about this, let's take a look at the mechanism involved. Small molecules known as neurotransmitters are released into the synaptic junctions who share a relationship with addiction. It's all about the binding! If a drug like Haldol is administered, it occupies the same receptors and does not allow dopamine to bind. This inhibits the overactive neurotransmission and helps to eliminate large mood swings

commonly seen amongst schizophrenia patients. Cocaine, on the other hand, prevents the degradation of the neurotransmitter in the synaptic junction. Overly saturated receptors lead to over-active transmission of the electrical impulse and result in an increased state of arousal.

Disruptions of the cAMP : When less cAMP - cyclic adenosine monophosphate - is produced, neurotransmission is slowed, and a change in mood results. Removal of the activity or drug results in a massive decreased production of cAMP that will lead to symptoms of withdrawal, including anxiety and lethargy. Most people assume that addiction refers only to those who have a compulsive need for alcohol or drugs. However, in reality, it is possible to become addicted to almost anything.

Some of these addictions are-

1. Alcohol addiction-

Those who abuse alcohol are in danger of developing physical and psychological dependence. They continue to drink even though doing so has harmful consequences.

2. Illicit drug addiction-

The powerful effects of drugs such as heroin and cocaine often lead to addiction, with those affected being unable to control their urge to take the substance.

3. Prescription drug addiction-

It is typically given to those who suffer from conditions such as chronic pain. Abuse of prescription painkillers can lead to devastating addictions that can be very hard to break.

4. Eating disorder -

The most common eating disorders are anorexia and bulimia. Eating disorders are identified as an unhealthy or abnormal attitude towards food. Those who suffer from anorexia tend to severely restrict the number of calories they consume, which can lead to devastating health consequences. Bulimia sufferers binge eat and then purge themselves or exercise excessively to burn off the calories.

5. Gambling addiction-

Some people may start out gambling in the hope of securing a 'big win', but as time goes by, they become obsessed with the thoughts of gambling and the anticipation of winning.

6. Gaming addiction-

Many of us spend much of our time these days living in virtual worlds. Some socialize through the internet and find it difficult to interact with people face-to-face.

7. Social Media addiction-

Addiction It is not a formal clinical diagnosis. However, it is safe to say that many people spend far too much time on social media. They describe themselves as being "obsessed". They spend hours every day updating their status, uploading pictures, commenting on walls, playing Facebook games, reading updates from others, and searching for new friends to add.

Now that we know what addiction is and what the causes are behind it, let's look into the solutions and the remedies for it. Based on scientific research since the mid-1970s, the following key principles should form the basis of any effective treatment program:

> Addiction is a complex but treatable disease that affects brain function and behavior.

> No single treatment is right for everyone.

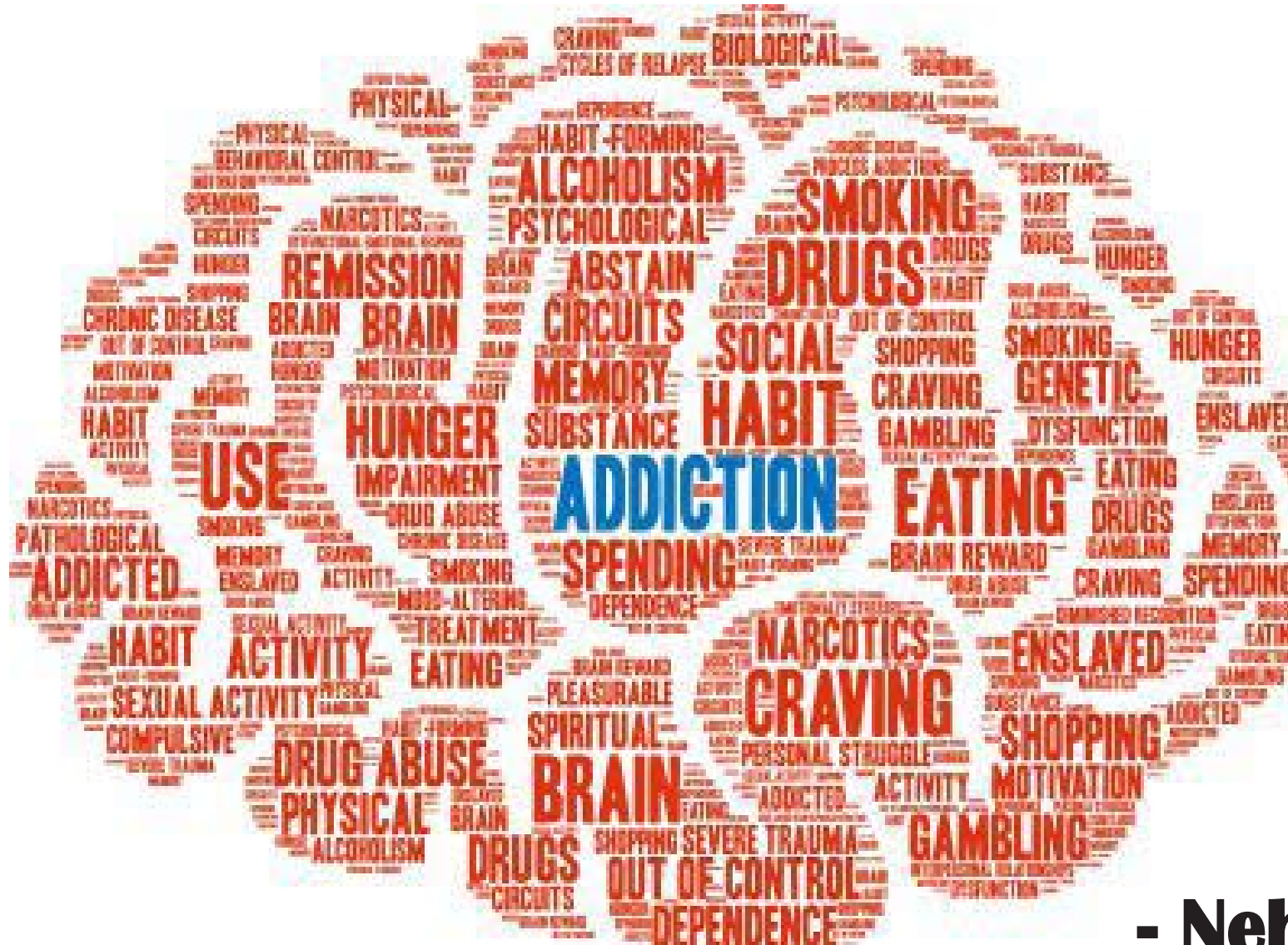
> People need to have quick access to treatment.

> Effective treatment addresses all of the patient's needs, not just his or her drug use. Staying in treatment long enough is critical.

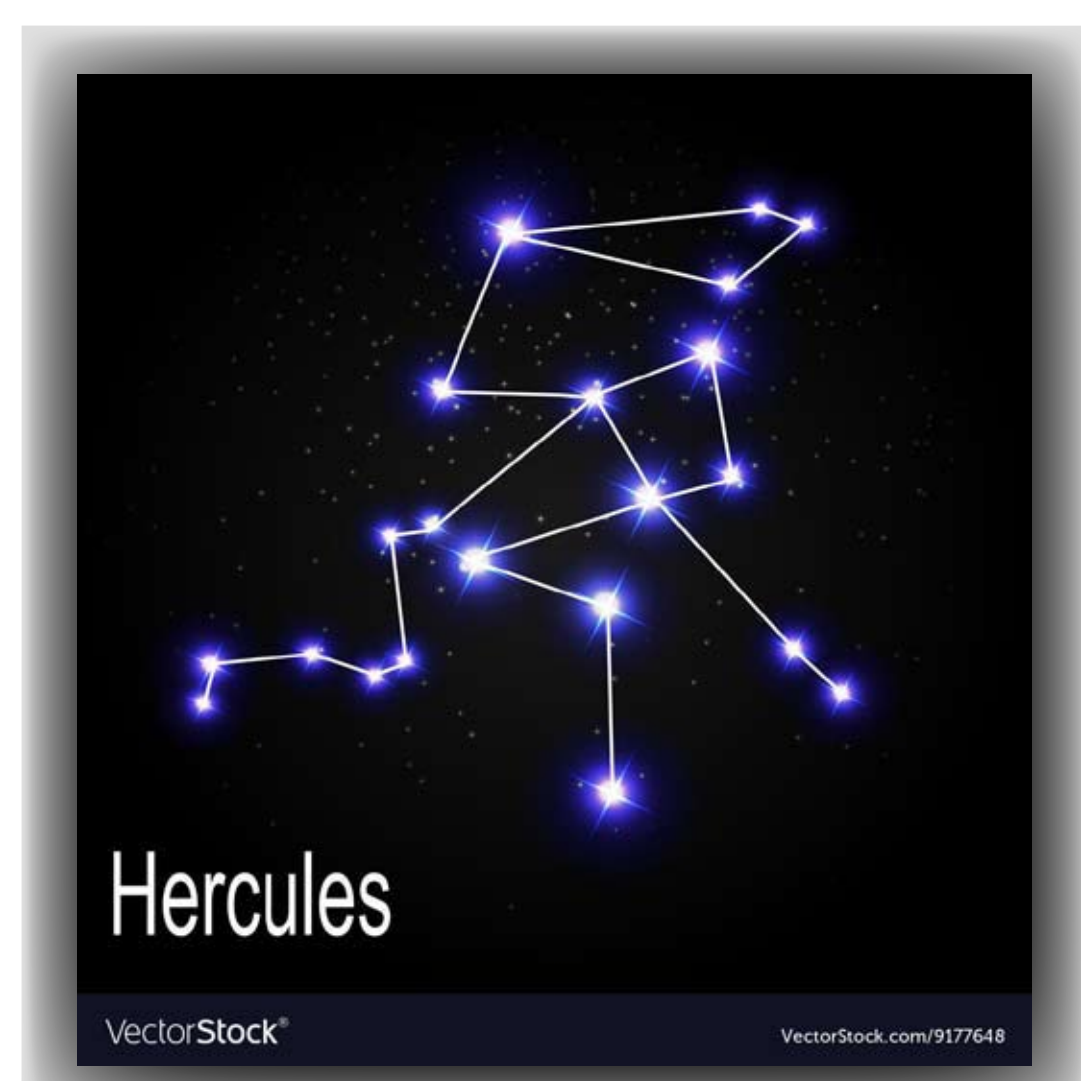
> Counseling and other behavioral therapies are the most commonly used forms of treatment.

> Medications are often an important part of treatment, especially when combined with behavioral therapies.

Addiction is an extremely common and widespread phenomenon in today's society. Although the roots of this evil go deep down, constant efforts are being made to uproot the problem by countless NGOs and government programmes. As this disease has made us slaves to our habits, we plead that you recognize and correct them for a better lifestyle



- Neha Raut and Pranav Nandkumar. (SY BSc)



What comes to mind when you look up at the night sky full of stars? Is it the feeling of awe and wonder, that perhaps these stars in the sky represent something? Then good news - they do represent a particular pattern! This pattern is made up of a group of stars, which is known as a constellation.

A constellation is a group of stars that create a recognizable pattern in the sky; just like the Leo in the northern sky represents a lion. Some of the constellations are named after mythological creatures, an example is Hercules and Orion. Others are named after animals, like Ursa Major, the Big Bear.

A Sky Full of Stars

Different cultures and countries adopted their own constellations, some of which lasted into the early 20th century before today's constellations were internationally recognized. Explorers used constellations to navigate. Ursa Minor, or the Little Bear, contains the North Star, a bright star that hovers right over the north pole. Knowing the location of that star means knowing where north is, which is critical for getting around without the help of a map.

There are currently 88 officially recognized constellations in total. Together they cover the entire night sky. Scientists use constellations to identify territories of the sky at any given point in a celestial coordinate system can unambiguously be



Northern Hemisphere



Southern Hemisphere



assigned to a constellation. Some astronomical naming systems include the constellation where a given celestial object is found to convey its approximate location in the sky.

Other star patterns or groups called asterisms are not constellations per se but are used by observers to navigate the night sky. Asterisms often refer to several stars within a constellation or may share stars with several constellations. Examples include the Pleiades and Hyades within the constellation Taurus and the False Cross split between the southern constellations Carina and Vela, or Venus's Mirror in the constellation of Orion.

Prajakta Velankar, SY BSc

Mission Opportunity The story of the longest-lived robot in the solar system!

Mars has attracted many people from different fields. Philosophers called it the symbol of vigor, warriors used to worship Mars as "God of War" and astronomers have been trying to know what makes the Red Planet so red! In an attempt to learn more about Mars, NASA has launched many probes - most of which were unsuccessful. In this article, we will see the journey of the longest-lived rover in the solar system, Opportunity!

Opportunity landed on Mars on 24th January 2004. Its aim was to learn about the geology and existence of life on Mars. Shortly after landing, Oppy started analyzing the soil and stones on Mars. It found blueberry-like stones, which after analysis hinted at the presence of acidic water. During the two Earth-years on Victoria Crater, the rover found pieces of evidence that there was plenty of salty or acidic water in the planet.

Then rover was directed to move to crater Endurance to look for its own heat shield, which it had lost during the landing. Accidentally, Opportunity encountered the first meteorite on Mars. It shouldn't be a surprise that it was named "Heat Shield Meteorite"!



At Endurance, the rover also discovered the signs of fresh water from clay-like soil. This discovery also suggests that a long time ago there may have been life on Mars. Along with geological findings, Opportunity has also obtained astronomical observations and atmospheric data.

In June 2018, a large dust storm hit Opportunity, disabling its ability to generate power through its solar panels. After the storm settled in October, NASA sent over a thousand recovery commands to the rover but they received no signals from it. On 13th February 2019, NASA officially declared that mission Opportunity was concluded, eliciting a wave of sad reactions from science communities.

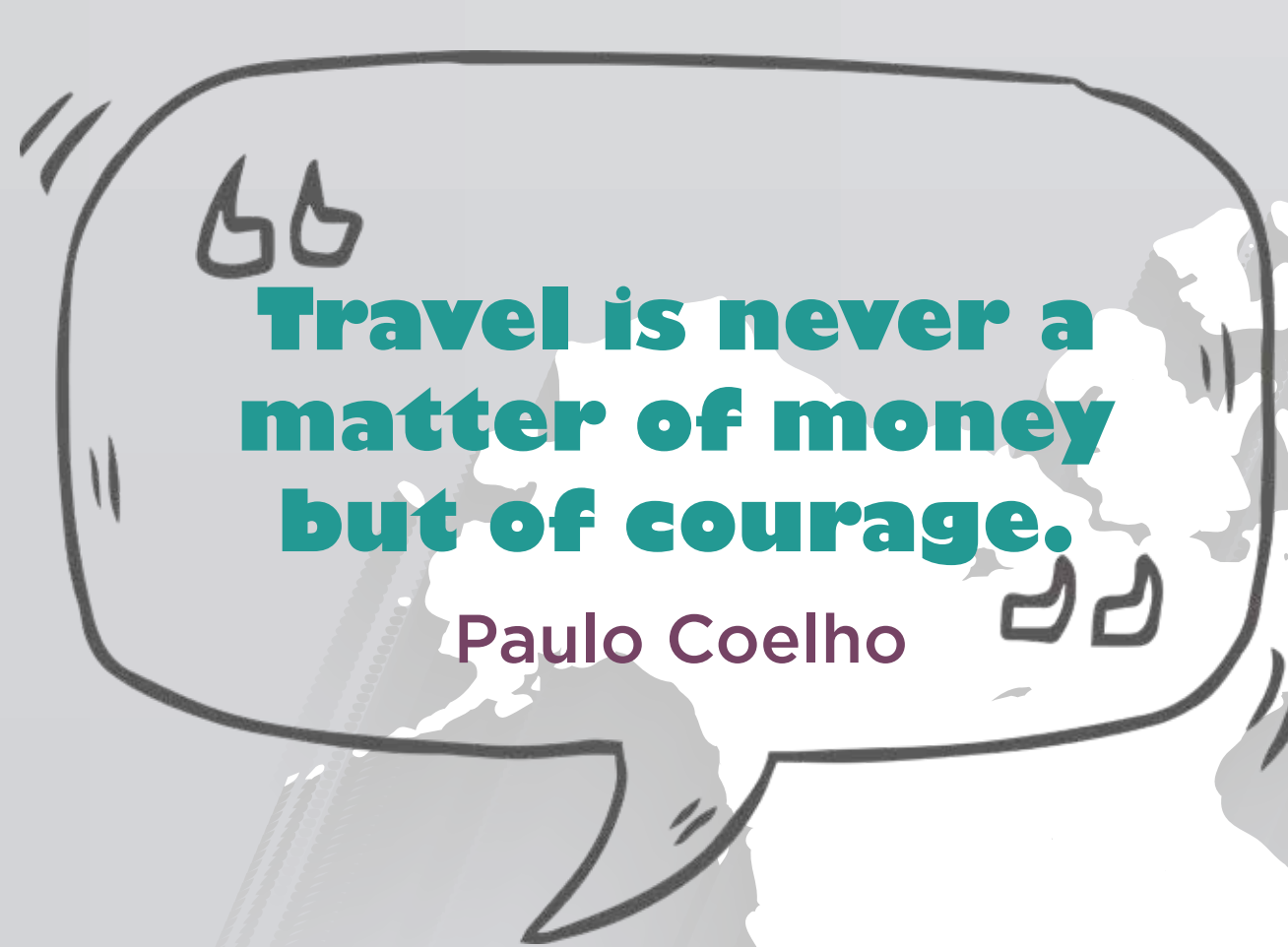
In its lifetime, the rover traveled the longest-ever off-world distance of any land vehicle, at 46 kilometers. Opportunity's contribution to Mars exploration was honored by giving its name to an asteroid. It was built to work for ninety days only, but it lived fifteen remarkable years.

RIP Mr. Super-achiever!



Hitchhikers guide to cheap travel

Planning a trip can be a real hassle, especially with a mother sitting on your head nagging you to pack your bag. On top of that if you end up stuffing your clothes in the bag not only do you get to do it again but also get a free session of a high pitched rant about your inadequacy. What is the solution to this you ask? Join us and our team as we go on a trip of packing and planning for a trip!



How many times have you used money as an excuse for not being able to travel? Well, dilly-dallying while you wait for money to pop-up is not an option. Travel as if you were to die tomorrow. Go online and look up some suitable locations for your next trip. While planning a trip, the visa fee will be the first thing that will burst your bubble of excitement. But being a holder of the Indian passport, there are 58 countries you can travel to visa-free. So aim your dart at Mauritius or Haiti because they are just as beautiful and will make your trip pocket-friendly. The next thing you might want to do is look up the currency value of the places you have chosen. For example, Bhutan, Dominica, Jamaica, Mauritius, Haiti, etc. won't even put a dent in your INR filled wallet.

As far as our bank accounts are concerned, flight tickets are the most traumatic. Get some help from online portals like SkyScanner and search for budget flights. This Low-Cost Carrier (LCC) operates on minimal costs resulting in lower fares and fewer comforts. Pack lightly, carry your own food and you are good to go on these flights. Now the next step is to search for a roof. Want to score free accommodation? Couch surfing is the way to go. You can get access to this global network of couch surfing via the website or the app. You can look through the profiles of tons of hosts and go through the reviews people before you have left for them. Whoever you find the most reassuring, ping them to tell them about yourself and that you would like to crash at their place for a few days. This network is mostly proven safe but you might want to learn more about the whole system and go through articles that tell you about things to take care of while couch surfing. Couch surfing and hitch-hiking are the best ways to make more friends while traveling and to get an insight into the lives of the locals. Though if you are not comfortable couch-surfing then living in a hostel is the next cheapest option. You can probably volunteer to work for a little time in the hostel in exchange for a free stay. Here you also get an opportunity to meet youngsters from all over the world. Furthermore, in most situations, you can depend on hitch-hiking to take you places. Some may even consider hitch-hiking an art. You can find several tips from bloggers to master this art and save up on taxi fares. If you are in Europe then you can even consider taking inter-country bus rides, some of these buses are cheaper than trains. Another best tip that anyone can give you to save money is to get used to walking. Also, exploring a place on foot has its own appeal to it. Google 'free walking tours' for whatever place you are going to and you'll see several options for such tours popping up. You can join these tours and know so much about the place while not having to pay a penny, though it's recommended to tip. Understand that being broke is a sorry excuse to not travel. Travel! Before you run out of time...

Disha Gala

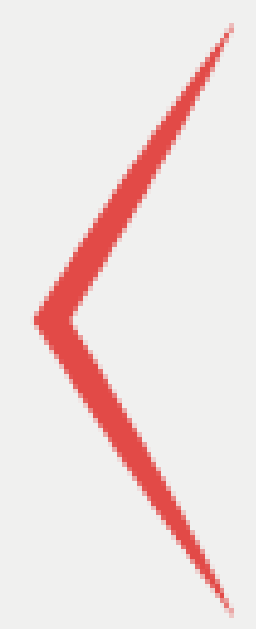
Efficient packing is possible!

C'mon people: the end is near. What I mean is that the academic year is drawing to an end, and maybe it's time to start planning a vacation. A vacation whose thought would make us trudge through these last few days and make it more bearable. Vacay sounds fabulous in theory, but without the right travel tips, planning can be so stressful and time-consuming that it ends up ruining the vacation itself—or at least, provides a major deterrent to trying something new and exciting. And then when you've finally figured out all those details, there is the additional hassle of packing which makes you wonder whether all this is even worth it. Don't worry. We have got you covered. After pouring through several articles, we have narrowed it down to a few tricks and tips that will help you avoid such situations wherein you have to sit on top of your suitcase in order to zip it shut. This article will also tell you what the absolute musts on a trip away are.

01

Make a list

It's incredibly helpful to have a list and if you're anything like me, the idea of checking away things on a list makes you feel like you've achieved something when all you've done is tossing your toothbrush into your carry-on. So this is essentially a two birds, one stone thing.



.... and always end by reviewing your packing list.

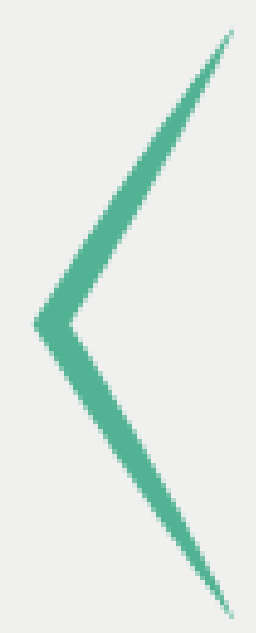
It's funny how often people forget this step. There's a reason you made that list! Make sure you go through all the items the night before you leave (or the morning of) to make sure you haven't forgotten a single thing, especially the small stuff.

02

03

Roll your clothes.

Game. Changer. One of my best suitcase packing tips is for you to simply roll your clothes! Seriously, if you're not currently rolling your clothes instead of folding them, do it! It saves lots of space, especially when coupled with packing cubes. Marie Kondo would vouch for this too.



Pick out what you think you need, and cut it in half.

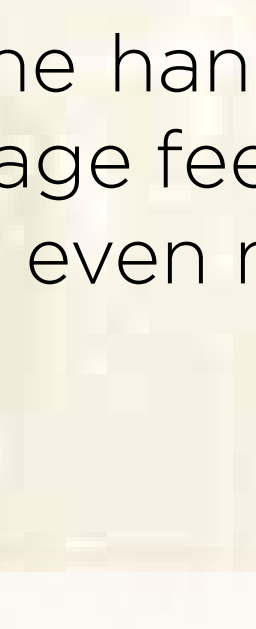
The first time I read this tip, I thought it was absolute insanity. While this may initially feel like a slow painful form of packrat torture, doing this will cut you down to the exact essentials you'll actually need. So no, you don't need those boots in Goa, put them away.

04

05

Always wear your bulkiest items of clothing on the plane.

Coats and boots are heavy. If you plan on bringing them on your trip, make sure you're wearing them so they don't hog up all the space in your luggage.



On one hand, if you under-pack you might not be prepared. But if you over-pack, you run the risk of incurring hefty baggage fees or missing out on space to bring home that lovely souvenir. If you forget an essential travel document, you could even miss your trip altogether! The key is to pack just enough so as to have a nice relaxing getaway.

Shreya Nair

From bane to boon

Maaaaa, help me pack na

If you take my word for it, I am not the most qualified person in this column to write about packing. We were having a column meet so that we could decide the topics we wanted to write on this month and when I pitched forth my idea of packing as a topic, my co-columnists got all excited. Okay, I thought, maybe they all really enjoy packing which was weird. But they got excited because they knew all the packing hacks and were really good with it. This led me to this spiral of negative thoughts which mainly involved me reconsidering every life decision, but I digress (*my column head also rolled my sweater up so beautifully to show how to save space that I felt bad unfolding and wearing it*). Anyway, what is a better way to learn than from one's mistakes so, here it goes.

The idea of packing before an exciting trip is endearing. Imagining all the clothes you will wear, all the things you will carry, making mental lists so that everything you want is with you or running down to the store to buy something you don't have. I will also be generous enough to suggest that when you start removing things so that you can put them in the bag that activity is also fun. But then all hell breaks loose. You removed barely five t-shirts but 12 t-shirts are on the bed, you realize you don't have enough clothes, your suitcase is too small or too big, you are suddenly surpassing the



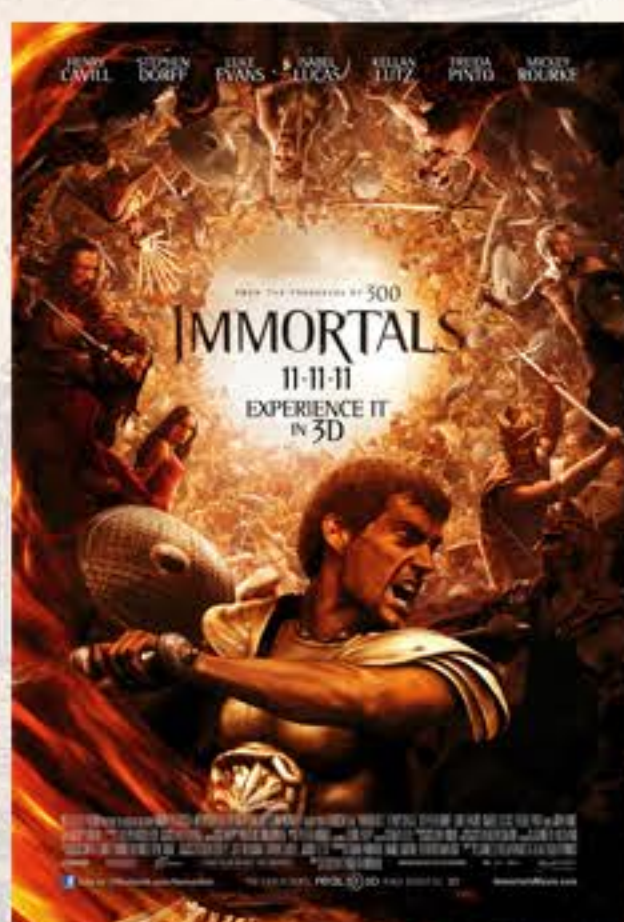
flight luggage weight limits and the list goes on. Every time I know I will forget something so I make this elaborate checklist and magically as soon as I reach halfway, the list disappears. I have forgotten gloves on trips where I knew that I would have to dig the ground. I have forgotten cards on family trips and if your family plays cards with as much conviction as mine, you will know what I am talking about. I have forgotten books on long train journeys and was forced to listen to Krishna bhajans throughout the journey. I have no idea what I would do without my mother who quietly slips food in my bags, otherwise, I would starve to death on airports serving samosas for 100 bucks. Packing is an art and I am trying to learn it. I watch Instagram packing hacks and start packing 3 days before and not the evening before the trip. I pin my elaborate checklists securely on the board and try buying things I need for a trip in advance. It's not easy folding clothes in cute bundles but nor is closing the suitcase when I just throw my clothes in. Believe me, if I can take baby steps and take my comb to all my trips, so can you :)

Priyanka Tibrewal

FICTIONALLY YOURS

ON THE WAY TO OLYMPUS

We like to step out of our mundane lives every now and then and for us mortals, mythology and the world of Gods have been a subject of fascination and curiosity for a long period of time. Books and movies based on these fantasies and fascinations thus make for ideal escapes. Naturally, Greek mythology inspired dramas and literary compositions are power packed entertainers. What do they not have? Family drama, action, and acts of bravery, amazing storylines, aesthetically pleasing cinematography (most of the times) and we cannot deny that the protagonists of these movies are a sight for sore eyes. So if your knowledge of Greek mythology is limited to Rick Riordan's fantasy novels, you need to Netflix and Chill with these movies.



1. Immortals
The movie starts and ends with guts and blood flying right, left and center. The cast of this movie includes our very own Freida Pinto who portrays an oracle; the protagonist is played by Henry Cavill who's shown to be a slave. With an

impressive cast, the storyline fails to impress. After a point it just becomes predictable. Keeping the storyline aside, the movie has powerful visuals and examples of great acting. If you like brutal fight sequences, you have found your perfect match.

2. Clash of the Titans

The movie takes you on an adventure with Perseus, a demigod and the son of Zeus (played by 'Avatar's' Sam Worthington) and his group of soldiers. The movie shows solid work by the digital animators, hair, makeup and prosthetic designers. Perseus's dilemma, unknown to him until the action begins, is that he is the mortal son of Zeus (Liam Neeson), king of the Gods. Raised by humans, he insists he belongs with them, but he will need God-like powers to rescue humanity. The movie is a roller-coaster ride that leaves you rooting for the demigod.



3. Percy Jackson and the lightning thief
The 2010 fantasy movie is based on the 2005 novel 'The lightning thief', the first novel in the 'Percy Jackson and the Olympians' series by Rick Riordan. It stars Logan Lerman, Alexandra Daddario among others.

The movie, like the book, makes you wish that you were a demigod and that you went to camp with other demigods. I mean who would complain if you had Daddario or Lerman as your classmates. The movie then takes you on an adventure in the search of the lightning bolt. Packed with action, this movie has plenty of humor and not to forget an appearance of Lady Gaga's 'Poker face' song. If you have already read the book you might say that the book was better than the movie but the movie in itself is very entertaining and full of plot twists.

-SHUBHANGI PINGULKAR(SYBA)

THE LEGEND OF THE LOST INNOCENCE

They asked me what was their mistake, I couldn't reply. The ghostly look that haunted her face scraped the innocence that once looked like a gold plate. The eyes that behold the truth, the one that is buried deep down inside. The snakes that were sometimes her beautiful hair, the color of night, now tried to justify her situation. She was scared to look at me as her eyes petrified everyone, they were beautiful as emeralds but they turned every living man into stone. Her once silky body, skin as white as the moon was now rough and scaly. No more could I see her long legs curved like a doe as they had turned into the haunting body of a snake. Her heart was as bright as the roman fire and body as sacred as the vestal virgins. Now when I see her reflection it only tells me the tale of her misfortune. She was the daughter of the great, the protector of the realm, the princess of Crete and the titania of the Titans but never did she consider herself superior. She graced the goddess of war and wisdom of beholding her purity on in her name. Truth be told she never saw the jealous face. She pleaded the goddess with binding promises as thousands of people come to visit the temple only to seek a glance of her beauty. I was one of them, who saw her in her real beauty only to find that I was the one amongst the herd of all gods, evils, and humans who lusted for her.

She loved the waters and the sound of the seas, it reduced her urge to have desires. If only she knew that her beauty provoked the lustful beast of the almighty of the seas. He walked towards her, she felt blessed and dignified, he caressed her cheek, she took it as a blessing, he came closer, she thought she might seek a boon, he snaked an arm around her, she was unable to guess his motives and then he turned into her worst nightmare. He took her by force in the very temple to which her purity was bound, he stole her innocence in front of the goddess. She cried for help but nobody came, the titania lay on the floor losing the fire of her vestal space. The pool of blood beneath her was the broken vessel of her purity as it gave a chance to the jealous face of the one she worshiped to curse her into her present state. However the curse was not what tore her divinity, it was the judgment that she received on her justification that said: "he had his own way". Time passed as her eyes asked me the same question, I could not speak, as I answered by slicing her head. I was ashamed I had no answer yet I became PERSEUS the legend and she became MEDUSA THE GORGON HEAD.

-VAISHALI KANEKAR (FYBA)



THE KEEP OF SECRETS

I've always wondered what I did to displease Aphrodite.

Men, I've realized, are fragile creatures. Perhaps not of the body, but of the mind. Each one is a slave to something or the other. Women. Alcohol. Money. Power. Control.

Women.

At that time, three years ago, I couldn't possibly understand or explain what it felt like. It wasn't love or lust. It was simply..an exchange.

A body for a mind.

Secrets for no one else to find.

I was not a wife. I was not a mother. I was nothing — I had failed as a woman. But all humans must earn their keep, and so did I. I found my home in brothels, night after night, where free men visited and pleased themselves. And since I had been such a vital part of the process, it gave me a sense of importance. Even though I was a failure, it soothed me that I was not useless.

Adrian instantly took a liking to me. There was always something strange about him — he'd have this strange look in his eyes when he'd touch me as if he were seeing someone else.

I didn't know the truth until I was purchased.

Adrian had a wife.

A wife that he adored and cherished.

And I realized that The Fates have a way with everyone. I wasn't the only one cursed.

Because alongside Adrian, even I adored Calliope. She was kinder to me than any other and showed me how to help. It didn't matter that I was her husband's keep. It didn't matter that he chose me over her. It didn't matter at all to her...and surprisingly, not to me either. Maybe that's why I fell in love.

Sometimes, a curse is a blessing in disguise, she spoke as she held my hand, face dangerously close to mine. Her eyes had flecks of green in them, and I had never seen anyone as beautiful.

In that moment, skin against skin, breath mixing, noses touching, hands weaved into each other, I had never felt so free. Warmth blossomed in my chest.

All my life, I was convinced that I was born for nothing. That I was nothing. It was true — I was nothing to a man. Not a mother, not a wife. But to Calliope, with beauty true to her name, I was everything, as she was everything to me.

In secret.

Where no one would find.

Where our minds reveled and bodies collided.

Of course, Adrian found out. He demanded an explanation. He asked me how I could still look him in the eye every night, despite knowing what I'd done with his wife.

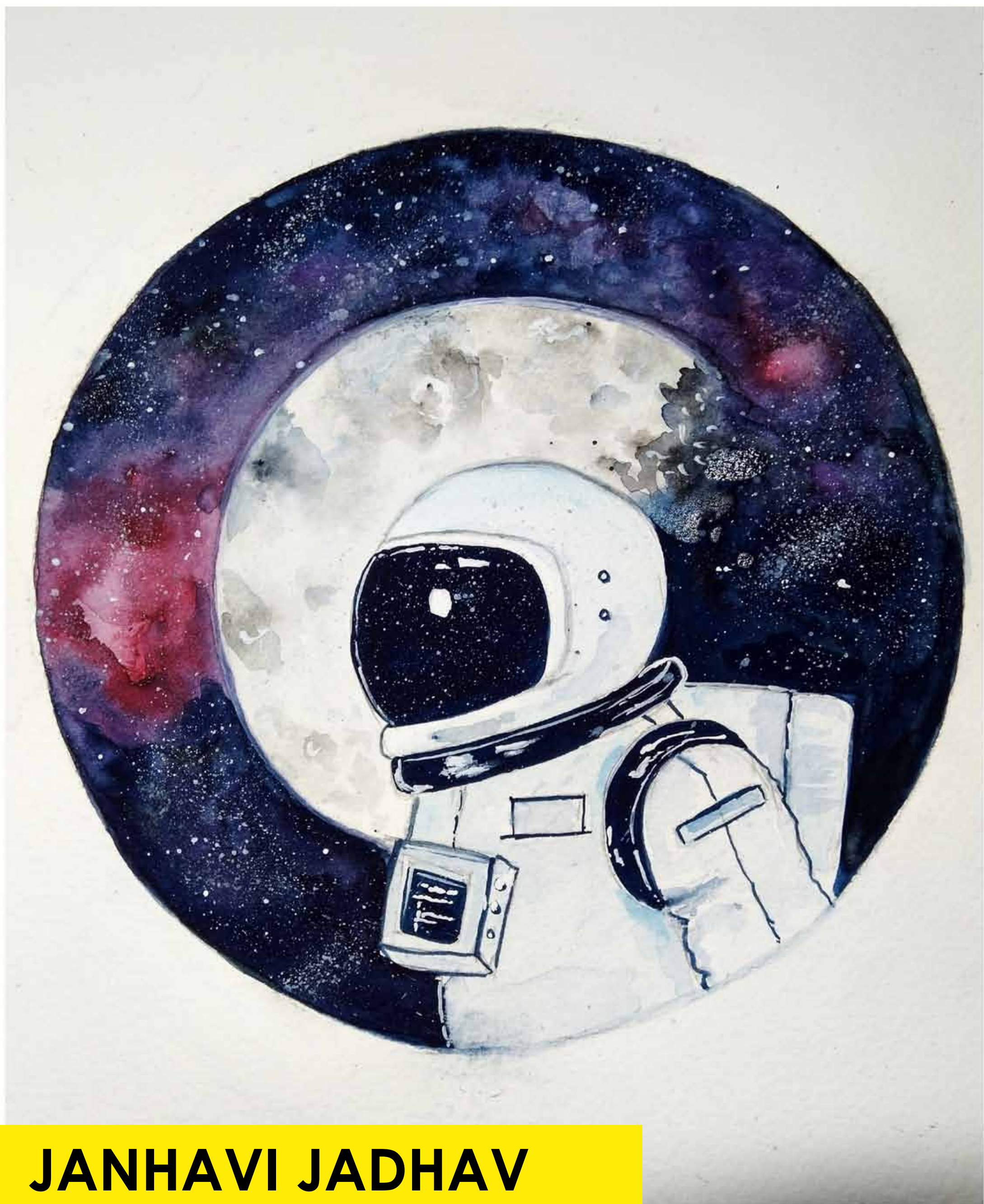
Calliope mysteriously disappeared after that. I'd like to think Adrian killed her, but if his love was as true as mine, he wouldn't. He couldn't have.

I've always wondered what I did to displease Aphrodite, but in the darkness of my cell, I know I don't need to. That moment, that freedom will return to me, as I will always return to her.

-Rhea Prabhu (FYJC)



ART WALL



JANHAVI JADHAV



KAUMUDI SHAH



SUBHASRI SAHOO



VAISHALI KANEKAR

STUDENTS CORNER

Oh the protector of my nation,
You and your comrades stand tall and
proud on land,
You deck the mountains green,
Like the emeralds in the queen's crown.

Oh the protector of my nation,
You guard the vast oceans, the mighty
sail flapping on the waters,
The waves sometimes your friend,
sometimes your foe,
But with all your strength, off you go.

Oh the protector of my nation,
Your aircraft tears the sky open,
showering the mystic rains of ecstasy,
We look at it, tipping our heads up with
pride,
With a wide smile playing on our lips.

But one fine day, suddenly, in the dark, a
shadow looms

Fearsome, ghastly, horrendous
Swearing to spread a fire of destruction,
An evil laughter ringing in my nation

But you, oh soldier, you fight all night
Trying to get rid of it with all your might,
Your bravery surpassing the fire,
Bullets raining, but just one desire...
The desire to protect the motherland,
And returning the nation in safe hands.

I salute you, oh bravehearted,
I am, because you are.

Gayatri Godbole
TYBA

बटवारे हुए सवारों गए
अनगिनत से सहारे गए
कोई चिल्लाया माँ
तो किसीने पुकारा अम्मी

अब्बु का घर ना आना
खाया जा रहा था
पापा की याद में
बेटा सो न पाया था
बेटी के शादीको पैसे
जमाए थे
बिटिया के लज्जा पे
किसीने खंजर उठाए थे
भाई को कहते लोग
के तेरी भाग गई बहना
एक रात बाहर थी
लूटता रहा गहना

एक औरत रोटी बनी
एक धान का जरिया
एक बहुतही मीठी थी
एक सोनेकी चिड़िया
सोना लूट गया
मीठा कड़वा लगने लगा
जाने किसकी नज़र लगी
मरने के ताक में ही
रोती रही बुढ़िया
सब बिछड़ गए गोद से

हवाओंकी लोरी से
नींद खुलने लगी

खिडक्री के कोनो से
कोई ताकरहा था
कितनीं गरीबी थी
फिरभी अमीरोंकी

फिर आज बटवारा
करने लगा भाई
जान पर उठा है
अपना सगा कोई
परिवार टुटा है
खून खून मिट्टी
लढकर ही मिलती है
किसी और को खुशी

काफ़िर है फिरभी क्यों
तुम्हारा वतन पाले
तुम नहीं हो वैसे
हमे पता है भाई

तुम अभी भी
सत्ता में नहीं
तुम्हे कोई और चलाता है
हमे पता है भाई

तुम कितना सताओगे
एक क्रिस्सा तुम्हारे साँसों से सुनना
के जंग जिस्मों को जलाती है
धरती को नहीं

कही तुम्हारे लोग तुम्हें ही ना मारदे
फिर कैसी जंग करोगे
हम सवर जाएंगे
तुम्हे और भी जलन होंगी

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