

# the RUIAITE monthly

MOVING BEYOND PAPERS



October editorial

Greetings, readers!

October is a month full of festivities, from colourful Navratri to the vibrant Diwali. The prolonged rains are still accompanying us through the celebration, unfortunately... During this month us Ruiaites were on our toes to celebrate the 'Exams ka Tyohar'! We also have one more much awaited event lined up - the Vidhan Sabha polls in Maharashtra. Try not to get lost amidst the political chaos, party defections, unfulfilled agendas, and social media fights – a lot of you are first time voters, and must exercise your civic duty as you see fit.

In the October edition of the Ruiate Monthly, Behind the Scenes discovers the roots and origins of Halloween and how it is celebrated in different countries. Insight have spoken their hearts out by penning down letters to the characters in the Harry Potter world, voicing their feelings and fears to their childhood friends.

Food always brings to the table a plethora of mouth-watering discussions, and even our columnists cannot resist! Careerwise unravels the out of the box careers in the food industry, while Safarnama couldn't resist mentioning Goan food even when their focus revolves around crystal clean beaches and lush green forests.

There is no option for competition and thus controversies come into picture. Buzz Around and Open Forum express the battle between development and wildlife – the stimulating and stunning Aarey issue. Op-Ed points out the differences and collaborates on the similarities between Indian and Greece mythology.

Apart from different wars which are fought with someone else, here is one which is indeed with ourselves: overcoming our impulsivity, and dealing with dilemmas in the best possible way will lead us to a calm and serene zone. Mental Health Awareness week was celebrated this month across the globe. The subject is finally getting the recognition and concern it deserves, and every student must be aware of their own cognizance and how to take care of themselves!

Have a great vacation, Ruiaites! You've earned it!

The Editorial team



# REPORTS

## CLEANLINESS DRIVE IN MATUNGA BY RAMNARAIN RUIA AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE



Mahatma Gandhi said, "I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet." Gandhiji dwelt on cleanliness and good habits and pointed out its close relationship to good health, that is why, we, at S. P. Mandali's Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College organized cleanliness drive – CLEAN UP MATUNGA – an initiative to clean and tidy places around our college in Matunga, on the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's 150 th

birth anniversary, on 1 st October, 2019 organized by Ruia Students' Council in association with NSS (Junior and Senior), NCC (Boys and girls) and the Life Long Learning Department of College.

'Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign' had been launched by the Government of India from 11 th September, 2019 to 2 nd October, 2019, with the aim to eliminate use of plastic and to dispose plastic waste. Students were encouraged to do 'Shramdaan', picking up any plastic waste in their surroundings and bringing them to a central location in the institution. The plastic waste



in their surroundings and bringing them to a central location in the institution. The plastic waste so collected was to be disposed off in consultation with the Municipal administration so that it could be used for effective recycling or in the construction of roads or in the cement industry.



The area taken up by the students comprised Matunga. Plastic waste was collected and disposed from various places, like, Matunga station, areas in and around the Ruia college, and the area bordering the main road, 5 Gardens, Parsee colony, Hindu Colony, Maheshwari Udyan, etc., to create a healthier and sustainable environment.

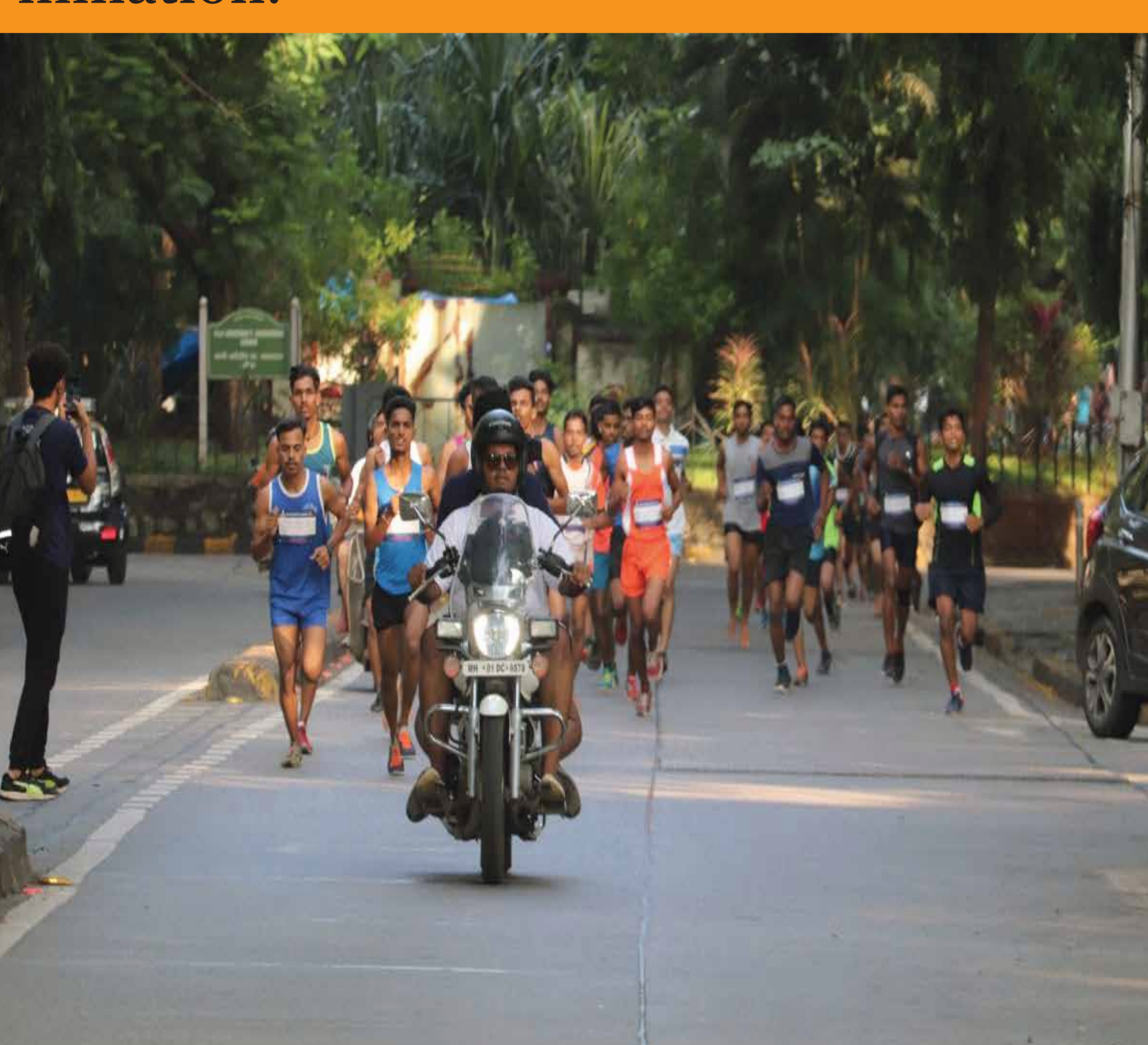


The event gained support and momentum with the hearty participation of students and the teaching staff, alike, with the volunteers totaling up to about 300 people. "Through this cleanliness drive organized by our college, we hope to create and spread awareness and to work towards a cleaner, greener and nicer India that Mahatma Gandhi always visual-



## Ruia College Happy Feet 5K Marathon Run for Fit India – For a Strong and Heathy Coun-

Ruia Students Council and Ruia NCC UNIT (Girls and Boys) of Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, Matunga organised Happy Feet, a 5K marathon, this Sunday. The event was a roaring success with people from around the city taking part in it. Students, kids, elderly people and even professors took part in this marathon and completed all 5 kilometers with dedication and unhazed determination.



The Happy Feet Marathon was organised in accordance with the Fit India Movement, an initiative to take the nation forward on the path of fitness and wellness. As a part of this initiative, universities were also encouraged to take on health related activities. Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, having always been a strong believer in the concept of 'Fit India, Healthy undertook this initiative with tremendous vigour and zeal. The 5K marathon was a successful step in the direction of spreading awareness about Fit India.

The motive behind this was to encourage and

this was to encourage and get together not only the young generation but everyone, including the kids and the elderly to take a step towards a healthier being. "Our younger generation is facing several health concerns due to increasing involvement in digital media, improper food habits and lack of adequate exercise. As an educational institution, we need to emphasise the need for a sound mind and a sound body. The 5K run is just the first of our initiatives to en-



encourage physical activity amongst our students, and to inculcate the habit of exercise" - said the Principal Dr. Anushree Lokur, while talking about the Marathon.

The marathon was scheduled to begin at 7.30 am and was inaugurated by IPS Krushna Prakash IG and Principal Dr. Anushree Lokur. It was a great success with more than 500 runners participated in it and completed the 5 KM enthusiastically. Even working individuals were actively present on Sunday morning to support the cause. First three winners were awarded with trophies, medals and certificates and top ten finishers received medals and certificates with the hands of Principal and Chairperson of Ruia Students Council Dr. Pradeep Waghmare.



# BUZZ AROUND

## Where has the money gone?

### Decoding the present crisis of Indian Economy

There is no longer any room for doubt on the precarious state of the Indian economy. The automobile industry has registered the worst drop in monthly sales in the post-liberalization years in August 2019. As a result, the industry has been forced to resort to job cuts due to tepid demands. Automakers, manufacturers and dealers have laid off 350,000 workers since April, with more job cuts likely to take place.

The slowdown in mass consumption, combined with falling and subdued rates of investments, has led us to the current crisis of inadequate demand in the economy. The blow of demonetization and poorly implemented GST affected the informal sector of the economy, causing major declines in employment and output. At first, it did not affect the formal enterprises, but the resulting loss in wage and livelihoods eventually had an impact on the demand for formal sector output. Total employment decreased by more than 15 million workers and unemployment rates reached their highest levels in nearly half a decade.

The recent measures of the government reveal a supply-side approach to the problem. Hence the measures only affect small segments of the economy, not enough to cause any real change in the economic direction. Also, the ₹1.76 lakh crore surplus transfer from RBI is only a stopgap measure that may provide more fiscal space. Yet the basic problems in the economy such as demand generation and wage depression are left unanswered.

The Government needs to identify whether the slowdown is structural or cyclical in nature. Unless and until the doctor realises the type of disease, how can the pills be administered? Mohandas Pai, Chairman of Manipal Global Education, said that we do not need more structural reforms like Demonetisation, GST, and RERA. It is a fact that the Indian taxation system is one of the most rigorous taxation systems in the world. If we slash the tax rates, it will lead to spending which will ensure tax collection. That is why the Finance Minister announced that corporate tax would be reduced to 25.2%. However, there are more bold decisions that need to be taken.

Manmohan Singh has given out five ways to revive the economy which include boosting liquidity, rationalizing GST, fixing labour intensive units, reviving consumer demand and finding out new export opportunities arising out of trade war between the US and China. BJP MP Subramanian Swamy has criticised the economic policies of the Government. He has advocated that a person with a strong macroeconomics background should take charge. As a person who has been vying for the post of Finance Minister for a long time now, we can assume that he is subtly promoting himself for the post. An SBI study revealed that the Government has to come up with measures to revive the wage rate. The economic health of the country is vital for progress. The Government needs to play the role of economic guardian effectively to remove India from this crisis.

- Chinmay Parulekar (TYBSc) & Prarthana Puthran (SYBA)

## Simply Put : Save Aarey

1. Where is the Aarey forest located?

Ans. - Aarey forest, though yet to be declared as a forest officially, is considered to be the last lung of Mumbai. Located in Goregaon, it is a part of the deciduous stretch of forests once stretching for 3,000 acres, which has been reduced to 1,300 acres after much of the land was handed over to Aarey Milk Colony for dairy development projects. It remains restricted now to the adjacent Sanjay Gandhi National Park and the hillocks.

2. How will the Metro car shed be constructed?

Ans. - The MMRCL (Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited) is constructing the underground part of the project, crisscrossing some of the most congested areas of the city through twin tunnels 25 meters below the ground. The planned car shed for this line of the Metro falls within the Aarey Colony, which is why this project has been a bone of contention between environmentalists, conservationists and citizens' groups on one side and the government on the other.

3. How many trees are going to be felled for this purpose?

Ans. - The BMC's Tree Authority passed a controversial proposal to fell around 2,000 trees for the construction of the carshed for the upcoming Mumbai Metro 3 project on August 29. According to the earlier proposal, 2,702 trees were going to be felled and transplanted. As per the revised report on August 30, the three independent tree panel experts backed the proposal to cut 2,185 trees on the 81acre plot and transplant 461 within the Aarey, helping the BJP outnumber the ruling Shiv Sena with 8 for and 6 against.

4. What is the Government's stand regarding this issue?

Ans. - The government's stand has been articulated by Ashwini Bhide, the IAS officer who is helming the part of the project that has become controversial. The Government sees this project as a means to upgrade Mumbai's infrastructure and improve the transportation facilities of the city, reducing the burden of commuters travelling in locals and on the Western Express Highway during peak hours.

5. Why 'Save Aarey campaign' ?

Ans. - Since last few days Save Aarey campaign has gained the limelight. Concerns are raised that once permitted encroachment will gradually expand thus destroying the entire greenery of Aarey. IIT Bombay, being Powai's closest connection to the forest, has seen numerous leopards entering the campus due to human encroachment. Recent Air Quality Measurement by System Of Air Quality Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) found Mumbai's Air Quality Index to be at 244 (poor) and continuing such clearance of forest, it is esteemed to be worse than before. Climate change, air pollution and depleting ground water is making Mumbikars protest strongly to save the felling of trees.

6. Is Aarey a rich biodiversity zone ?

Ans. - Aarey is known for its massive variety of flora and fauna with 77 species of birds, 34 species of wild flowers, 86 species of butterflies, 13 species of amphibians, 46 species of reptiles, 16 species of mammals, 90 different types of spiders and leopards are the most famous residents here. Not only the plants and animals but also 27 tribal communities reside in Aarey. These tribals who totally depend on Aarey for their livelihood are constantly under pressure of relocating from their homes.

7. What are the alternative sites suggested for the proposed project ?

Ans. - Mumbai's Development Plan 2034 (DP2034) has opened up sites such as Bandra Reclamation, Backbay Reclamation, Colaba, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai University's Kalina campus and Kanjurmarg. In spite of these suggestions, MMRCL has chosen the green lungs of Mumbai, mentioning the reasons of non-feasibility about alternative sites.

8. Why did the Tree Authority of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) give nod to cut more than 2000 trees ?

Ans. - The Tree Authority of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and MMRCL states that metro corridor will reduce CO2 emissions to the tune of 10,000 metric tons per year. At the same time it will help Mumbaikars cope with traffic congestion and deteriorating travel conditions on public transport. Environmentalists and conservationists counter it by saying that once, the same roads were constructed by clearing forest.

9. Can replanting compensate the lost Aarey trees ?

Ans. - Although MMRCL has promised to replant the lost trees, survival rate of replanted trees is dismal. Land shortage and the effort of nurturing new saplings comes out to be a big concern. Nothing can replace 100 years old trees, say the conservationists.

10. What could be the way forward ?

Ans. - As development is the need of time there is a need to find the middle road by balancing the ecosystem and preserving biodiversity. The government needs to reconsider the reports of various committees and try to overcome the loopholes in the same and rethink about the alternative sites suggested. Youth too along with protest and campaign must suggest solutions through social media to curb this problem. So let's strive for a better tomorrow.

- Swati Achwal (SYBA) & Shravani Mhaisle (SYJC)

## Top 10 News



1

US President Donald Trump accompanied Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his mega rally called "Howdy Modi" in Houston.

2

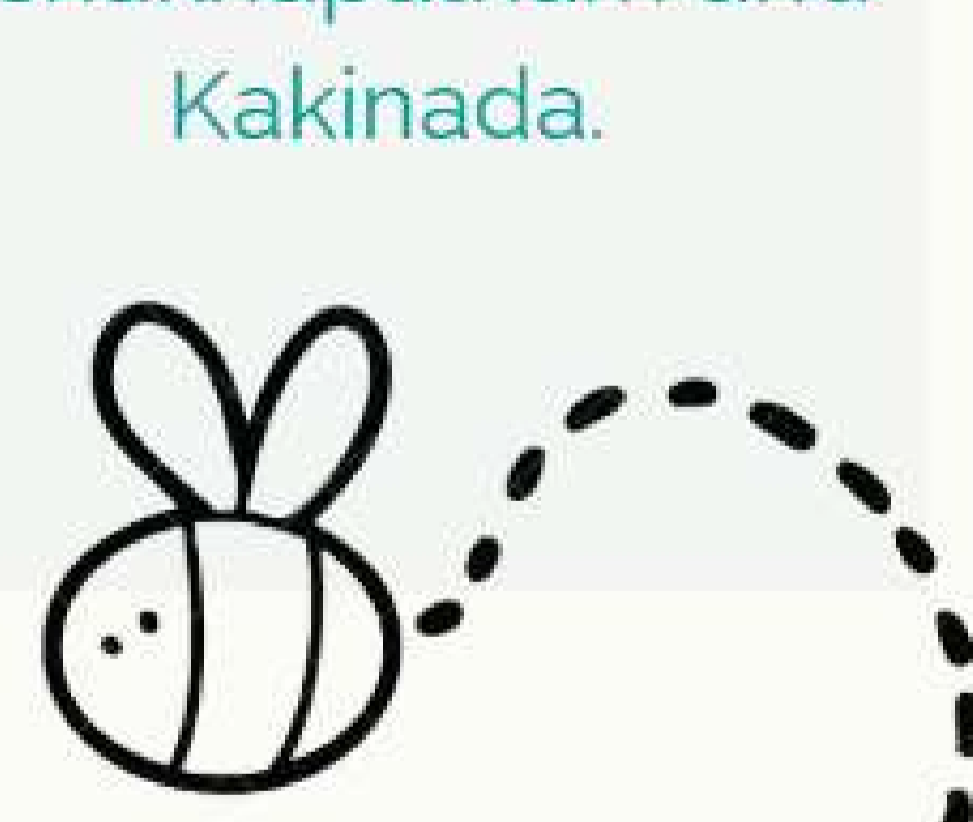
Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced during a cabinet meeting that E-cigarettes will be banned across the country.

3

India and the US to their hold tri-service exercise codenamed Tiger Triumph at Vishakhapatnam and Kakinada.

4

Corporate tax cut: BSE Sensex rallied 1,075 points or 2.83 per cent to settle at 39,090.03. NSE Nifty ended at 11,603.40, up 329 points or 2.92 per cent.



5

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Gandhi Solar Park at the UN headquarters and Gandhi Peace Garden in New York.

6

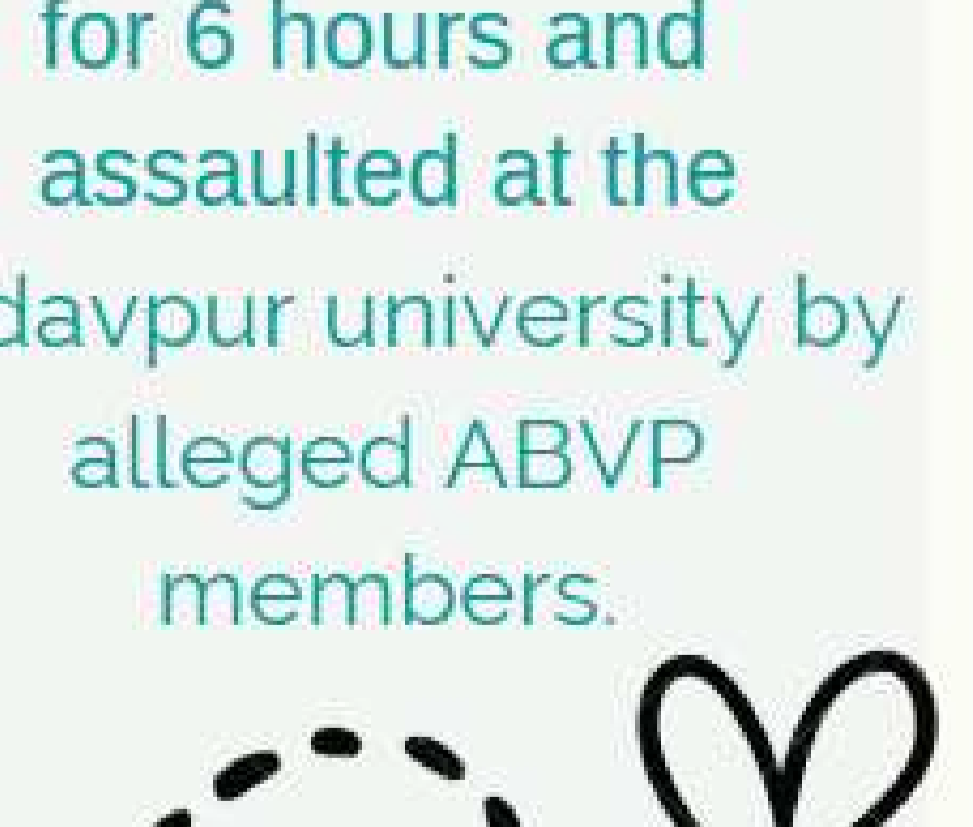
India's Laxman Rawat won the men's title at World 6-Red snooker tournament in Mandalay, Myanmar on September 20, 2019.

7

Union Minister Babul Supriyo held back for 6 hours and assaulted at the Jadavpur university by alleged ABVP members.

8

Various organizations come together for the "Save Aarey movement" when the BMC permitted the cutting of trees for Metro Carshed.



9

Not a single bullet fired in Jammu and Kashmir after the scrapping of Article 370 justifies Home Minister Amit Shah.

10

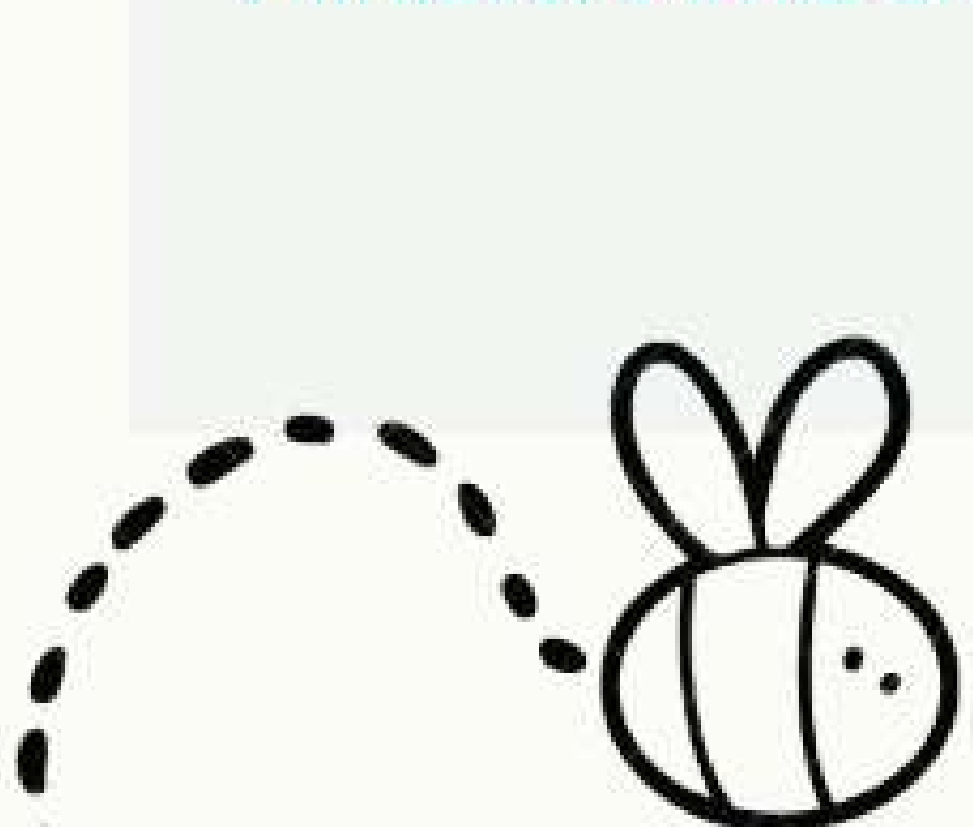
Mary Kom nominated for Padma Vibhushan whereas PV Sindhu has been nominated for Padma Bhushan this year.



## Twitter Tweet:

BY ISRO:

#VikramLander has been located by the orbiter of #Chandrayaan2, but no communication with it yet. All possible efforts are being made to establish communication with lander. #ISRO



# CAREERWISE



Recently Zomato was in the news for tweeting “Food is a religion”. If you too are a devotee of food and love to work with it, the food industry is for you.

## FOOD LAWYER .

Ever thought about becoming lawyer in the cases related to food? We all are aware of adulteration being an evil in the food industry. Naturally we have food laws which offer new career options related to them.

Food law refers to the collection of laws and regulations that govern food production, distribution and consumption. Food laws aim to protect consumers and provide for the efficient growth and use of food. Food attorneys focus their careers on helping clients comply with food laws and regulations. In addition, they work on behalf of government agencies making or enforcing food laws and policies. Food law and policy is an innovative and emerging field in which to study and practice law. As a result, there are numerous opportunities in government, non-profit organizations, and private law firms where interested individuals can experience food law and policy in action.

There are also a growing number of universities, internships, and fellowship programs that offer opportunities to experience food policy in every area related to food—from international non-profits that address food security to universities that offer courses studying the anthropology of food. Whether you are looking to work as a researcher or faculty member, or to pursue another degree, universities are at the forefront of research and activity around the food system and food policy. Working at a university department or program focused on food systems provides a wide range of opportunities in the field, ranging from food law and policy, to food science, sustainable agriculture, anthropology, and marketing. Because food policy is still a relatively new field, there may also be more job opportunities in universities that are starting to focus on food systems than there are in the other institutions covered in this guide.

The food law advisor is ultimately responsible for the safety of the food that a company brings to market. They must ensure that all regulations have been understood by the company and strictly adhered to. A food law advisor must also inform clients of any changes to the law that may affect the production or marketing of their food products.

*-Prachiti Jadhav*

## FOOD INSPECTOR

Who implements the food laws made by the government? Who's concerned with the health and the nutrition levels in analysing each and every food item and place it is made in? The food inspector comes to the rescue!

A food inspector is an official that analyzes the safety and quality of the food products and the ingredients used in production as well as the equipment involved and place of production. The food distributors, processors and manufacturers are monitored by the food inspector for the safety and sanitation violations to avoid adulteration and contamination.

To become a food inspector you need a Bachelors degree in a science stream. It is better that you complete your bachelors in either biology, food technology, physics, agricultural science or Bio-chemistry. For these degrees you will be required to finish class 12th in a science stream.

After completing your bachelors you will become eligible for Food Inspector Exam which is conducted by various state and central governments. In case you do not wish to go to govt. sector, you can choose to join in Food Processing units or granary in private sector.

Though highest vacancies for food inspector are in govt sector but career prospects are increasing in both govt as well as in private sector.

The salary one can expect in govt sector range from Rs. 35000 to 40000 plus perks. But this will vary from state to state.

In private sector, the salary will start from Rs. 20000 but will increase with experience and go far beyond that in govt sector.

So, a career in food industry is blossoming due to development.

*-Tapasya Iyer.*



# Behind the Scenes



## AMIDST THE WITCHES AND GHOSTS

### Article 1

While Halloween is loved by many people for its traditions and celebrations, very few are actually aware of its origin. Halloween first made its appearance in the ancient festival of Samhain, which was celebrated almost 2000 years ago by the Celtic people who followed Pagan rituals. The Celts lived in parts of Western Europe which now comes under Ireland and the U.K. Samhain was celebrated on the autumn equinox, the night of which marked the end of the harvest season and the year. It was believed that the veil that separated the dead from the living was lifted temporarily during the night of Samhain, allowing the spirits of the dead to wander freely on earth. Due to the supernatural presence, the night of Samhain was considered as the best time of the year for practicing the art of divination.

As an expression of gratitude to the Sun God for the year's harvests, the Druids (Celtic priests) lit huge bonfires on the

night of Samhain, dressed up in costumes made from animal skins and performed rituals of divination around the fires. Some Celts wore costumes that resembled witches or ghouls so that the wandering spirits would mistake them for



one of their own. The modern tradition of wearing a halloween costume is said to be inspired from this practice of the Celts. The harvest of the Celts mostly consisted of apples, hazelnuts and corns, thus, many divinatory rituals of Samhain revolved around these. Some of the

rituals included throwing named hazelnuts into the bon fires; if the nut popped in the fire, it indicated that the person the nut was named after, would die soon.

In 43 A.D, the lands occupied by the Celts were invaded by the Romans. Following that, the Romans ruled the Celtic territories for over 400 years. Celebrations of two festivals of Roman origin, Ferralia and Pomona were mixed with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. The former was the day the dead were commemorated and made various offerings by the Romans. While the latter was celebrated in honour of the Pomona, Roman goddess of abundance and harvest. In the 6th century, when Christianity was spreading across Europe, Pope Boniface IV had declared May 13 as 'All Martyrs Day' and later, in the 8th century, Pope Gregory III expanded the celebrations and included all saints as well thus, shifting the date to November 1.

Hence, November 1 came to be known as 'All Saints' Day'. The day was initially called 'All-hallows' or 'All-Hallowmas (from Middle English, Alholowmesse meaning All Saints' Day) and the night before it, the traditional night of Samhain in the Celtic religion, was called 'All-Hallows Eve' and eventually, Halloween. In the 10th century, the Church declared November 2 as 'All Souls Day' - a day commemorating the dead. In the 19th century as many European immigrants moved to America, they popularized the celebration of Halloween there.

In medieval Britain, during the All Saints Day's celebration, supplicants went from door to door asking for food, in return for offering prayer for the dead, a remote but probable inspiration for the trick-or-treat tradition of Halloween. They carried large hollowed-out turnips with candles inside. This candle connoted a soul trapped in purgatory. Later, when the festival came to be celebrated in North America, the turnips were replaced by pumpkins as they were easy to hollow out. This is where the tradition of

Jack-O-Lanterns began.

Thus, the Halloween we celebrate today, is a simple and playful form of the ancient, dark and sophisticated Samhain. A lot of countries see Halloween in a significant way and celebrate them in ways that are far more unique than the original.

Japan, is home to the Kawasaki Halloween parade, where nearly 4,000 people from all around the world, gather to dress up and participate in the parade.



In Austria, the souls of loved ones are welcomed back to earth with a lamp left lit on the table with food and water. 'Día de los Muertos' or Day of the Dead, is a three-day festival in Mexico for families to

remember their lost loved ones by setting up altars with flowers and offerings, such as fruit and 'pan de muerto' (bread of the dead).

In Canada, children knock on the doors of their neighbours, but instead of calling out "trick-or-treat," they say "Pão-por-Deus" (pronounced, "pow pour Dee-us") which means 'bread for God.' In return, they're given small toys, candy or breads. The towns of Sumpango and Santiago Sacatepequez celebrate All Saints Day in Guatemala. This is done by flying kites that are usually round, often 40 feet wide, and colorful, painted with flowers, animals, and geometric patterns like the country's Mayan textiles. The kites are hand-made from paper, cloth and bamboo frames designed by the villagers. It's believed that the higher the kites fly, the closer their messages are, to reaching the dead in heaven.

- Sayli Mokal (SYBSc) and Neha Nayak (TYBSc)

### Article 2

The festival of Halloween is celebrated all across the globe with great enthusiasm, especially in America. Many countries seem to think of it as a largely, blown out of proportion holiday celebrated in the States. It is estimated that about \$6.8 billion are spent every year for this day! It has slowly become a commercial festival. People spend thousands on costumes, candies, make up, decorations and food, for all the Halloween parties that are thrown across the country. This festival has lost most of its religious importance in the USA. It now serves as a means for people to party, dress up and for children to eat candy. Except America, most other countries that believe in the holiday, celebrate it as a day to remember the dead.

In Germany, this holiday isn't largely celebrated as the people consider it to be largely 'popish' and most of the Protestant Catholics consider it to be influenced by the Catholic Church. However, this holiday is also an example

how the American culture is slowly taking over home grown traditions in many countries, thanks to globalization. There are reports of the festival slowly trickling into countries worldwide. It is being celebrated in a few cities in Turkey, the Netherlands as well as India. In the Netherlands, this holiday was originally called as Saint Maarten, where children made lanterns and sang songs, instead of trick or treating.



Australia on the other hand, also stands with Germany when it comes to celebrating the festival. The country also

believes that the festival is another example of American commercialism. Among other things, people who dislike the festival also cite an important reason behind the rejection: that the festival lacks a specific background to celebrate it.

While talking about Halloween, one cannot miss the tales and pranks involved in the celebration. Let us take you on a trail in the midst of the beautifully crafted Halloween Fables. Beginning with 'The Furnished Room', an intriguing short tale penned by O. Henry who has always been among the favourite writers of all times, due to his drastic plot twists that unravel towards the end. It revolves around the life of a young man searching for his lover. He rents a furnished room, where he presumes she may have resided. He often smells her fragrance which convinces her probable presence. He starts digging up the room for a petit trace but later encounters a mysterious spirit. This tale,

sharply carves out the themes of obsession and coincidence. Like, all the tales of O. Henry, this one ends with a mysterious twist.

The next one, 'The Monkey's Paw', crafted by William Wymark, is an intriguing and mystical story that revolves around the life of a family and their possession of a shrivelled monkey's paw tangled by the spell of a Fakir. The charm reputedly grants three wishes, at the cost of stealing something equivalent. The White's, being unaware of the destruction it may cause, wish for a huge amount. And, as fate had well curved their path, the paw does grant their desire, but steals their own flesh and blood; their son. Mrs. White, being intimately attached to him, is unable to bear the loss and makes the second wish. Her son does return, but as Mr. White grabs the paw and spins his final wish just as she opens the door, her hopes are shattered. Now, let's hop onto the next fable, keenly associated with the legend of the Headless Horseman, the ghost of a warrior who lost his head in a war. "The

Legend of Sleepy Hollow", a short story by Washington Irving, is set in a small town which is believed to be haunted.



The protagonist of the story is Ichabod who is infatuated with Katrina; attracted by her beauty, but also crushed by her inheritance. He has a rival against her hand, Brom Bones. The rivalry comes to a head where Ichabod attempts to woo Katrina but in vain. Ichabod being disappointed, heads out into the woods. Waiting for him, is a mysterious horse rider, without a head. After that, Ichabod is never seen again and the only traces discovered are his horse, saddle and a hat.

On a lighter note, the festival also comes with a bunch of tricks that people love to pull on one another. This includes buying cheap knock-off dollar store pop-ups like, blood covered hands, eye balls to fill in jars with, spiders that act like jack-in-the-box toys and the best one being, activities like visiting haunted houses or scaring people by dressing up as Pennywise the clown from the popular horror movie, IT. Some people also dress up as Frankenstein and stay incredibly still and suddenly jump out to scare their target audience, who walk past them. These are just a few tricks up our sleeves for Halloween. What about you?



- Hiya Shah (SYJC), Tanaya Sheth (TYBSc) and Sanika Botekar (TYBSc)

# INSIGHT

स्याही बस एक रंग है...  
जज़्बानों का, चंद लम्हों का, मीठी यादों का, शिकायतों से सने रुसवो का,  
उस दर्द का, उस खिलखिलाती हसी का, उन मुस्कराहटों में छिपी नमी का... जो लफ़्ज़ों में मलंग है,  
स्याही तो बस एक रंग है...

For a tech-savy generation like ours, where poker faces send emotions over emojis and feelings through texts, letters seem completely outdated. But to convey heart felt emotions, incidents, memories, troubles or just a random conversation to open up your wounds hidden from the world, to a dear one, there isn't a better way than a handwritten letter! Jotting down that chaos in your mind onto a frail piece of paper, where ink conveys the feeling flowing through your veins right then... that's all that matters. Because the letter carries home a warm feeling of proximity, a part of the sender with it - an essence which texts can never fill in for!

Its October. Its HAALOWEEEN !!! Nope, not the heist. But Halloween brings for every reader memories from the Harry Potter Universe. So this month, we've penned down our hearts out to that one character whom we've always wanted to talk to, in real life. Quick! The Portkey is here!!!

Dear Ginny,

I won't lie, I hated you. I felt you never deserved to be with Harry, and your love story was rather abrupt and unnecessary. Because I met you first through the movies. Yes, I was a fool for not reading the books before, and I'm sorry for my idiotism! But when I met you in the books, I realized I've finally found a girl I could relate to...

A fierce, passionate, determined, skilled and sweet girl, the perfect bombshell of a personality! Your innocence and vulnerability grew into courage and a never-die spirit to fight for the right thing. Your bold wit, strong sense of self and your space, and mastery over skills in each field you love - be it magic, be it Quidditch - has always been an inspiration for me. And what moved me the most was, you never giving up on people you love, yet setting them free for a greater good.

The entire squad - you, Hermione, Luna, Prof. McGonagall - have somehow, in your individually unique ways, shaped me into a stronger and better version of myself, and I'm glad that we met, though late but rather at the perfect time I needed to change.

Thank you, for everything!

Yours truly,

Sara

- Sara Chavan (TYBA).

Dear Prof. R. J Lupin,

I feel blessed to have been granted this opportunity. I am a great admirer of your simplicity, approachable attitude and motivating aura. Your kindness and fun-loving personality have made you an inspirational figure in my life. Sure, you have faced hardships at every step of your life, the way you dealt with it is what motivates me.

Being a highly anxious and stressed out person, I realized (thanks to you) that sometimes the easiest way to conquer your deepest fear is to laugh at it and challenge it. I learnt that if you want to inspire others, you need to fight alongside them instead of merely advising them. You showed me that while giving up is easy, what is more important is to live and face your inner demons, to defeat them, once and for all. Your story is inspirational because many give up and stop fighting. This is not all. The list of things that I learnt from you is longer but I will not be able to phrase it in this letter. For me, your story is a reason to live. It constantly reminds me to live for what I believe in.

Through this letter, I wish to express my gratitude and to let you know, on behalf of many people out there, like me, who felt inspired and encouraged to live. I want to thank you for giving us the courage to live.

Yours sincerely,

Esha Belekar.

- Esha Belekar (SYJC)

to luna,

if the dreamer wakes, what happens to the dream? does it crawl into your waking heart, linger in your periphery, slithering around the corners just as you turn? does it then make you weary with the weight of your imagination, eyes tired from always seeing the unseen? because they always tell you to follow your dreams, but what happens when your dreams start following you?

i would like to think it takes courage to own up to your oddness, to wear that unhinged part of your mind like a crown. you taught me that. in the pages i crawled into years ago, you told me a story about wisdom that's unlike any other, one which makes you see the world from the bottom of a sea glass boat, watching the colours run into each other, till you can see the chaos that runs underneath all that sensibility.

i know what it feels like to have the loneliness seep into your bones like an ache, to spit it out in garbled words and made-up tales that hit a little too close to home. but it is you who taught me to take pride in the stories we have woven with our vulnerabilities, the wondrous creatures and legends our fears have become, to let them build worlds far beyond this one—where we can go with the people who we love to lay our hearts bare, all notions of sanity stripped, till it is just us in the silence at the end of the tale, under the light of the stars who listen.

and maybe that will finally be enough.

love,

with everything, everything,

anushka

- Anushka Nagarmath (SYBA)

Dear Professor Snape,

As much I've tried to not judge people by their outer appearances and demeanour, I failed badly when it came to you. Maybe because you chose to be seen like that. People only saw those sides of you that you wanted to show.

I have learned that every person has a tale. And yours is a sad but endearing one. You taught me that life isn't always fair. It takes real courage to selflessly work towards the greater good, despite earning everybodys wrath in return. No, I am not calling you a martyr. You made some wrong choices and had to pay with everything that was dear to you. You accepted what you had earned

for yourself, and decided to do everything in your power to make it right. And that, is far better than being a martyr. You taught me that everyone of us, has a chance at redemption.

It is said that help is always given at Hogwarts to those who deserve it. You chose to help people at the cost of your own integrity, even when they didn't deserve it. Even love was whisked away from you harshly. Yet, with all lost hope, you loved back. I can only take courage from your story.

You hid your pain so well behind those black, bottomless eyes, it is almost heartbreaking that someone as deserving of love as you, spent most of his life without it. I want you to know that you are immensely loved, you'll ALWAYS be.

With love,

Sayli.

- Sayli Mokal (SYBSc)

To Draco,

Strangely, I have never called you that, given your famous family name. Is that all you were? Is that all you could be? Questions plagued you but there were no answers. People played you but there was no payback.

No, I don't want to question you. I don't want to understand you. I just want to talk to you, about you.

The most misunderstood guy. What went wrong? You, you never wondered about that, I think. You just let everything be. Because you knew so much was wrong, where you reach a point where you can only observe things and let them pass.

I wonder were you so broken that you had given up? But all this while, I am just beginning to realise maybe you were just trying to survive. Trying to live up to expectations until you jolted to reality. Provided for everything, the whole point being you never asked for it. And everyone simply forgot to ask you.

So confused and all alone. You represent some of the darkest moments I go through. How simply you look so troubled, that face I mirror or hundreds do in the I-don't-know situation. You chose the "correct" side or rather you chose you, in the most crucial moments, those moments that mattered the most in the grand scheme of life. But who was on your side? Except perhaps Professor Snape, in his own brutal way.

Boy, I am so proud of you, the words probably you wanted to hear the most from your father.

There was no retribution, but just chaos amidst all of which you stood tall and all alone by yourself, for yourself. All you could do was survive. And I am proud of you for being there for you.

Love,

Just a muggle who can sympathize with your struggles

- Tanvi Padia (TYBA)

To Sirius,

I have always been afraid of boys with nothing to lose. Who whips past you on a motorcycle going too fast. Who only feel alive when they're scrabbling for a handhold and swiping at the blood dripping down their front.

Because boys like that, boys like you, will smirk at you across a classroom and drag you headfirst into a thunderstorm and laugh as you fall into pieces around them. Because boys like you are less human than they are a war cry, arms slung over their best friends

shoulders, the sound of laughter carried over the wind and gasps of pain and pleasure muffled under hands. But when you lose, even when you thought there was nothing to lose, when you become more ghost than human, when all you are is a wisp of memory, love-pain-anger all fading in favour of a dark sleepless emptiness, you still leap to the rescue of a boy you barely know, but is family nonetheless.

When you cradle his face in your hands and the sobs catch in your throat, you can't help but see James, (brave, young, alive James who had so much to live for) and can't help but see Lily (smart, ruthless, terrifying Lily who brought Voldemort's defeat) and you see the way your Godson looks at his friends and you can't help but see four miscreants giggling in the dark, slotted tightly into each others space, trying to fit four full-grown adults into a cloak meant for one.

You hold his gaze and swear to yourself that you won't fail him. And you don't, just like you didn't fail his father before him. Sirius, love, its alright.

With love,

Lakshmi



## Mythology: India v/s Greece

Mythology has always fascinated us with its enchanting stories and enigmatic characters. We have been very familiar with our mythology throughout our childhood. However, it is interesting to know that our myths share similarities with western mythologies too! Greek mythology is similar to its Indian counterpart in many aspects. This month we, at Op-Ed, tried to explore some striking parallels between

the two mythos and at the same time ended up discovering some glaring differences too!

Both Greek and Indian mythology assigned specific roles to each god. The Olympian gods had bitter relations with the Titans. One may also notice that both Devas and Asuras and Olympians and Titans longed for 'Amrit' and 'Ambrosia' which were famous for conferring immortality to those who consumed it. Another point of similarity is the Holy Trinity in both mythologies. While Indian mythology has the Trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh, Greek mythology has the Trinity of Zeus, Poseidon and Hades. Though both trinities differ significantly, they hold supreme power in their spheres.

The most popular comparison amongst all is between Indra and Zeus. Known as the Kings of Gods, they are also Gods of Rain and Thunder, wielding similar

weapons. While Zeus wielded the thunderbolt, Indra had the Vajra. They are both depicted as egotistical and jealous. Further, the realm of Death and Justice is handled by Yama in Indian mythology and Hades in Greek mythology. Considered as Gods of Justice, they had the power to decide the fate of the ones who entered their realm. Residing underground, they administered justice to mortals according to their deeds. Both the mythologies feature a God of Love: Cupid for the Greeks is Kamadeva to the Indians. While the Cupid shot arrows through the hearts of people to get them to fall in love, Kamadeva guided people to survive through love. When it comes to broadcasting agencies, Narada and Hermes held the same position! As messengers, they were infamous for revealing only half the information to their recipients, thus creating chaos using trickery and misleading words. They both were sons of powerful gods, former being son of Brahma and the latter of Zeus.

Important gods of Greek mythology resided on Mount Olympus while similarly Kailash, the home of Shiva was also inhabited by many gods. Goddess Parvati is considered to be a goddess of marriage, fertility and childbirth, Hera in Greek mythology is worshipped for the same. Similarly, both Goddess Saraswati and Athena are known as Goddesses of Knowledge and Wisdom. We have a lot more similarities not only with regards to characters but also in the iconic narratives.



The Saptarishi were the seven great sages in ancient India. Sent by Brahma, the Hindu creator god, these divine and immortal beings brought precious knowledge to humans. They possessed extraordinary abilities and were considered to be keepers of divine wisdom. In Greek mythology, seven stars are believed to be seven sisters, known as the Pleiades. Just like the Saptarishis, they are also a cluster of stars. In Greek, the word "pleiades" means "flock of doves." Their mother was Pleione and their father Atlas, the Titan who was condemned by Zeus to support the heavens on his shoulders. The Pleiades are collectively known in India as Krittika, the wives of the seven wise men named the 'Seven Rishis' or 'Seven Sages', or the six mothers of the war god Murugan who developed six faces, one for each of them.

A comparison between two famous epics of both cultures, the Mahabharata and the Iliad, sufficiently point out not only the similarities but also the differences between both cultures. It is believed that Mahabharata was written and the incidences occurred between 400 C.E to 500 C.E while it is opined that Iliad was written in the 8th century BC. While Homer is credited with being the creator of Iliad, the authorship of Mahabharata can be given to many but is traditionally ascribed to Ved Vyasa. Both the epics tell stories of larger than life royal kingdoms and incessantly discuss the futility of life and at the same time gave lessons for living life beautifully even in the

face of war. Complex and flawed, yet virtuous characters keep the story grounded even in its grandeur. These epics have absorbed the religious, spiritual, communal and social sentiments of the people into them, making them the most remarkable pieces of literature of all time.

The Pandavas were sent to the forest for 14 years, the battle of Troy was fought for 14 years. Arjuna laments over the dead body of his son Abhimanyu and pledges to kill Jaydrath the following day. Achilles laments on the dead body of his brother Patroclus, and pledges to kill Hector the following day. Duryodhana wins Draupadi in the game of dice, he exclaims, "This is the happiest day of my life, Draupadi is our slave." In The Iliad, Briseis, a Trojan, is awarded to Achilles during the Trojan War. She was awarded after she was molested by the Greek kings and soldiers.

In Iliad, the prophecy proclaims that, Paris will cause destruction to his kingdom. In Mahabharata, the same prophecy is about Duryodhana. Karna and Achilles are described as the greatest warriors of their time. Karna had an armor of invincibility while Achilles was rendered invincible by bathing in the river Styx. Both of them had a god as a parent and played major roles in their respective wars. Achilles died of an arrow to his heel, a death very reminiscent of Lord Krishna, who died after a hunter mistook him for a deer and shot an arrow that pierced his heel.

All the similarities have made people wonder over the years if the two mythologies are related or inspired by the same events that give rise to similar narratives. This has given rise to the field of 'Comparative Mythology'. But some of the similarities exist merely because of the nature of the two mythologies. Hinduism and Ancient Greek religion are polytheistic, i.e. people of both cultures worship multiple gods as opposed to just one as we see in Christianity or Islam. Thus, every god is worshipped for a particular aspect of life and nature. This is seen in other polytheist cultures like the Egyptian mythology as well. Perhaps the only real similarity between both the mythologies might be their polytheist nature.

As for the comparison between Mahabharata and Iliad, some similarities seem just as superficial when the differences are taken into account. Mahabharata's outspoken Draupadi provides a stark contrast to the females in the Iliad. Other females in Mahabharata - like Kunti and Gandhari - have great influence in the story, unlike the female characters like Briseis and Helen who rarely raise their voice against the male dominion.

Mahabharata and Iliad both have war as their main theme, but in Iliad the war was fought for pride and glory. In Mahabharata a much philosophical take on the ethics of war and life is presented in the form of

the Bhagavad Gita, a holy scripture of the Hindus presented as a dialogue between Arjuna and Krishna. The concept of fighting a war to uphold 'Dharma' instead just for the glory of it is a theme that takes precedence in Mahabharata.

Even with their differences, the similarities between the two mythologies can be explained through Indo-Aryan migration models! The theory that people migrated from central Asia to the Indian subcontinent is supported not only by history but also by anthropological, genetic and ecological research. This makes it very much possible for both the cultures being inspired by some specific incidents to develop their mythology.

Mythologies are life lessons that are passed down in the form of stories from one generation to another. While we cannot question that both, Greek and Indian, mythologies are a result of ancient civilizations we can fathom that they might have co-existed at some point in time which makes their experiences at

certain periods of time very similar. The myths of a region imbibe the values and virtues that the people there consider to be important and can be a very good indicator of the collective psyche. India and Ancient Greece were a religious society and the tales of the two lands make the importance of worshipping gods abundantly clear either by associating natural disasters with disrespecting a god or

by telling stories of mortals being gifted with divine powers by staying in their good books. Whether or not the events described in these myths are true is a mystery to be solved by historians, archaeologists and scientists together! These stories have entertained us on the lazy afternoons in the summer vacation or made us bond with our family in the form of night time stories. But they always have so much more than what we just see!

So the next time you read a myth, try reading deeper into it. Who knows, you might end up finding something interesting!





# Open Forum

## Orwell's Sporting Spirit

Aditya Negi

After Pulwama, there was talk of calling off all cricket matches with Pakistan – even the World Cup fixtures. There was nothing new in this. Pakistani cricket is a very easy target, about as easy as Pakistani entertainers working in India. Supporters of such a movement assert that you cannot play sports with a country whose agents are killing our men on our frontiers. Opposition to this movement believe that sports and sportsmanship should stay apolitical and that sporting ties can provide a way of bringing together people across borders. Anyone with a strong opinion on the matter should read George Orwell's wonderful 1946 essay "The Sporting Spirit" in full. Written at the beginning of the Cold War, Orwell captures perfectly the nature of sport in his time – and ours. The context: Soviet club Moscow Dynamo had embarked on a "goodwill tour" of England's clubs, notching up wins against Arsenal and Cardiff and returning home unbeaten. Many of their matches were controversial, however. In particular, the Arsenal match was played in thick fog, and it was believed that the Russians were fielding 15 men! Orwell immediately comes to the point. "Sport is an unfailing cause of ill-will, and that if such a visit as this had any effect at all on Anglo-Soviet relations, it could only be to make them slightly worse than before."

Why so? Nearly all sports are competitive, he explains: "You play to win, and the game has little meaning unless you do your utmost to win." This is unproblematic as long as the "utmost" respects the law and spirit of the game. But unfortunately, held Orwell, most sport is bound up with prestige of some sort. Whether it's a cricket match between two schools or Moscow Dynamo versus Arsenal, "you feel that you and some larger unit will be disgraced if you lose." Out flies the spirit of the game and in

comes aggression, sledging, and ruthlessness.

However, Orwell reserves his sharpest remarks not for the players but for the onlookers, who are not so different in his view from ancient Roman crowds baying for blood in gladiator combat. In the modern era, nations "work themselves into furies over these absurd contests, and seriously believe that running, jumping and kicking a ball are tests of national virtue." This has turned sports into "mimic warfare" on every level of play. Rather than cheer good play and good sportsmanship, spectators delight in the humiliation of the "enemy" – be it a club, or racial group, or nation. The more violent the game, the more vicious the crowds. (He singles out women spectators at boxing arenas, who were apparently so dangerous that they were barred from attending Army boxing matches.) To his dismay, fledgling nations had taken to this barbarism with even more gusto. Thus in colonial Burma and India, it was necessary to have police presence at football matches to prevent spectators from invading the field.

Orwell's diagnosis is very clear. The disease is toxic nationalism, which he defined as "the habit of identifying oneself with large power units and seeing everything in terms of competitive prestige". In the main, it is difficult to refute his conclusions. True, the picture he paints is far more dire than the reality today. Sport has become increasingly civilised. There are no riots in the cities hosting the Olympics. And sportsmanship is not dead: there are countless examples of ladies and gentlemen keeping its flame alive on the field. But look at the US-USSR rivalry at the Olympics, or the rumblings before and after any India-Pakistan cricket match. You'll know that he was on the money about the urge to see the enemy destroyed and the ridiculous idea that superiority at sport proves superiority of national virtue.



## IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE AND IN HERE

The city of Mumbai is currently at loggerheads over the Aarey Metro car shed issue. Is it worth cutting down around 4000 trees for faster development of the Metro? There are points for and against each argument - and I won't be getting into that debate. Instead, I want to take a closer look at the issue underlying this conflict - urban wildlife, and the ramifications of living in such close proximity to animals.

In a nutshell, urban wildlife is simply wild animals that have made their homes in, and gradually become adapted to living in man-made environments. Mumbai is one of the best examples since it shares a boundary with Sanjay Gandhi National

Park. Almost 20-30 wildlife rescue calls are placed every day, and the animals in question range from monkeys, birds, jackals, snakes to even the occasional leopard. Usually it's a case of the animal entering apartments, or getting trapped somewhere. But sometimes, rescue organizations receive calls that aren't completely warranted. Appeals to relocate owls because they're considered bad omens, for instance. Superstitious belief is not a valid reason to displace creatures from their habitat. Most birds are accustomed to using buildings as perches, and have adapted efficiently. Larger animals with different nutritional requirements, like monkeys and jackals,

cannot meld as significantly as avian organisms into the cityscape. In their cases, the chances of human-animal conflict increase significantly - more often than not having a negative impact on the wildlife over sapiens. Just as the wildlife is acclimatizing to metropolitan settings, we must learn to adapt to their company as well. After all, we're the ones encroaching on their territory and not the other way around. The future of our planet is completely incumbent on the human race growing more tolerant of the other species that inhabit this globe and understanding that they are all extremely vital in sustaining the equilibrium of nature.

Natasha Desai



# “TECH TRICKED”

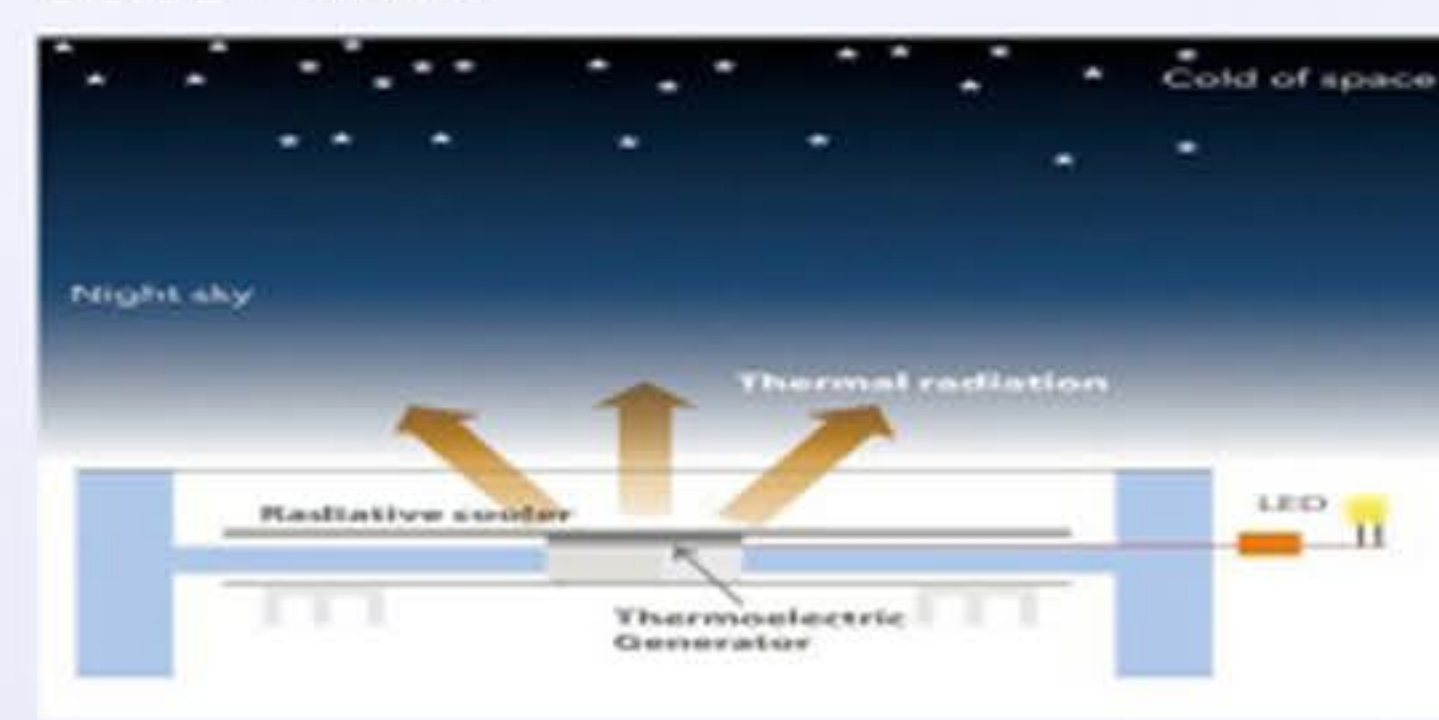
## “The Anti-Solar Panel!”

Mother Earth is now more than 4.5 billion years old. Throughout the elapsed time many lives have lived on Earth and have used its resources for sustenance and this continues even today. Post industrialization, humanity became too dependent on fuels for all the mechanical work, and as a result the non-renewable fuel resources are depleted day by day. Due to this a transition towards renewable resources has taken rapid pace over the last decade. Solar, wind, thermal, hydro etc. are mostly familiar non-conventional sources of energy. But recently a new non-conventional resource has emerged from shadows quite literally. Two years ago, in December on a freezing cold night Aaswath Raman of University Of California along with engineers Wei Li and Shanhui Fan of Stanford University put together a device that produces a voltage by channelling the day's residual warmth into cooling air.

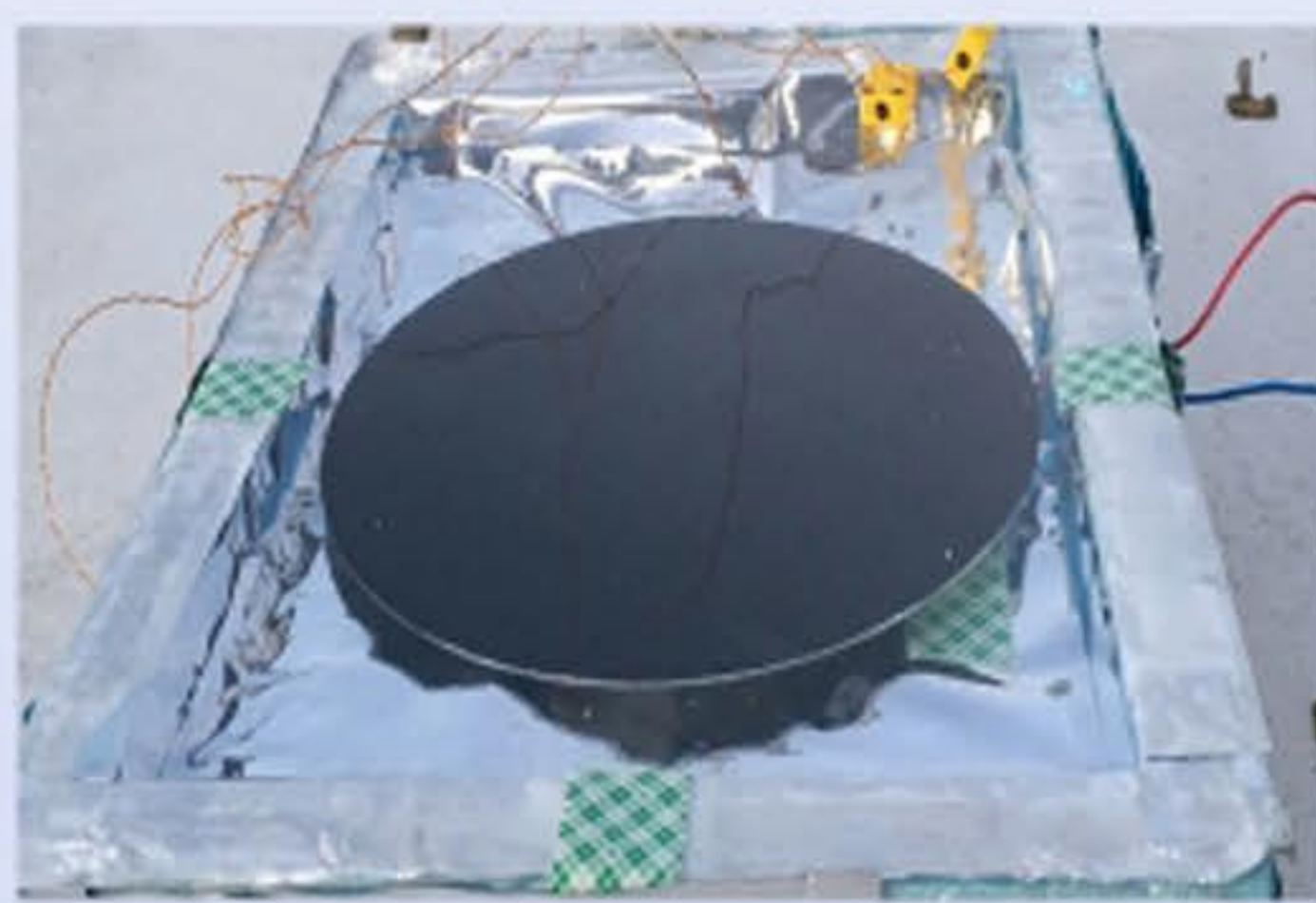
The real challenge is in arranging the right materials in such a way that they'll generate a voltage difference from our cooling surroundings that is worthwhile. They put together a cheap thermoelectric generator and linked it with a black aluminum disk to shed heat in the night air as it faced the sky. The generator was placed inside a polystyrene enclosure sealed with a window transparent to infrared light, and linked to a single tiny LED. For six hours one evening, the box was left to cool on a roof-top in Stanford as the temperature fell just below freezing. As the heat flowed from the ground into the sky, the small generator produced just enough current to make the light flicker to life. At its best, the device generated around 0.8 milliwatts of power, corresponding to 25 milliwatts of power per square metre. But this much output is just capable of keeping a hearing aid working. But one can increase the output by linking many such devices together. But still the output won't be that substantial. But as far as prototypes go, it's a fantastic starting point. The team suggests that with the right tweaks and the right conditions, 500 milliwatts per square metre isn't out of the question.

*“Our work highlights the many remaining opportunities for energy by taking advantage of the cold of outer space as a renewable energy resource. We think this forms the basis of a complementary technology to solar. While the power output will always be substantially lower, it can operate at hours when solar cells cannot.”* says Raman. Solar energy has many advantages as an energy source. But being available 24x7 is not one. Sure we can harness it and make it portable by storing it in giant batteries or use it to pump water up into a reservoir. But until we have more advances and economical solutions, night time is not the realm of solar energy. Most of us return home from work as the Sun is setting, and that's when energy demands spike to meet our needs for heating, cooking, entertainment, and lighting. Unfortunately, we often turn to fossil fuels to make up the shortfall. Shanhui Fan understands the need for a night time renewable power

He's worked on a number of similar devices, that flipped photovoltaics on its head by squeezing electricity from the glow of heat radiating out of the planet's Sun-warmed surface. While those devices relied on the optical qualities of a warm object, this alternative device makes use of the good old thermoelectric effect. (For reference one may search for Electricity Generation Using Night Sky.) This is achieved by using a material known as thermocouple. Using this, a change in temperature can be converted into difference in voltage. This requires a region of high temperature on one side and a place for that heat energy to escape to on the other side.



*“Beyond lighting, we believe this could be a broadly enabling approach to power generation suitable for remote locations, and anywhere where power generation at night is needed,”* says Raman.



THE NIGHT CELL

When it comes to energy generation technology big and bright things are important aren't the only important ones but simple small things too can make a difference. They say you should always look on the bright side but this device shows us that sometimes lurking and experimenting in the dark can also turn out to be beneficial.

-Suvin Mayekar

## Self-assembly: Nature's way of designing Life

(And how it can help us reach impossible scales in making microprocessors)

Question. What do the Decepticons, Ironman's armour from Infinity War, and literally every villain from the 'Terminator' series have in common? Well, apart from that they're all junk now, all of them employ a very sophisticated yet biologically ubiquitous technology for their apparent regeneration: Self-assembly or Self-organization is the seemingly miraculous process of tiny units re-arranging under a pre-set interaction between the unit themselves. Certain complex molecules showcase such behavior spontaneously, while some have been found to act ordered under an external agent, eg. An electric field. Basically, a structure capable of self-assembly can rebuild itself.

Although self-assembly is already exhibited and has been studied in biological materials, its application in nano-electronics and automation came about fairly on in the latter half of the last century. In 1959, at a talk titled 'There's plenty of Room at the Bottom'

given to the American Physical Society, Richard Feynman had prophetically said, "we could arrange atoms one by one, just as we want them." This idea of atoms and later molecules binding together in an extremely precise manner birthed many applications and innovative designs in fields primarily involving work on the nano-scale ranging from simple fabrication technique to molecular robotics to even mechanical regeneration (which loosely translates to 'nanobots' in popular culture.)

Despite the potential ability to radicalize engineering processes, research in self-assembling particles has seen much progress mostly in the electronics section. It is theoretically possible to generate tiny yet working circuits using specific building blocks. When electronic components are placed on such blocks, the system i.e. blocks self-Assemble to form an electronic circuit. In fact, experimental demonstration of simple electrical models such as nano-wires, molecular

have already taken place. A common method to produce these devices is top-down lithography, which consists of embedding the components on the circuit top down and then building layers upon each. Attempts are being made to conveniently expand the same assembling technique to the starship of all circuits - The Computer Chip.

Today, as microprocessor manufacturing companies push newer boundaries to cram intricate circuitry onto the ever-shrinking size of chips, the process employed to do so is still the same as it was 50 years ago. In Photo-lithography, A light-sensitive material is coated on Silicon layer already deposited on a chip. This material called Photo-resist is then subjected to light but through a specially patterned stencil. The projected light thus creates a desired pattern on the material on the chip, which form the basis of the circuit.

The problem is that the chips today require features smaller than the wavelength of light itself.

Thus, making it increasingly difficult to produce the patterns at smaller scales. One way around this dilemma is to use electron beams to make them on the photo-resist coating. But the catch here is that while light shines all at once on the layer, electron beams are singular and have to be moved back and forth across the chip. A graduate from MIT researching the topic aptly describes it as "the difference between writing by hand and printing the page at once." This is where self-assembly comes in. In the MIT approach, electron beam is used, but sparingly to create tiny, singular "hitching" posts on a chip. Then a mixture of specially designed polymers - comprising of long molecular chain units - are deposited on the chip. Then units of these chains self-assemble to form miniaturized circuits.

The trick turns out to be that, these 'co-polymers' are actually specifically chosen to be repellant towards each other in nature. "The chains don't like to mix, given the chance anyone one of them goes one way while the other follows the opposite. In their attempts to segregate themselves into predictable, programmable patterns. By varying the lengths, the proportions of chains and the locations and size of the "posts" the researchers were able to produce patterns used to make circuits of scale smaller than the wavelength of infra-red light.

Much more research is still required to perfect the method and produce individual completely self-assembled microprocessors

Yet, the technique has already put to practice to etch nano-scale magnetic patterns on

hard disk surfaces and credit cards for encryption.

The sight of self-repairing megastructures or regenerative limbs might still be a distant reality, but the gradual advent of perpetuity in circuits is evidence that the electronic era is just a pre-cursor to whatever sustainable, long-lasting technology they come up with in the future.

# Science of Everything

## शास्त्र असतं ते?

नुकत्याच पार पडलेल्या गणेशोत्सवामध्ये प्रतिष्ठापने आधीची धावपळ, आरास करण्याची गडबड, नैवेद्य करण्याची घाई या सगळ्यांच्या बरोबरच प्रत्येक तरुण-तरुणींच्या मनात पडलेला नेहमीचा प्रश्न म्हणजे, रुढींमागचं शास्त्र.



Bharatiya  
Digital  
Party

भारतीय डिजिटल पार्टी म्हणजेच 'भाडिपा' या प्रसिद्ध मराठी youtube channel ने निर्मित केलेली " आई ,मी आणि" ही सिरीज लोकप्रिय झाली आणि 'शास्त्र असतं ते' हे आईच्या तोंडचे वाक्य प्रत्येकाच्या वापरण्यातले झाले.

पण आपल्या घरी आजी-आजोबा, आई-बाबा यांनी सांगितलेल्या या अनेक गोष्टी फक्त so called 'रूढी' असतात , की शास्त्र असतं ते?

आपल्या घरी सांगितल्या जाणाऱ्या अनेक गोष्टींकडे आपण 'बुरसटलेले विचार ' समजून दुर्लक्ष करतो पण अशा गोष्टींचा उगम कसा झाला याचा आपण विचार करत नाही. या लेखातून याच पाठीमागचा उद्देश जाणून घेण्याचा प्रयत्न आपण करूया.

आपल्याला घरी बऱ्याच वेळा संध्याकाळी किंवा रात्री उशिरा नखं कापल्यावरून ओरडा मिळतो. 'नखं का कापायची नाही?' असा प्रश्न केल्यावर मात्र थातुरमातुर उत्तरे मिळतात. कधी दिवेलागणीच्या वेळी नखं कापणे अशुभ आहे असे सांगितले जाते तर कधी उत्तरच न देता

आपल्याला गप्प केले जाते. पण पूर्वी संध्याकाळ नंतर उजेड नसायचा अशातच नखं कापल्याने जिव्हाळी लागण्याची भीती असायची. जिव्हाळी म्हणजे नखं कापताना होणारी छोटीशी जखम. या जखमेवर औषध लावता येत नाही आणि काही काळ त्याची जळजळ काही थांबत नाही. मग अशा वेळेला मुलांना हे करण्यापासून थांबवण्यासाठी म्हणून देवबाप्पाचा धाक दाखवला जायचा पण नंतर याच त्या मुलांना मोठं झाल्यावर सुद्धा स्पष्टीकरण न दिल्यामुळे ही शिकवण कारणाविनाच पुढे जात राहिली आणि त्याचे शास्त्र मात्र मागेच राहिले.

आपल्या पूर्वजांनी निर्माण केलेल्या काटेकोर नियमांना आपण रुढींचे नाव दिले. यातील अनेक रुढींची कारणे शोधून आपण आपल्या औत्सुक्याचे निराकरण सुद्धा केले पण खूप अशा रुढींचे आपण आजही डोळे झाकून पालन करतो. आपल्या पिढीने या नियमांवर प्रश्न निर्माण केला की "आपले पूर्वज काही वेडे नव्हते हे सगळं करून ठेवायला.. प्रत्येक गोष्टीमागे कारण असतंच." हा डायलॉग हमखास मारला जातो. पण मग याच गोष्टींमागची कारणं सांगायला मात्र कुणीच पुढे येत नाही आणि आपल्या या संस्कृतीला आपणच जर नावं ठेवली तर कोणीच त्यावर विश्वास ठेवणार नाही म्हणून आपल्याला न कळणाऱ्या गोष्टींना वाऱ्यावर सोडून न देता त्यांच्याबद्दल अधिक जाणून घेऊन त्याच्या मागचे शास्त्र इतरांना पटवून देणे हे आपल्या पिढीसमोरचे खरे आव्हान आहे.



पूर्वी घरांमध्ये संयुक्त कुटुंबपद्धती होती.घरात खूप माणसांची ये-जा असायची. अशा वेळी घरातील एखाद्या बाईला पाळी आली की तिला स्वयंपाकघरात, देवघरात, इतर कोणाही समोर जाणे निषिद्ध होते. आज कोणत्याही मुलीला ही प्रथा जाचक वाटेल, अनावश्यक वाटेल. पण त्या काळी इतर कुठेही प्रवेश निषिद्ध असल्या कारणाने ती स्त्री केवळ आपल्या खोलीत आराम करायची. इतर कुठेही जाता येत नसल्याने तिच्यावरचा कामाचा ताण दूर व्हायचा, तिला कुणाचेही टोमणे सहन न करता बिनदिक्कत विश्रांती घेता यायची. पाळीच्या दिवसात तसेही तिला कुणासमोर जाणे संकोचाचे वाटायचे म्हणून खरं तर चार दिवसांची ही जाचक विश्रांती तिच्या सोयीची व्हायची पण तेव्हा सक्तीची केलेली ही विश्रांती आता मात्र कोणत्याही स्त्रीला अडचणीची वाटते. आज प्रत्येक स्त्री धावपळीत, कामात व्यग्र असते, पूर्वी सारखी भरपूर माणसे कुटुंबात नसल्याने सगळी कामे तिला एकटीला करावी लागतात. तिला कोणाही



समोर जाण्यात संकोच वाटत नाही मग अशावेळी तिच्यावर हा नियम लादणे संस्कृतीला धरून मुळीच नाही, हे आपण समजून घ्यायला हवे.

रुढींमागचे शास्त्र शोधणे ही आपली जबाबदारी आहेच पण बदलत्या काळाबरोबर या रुढींमध्ये बदल करणेही गरजेचे आहे.कारण-

काळ बदलता, बदलावे आचरण  
बदल गरजेचा , जगी असे।

- Sanika Joag , SYJC

# Safarnama

## Beaches vs Forests

### A natural therapy!

Traveling is a therapy that helps me heal and achieve the best version of myself. Generally, people have their particular preferences when it comes to traveling, but for me, movement is important, it may be of my body or mind. Every now and then, I come across blogs and newspaper articles, where the writers are often debating on their preferences. These preferences are most probably, beach or mountains and forests. People refer to themselves as being a 'beach person or forest person'

In my opinion, it's easier to pick a preference when it is just about the elements and not a proper destination. I, too, have been asked what my choice would be a zillion times and I yet don't have an answer. To me, it has never mattered where I am going, what matters is the fact that I am moving, going somewhere. I've had my own share of experiences when it comes to beaches and forests.

I've found my tranquillity on a beach. I've been quite lucky to have had experiences

of a vacant beach. It is altogether a different experience when you get a whole beach just to yourself. It is a misconception that there is no beach in today's date which is both clean and vacant. The trick is to skip the popular beaches and go for the lesser-known ones. I often ask the locals for advice; they are the best tourist guides.

Beaches have motivated me to innovate and create something that I had long forgotten. I love writing poems, but you cannot really expect to be creative while being pushed in a local train. Beaches have helped me write. I am myself when I am in those open lands full of sand overlooking water, forever reminding me of infinite love.

I am not really a person 'aller à pied'; you can safely say I hate walking. For a long time in my life, I had never experienced trekking or a getaway to forest. But on my exchange to France, where walking is the only means of transport in villages, I had my first ever petit vacation or a

getaway to a forest. And since then I am crazy about forests. It's the closest I have been to nature. When you are in a forest, you are in a way forced to breathe in the pure air, the essence and fragrance of the forest oils soothes your body and the greenery feels like that cold compress you keep on your eyes after you have spent eternity scrolling on your phone. My overall well-being benefits from just a walk in the forest. The exposure to the green space boosts my mental and physical well-being.

Being connected to nature, it may be a walk in the forest or a stroll down the beach, both have positive effects. I can scream my heart out and sort my feelings when I am alone in the lap of nature where everything is correct. It's a therapy for free, who would want to miss it?

- Rashi Gulati

### Exploring the Wilds

Forest tourism is at its peak usually in the summer as it is easier to spot large animals (tigers, lions or bears) when they come to drink water at the reserved water sources. I personally prefer to wander in the Western Ghats during the monsoon season. It reminds me of the school essay on Monsoon, written with heavy words and unending sentences like 'The lush green all-encompassing cover on the mountains and the dense canopy in the rainy season touches my heart etc.' But the Western Ghats really do resemble this description. I can never get bored while seeing so many shades of green colour, open skies and the fauna. Western Ghats are a major source of many rivers. One can spot hundreds of babbling brooks, rivulets and falls during the monsoon.

The time during Ganapati festival and the Diwali festival is the right season to visit Western Ghats. They are considered to be a hotspot of biodiversity in India. More than 300 species of butterflies, 12 species of amphibians, 15 species of snakes and other reptiles, several species of rare insects etc. can be found in the Western Ghats of India. Every year a new species is discovered in the Western Ghats. There are various natural and artificially nurtured jungles where nature trails or hikes can be arranged. Devrai (sacred groves) which are rich in local species of monsoon specific plants and fungi can be seen in many villages. They are conserved forests with a temple of local God or Goddess in it. It is said that the forest belongs to the Gods and thus it

should be conserved. This is an effective way to protect biodiversity. One can find trees which are hundreds of years old, creepers, rare birds and their nests in such sacred groves. Different birds can be seen at different times of the year. Pied Cuckoo, Grey Herons, Egrets, Indian Robin Hornbills and owls etc. can be seen in large numbers in the monsoon season. I believe that, with the peculiar smells and distinctive sounds even woods have their own language through which they try to interact with us. One needs to understand that language and try to be one with nature to enjoy forest tourism. Thus, it is always wise to have an expert with you.

### Precautions to be taken while visiting jungles

Wear camouflaging clothes, avoid any bright shades. Wear comfortable and sturdy shoes. Carry your own water bottle. It can be difficult to find clean water in remote areas which makes it necessary for you to bring along enough water with you.

Do a background research of the area that you will be visiting and carry place and situation specific things. If the area you are visiting have leeches, then carry salt and tobacco with you. If you are going hiking or mountaineering, then carry a windcheater. Do not disturb the peace of the forest.

- Mitawa Mukta Aneesh

### Beaches be Crazy!

Not everyone is privileged to stay as close to the coastal line as we are. Are we satisfied with our demography? Nahh... Perhaps Mumbai doesn't give enough 'beachy' feels like Goa does. Last year when I visited Goa in the month of July, it was a soothing experience.

We started from Jaysingpur at 6:30 am and reached 'Angels Resort' near Mandovi River. This resort is situated in the northern part of Goa. It has small cottages, a big swimming pool and a small restaurant and bar. I would recommend you try the seafood in other joints as here you might get an average quality food. The following places are worth visiting if you are a seafood lover and enjoy being near the beach.

#### The Fisherman's Wharf

It's a popular seaside restaurant with an aesthetic vibe. It has a hut like structure and the people around are decent and co-operative. For dinner, I suggest you to try their 'Southern fried fish' which consists of gravy along with thin slices of fish. You can try this along with plain rice because it complements the absolute flavour of south Indian spices. If you want to try a bit spicy and tangy fish, you cannot miss their 'Fish Ambotik'. It's something my whole family cannot stop relishing on.

#### Fat fish

This is one of the most crowded places and it needs 'BOOKING'. Here, the chefs are super talented and they offer you their own precious time to prepare your favourites. Their specialty is fish fry; for vegetarians, they have good North Indian cuisine. They get you live crabs and freshly caught fish. Though it's on the expensive side, you must not miss it. Family cannot stop relishing on.

#### Ritz Classic

If you visit this beautiful restaurant at the top of 'Mall de Goa', it not only serves you delicious food but also offers a scenic view of the Mandovi River. You can even see a small part of Calangute beach which is a bit far from here. Its Seafood Thali is a rarer combination than you can find anywhere. They get fresh fish from the local fishermen and prepare the marination daily. I assure you that they will leave you licking your fingers. This was my mini guide of food stations near Goan beaches. Do plan a visit if you are stopping in Goa for a weekend!

#### Sand Spa

This spa is a little unheard of but we all partially experienced it while building sand castles on Juhu Beach in our childhood. It is a very ancient method to detoxify your body and make you feel refreshed. It was introduced to soothe your pain and provide rare antioxidants and minerals to your skin through the heat of volcanic sand. It was originally carried out in Egypt and now we may notice it on a few beaches across the world. They import the volcanic sand 'Kyushu' found on the southern Japanese island of the same name. It is advised to do when you are willing to take up the heating and warming feels of volcanic sand. When you enter such spas, they ask you to change in light Japanese attire named 'Yukata'. It protects your skin from too much heating. Later, you are taken to a sand bed where they dig a 'Skeleton bed' & provide you a small pillow. They let the sand heat naturally till its 125 degree. Later, they let you sleep in it. Due to the weight of the sand, you cannot move and there are chances of feeling burdened. You might feel claustrophobic too.

- Sanjana Bhate

# FICTIONALLY YOURS

I was in my house unwillingly dying,  
When I saw a huge box coming my way flying ;  
It came besides my bed,  
Inside from it popped one head.  
He smiled at me and called me grandma!  
his face was a mixture of me and his Momma;  
He said, he came from the future,  
To show me his life before I become a framed picture.  
I held his hand and jumped inside the box,  
When I entered a world which had more than 12 hours on the clock;  
I smiled at a boy who seemed a big fan of marvels,  
But I knew for sure he didn't know how to play marbles.  
I saw these lads with fingers stuck to their phones,  
With heads down, unsure who is known and who is unknown;  
With mouth shut and eyes open wide,  
they talk to each other virtually, no idea if they existed or just lied.  
Making thousand friends on social sites,  
But finding none of them helping, at sleepless nights.  
Chatting with the one whom you can't see,  
Ignoring the ones who is besides thee;  
I was in this future where TVs were outdated,  
While flaunting their iPhone made them popular and less hated;  
I saw teenage girls announcing themselves pregnant,  
Unmindful of the commitment and responsibilities of the parent.  
I wonder if there existed a thing called love,  
Or maybe it's all crowded with hook-ups which are behove.  
I saw kindergarten students being racist,  
While black colour things topped their list.  
I saw kids spending their summer vacations watching web series,  
while I remember roaming with my cousins whole day in the mountains collecting berries.  
I saw kids with not a single scar, sitting in Ac's so attractive and neat,  
While we wore shirts dripping with sweat, and bruises on knees, defending heat.  
I didn't mind it much but was amazed to see,  
humans in the sky who flee.  
I saw 2 years kids making urgent call,  
Girls with weird, decorated faces on which boys would fall;  
I saw skinny girls and puff chested boy,  
who insulted each other and talked about depression as if it's a toy;  
I saw orphanages filled with old grandpa and granny,  
I saw poor people who had left with just money;  
I saw infants losing innocence,  
Parents dragging them to learn every skill making them dense, without common sense.  
I saw kids who were spoiled and arrogant,  
Youth so weak, their backs all bent;  
While we spent evening with joint families in a small tent.  
I saw no sharing, no caring, but insensitive sentiment.  
I saw materialism and selfishness,  
Too full to carry little kindness;  
I felt bad for my grandson,  
For he would never know what is fun;  
I kissed my grandson wishing him good luck,  
As he dropped me again on my bed waiting for death,  
but this time happily ever because I knew my life hadn't suck.  
I was glad how well my parents had nurture,  
Thank God, I never experienced this thing called future.

-Samruddhi Sawant  
[FYBA]

## THE DAY MY LIFE CHANGED

"Thank you for coming! We hope to see you soon!" I said with a strained smile, the muscles of my cheek aching as the last customer finally left. Leaning back against the door, I closed my eyes and let out a sigh. It was almost nine and the café was deserted. I grabbed the 'CLOSED' sign lying below the counter and scampered towards the closed wooden door. The air was cool and crisp and the darkness was prominent amidst the street lights. I had started working here not long ago. My co-workers had left an hour ago to watch a newly released movie. My manager wasn't in town and had entrusted us with the keys.

I compelled my aching body towards an empty chair. Leaning against the headrest, I closed my eyes, already dreading tomorrow. College, interviews, a job which offered no respect and living all alone- nothing was occurring in my life that I was enthusiastic about. 'News has been coming in that a serial killer has escaped...' the news went on. I switched off the TV and dragged myself to the store room across the counter. There was an empty wooden table and a chair inside with an attached bathroom. I placed my inexpensive purse on the table and walked to the bathroom. The cold water refreshed me as I splashed my face and watched it flow down in rivulets on my face. I was drying myself when I heard someone knocking on the door outside, repeatedly and forcibly accompanied by a loud muffled voice. Hastily, I exited the room, wondering if the person was in trouble.

A girl of my age was standing outside with a panicked and frightened look on her face. She was desperately trying to say something. Bewildered, I opened the door and "Are you okay?," was the first thing I asked. The girl looked shaken, her face covered with sweat mixed with tears.

"Help me, please!" she said in a jumpy and panicky tone. "I am being followed by a creepy man. He- he has a knife and...Please, help me!" She held her right arm towards me. My eyes zeroed in on the torn skin coated with blood and bile slowly rose up to my throat. I moved aside and she hurried inside, smelling of blood and fear. "I will go get first aid," I informed her. She nodded, shaking as she stood there staring at the door.

The both of us, at that moment, heard the footsteps. Heavy footsteps in rhythm with tired grunts. The girl's eyes widened with fear and I turned to see a figure running towards the unlocked door. In a jiffy, I ran towards the counter and grabbed the keys, locking the door just in time as his hands reached the knob. The man was huge, tall and muscular with a scary face and thirsty eyes. I clutched the girl's uninjured hand and led us inside the room, locking that door too. The man outside was trying to break down the door. He was screaming something in a gruff, hoarse voice but we were unable to decipher his words. "I am calling the cops!" I said to her. She was sobbing, holding her injured arm to her chest as her whole body trembled. I picked up my phone from the table and dialed 911, my heart rate spiking with every passing second.

"911. What's your emergency?" a voice replied.

"The-there's a guy standing outside our café... He-he has a knife! If he gets in...!" I stuttered in a quivering tone, my helplessness obvious as I recited the address. The call ended and the girl's whimpers once again filled the room. I sat beside her, jumping every moment the door weakened from his punches. My pepper spray was the only weapon available for self-defense.

Everything went calm for a second. Then, another thud was heard near the bathroom. My stomach dropped as I saw the man outside the window. He was continuously stabbing the net with his knife. The girl screamed as he grinned at both of us. Before we were dead meat, I slammed the lockless door shut. There was little we could do but stand against the door as the man tried to force it open.

"Open!" Our ears rang with his screams and loud profanities. The girl was sobbing loudly while I took shaky breaths, my eyes laced with tears too. Our hands hurt but we knew if the guy came in, we would be helpless.

A few more painful minutes passed and holding him off was becoming harder. The girl looked pale and I was afraid she would lose consciousness soon. Suddenly, more thumps and screams were heard from inside. The man screamed and another voice shouted, "Let go of the door. It's the cops!"

We quickly moved away, the girl slipping down to her knees and the door broke off of its hinges. The man with the knife ran towards me but was grabbed by the two cops from behind. They confiscated his knife and handcuffed his hands.

"Are you hurt?" one of them asked.

"No, but she is!" I said and turned to point at the unconscious girl. There was no trace of her. "What the..." I trailed off. Where was she?

The police took my statement and left but I still felt uneasy. None of us mentioned her. The only possible guess was that she had somehow managed to leave. After the cops left, I checked the area around the café but she had shockingly disappeared. I drove home anxiously and called my friends for company.

The next morning, I got a phone call from the cops. They informed me that the guy was a serial killer who had escaped from prison yesterday. He had planned to make me his first victim -'to celebrate.' My heart skipped a beat and shivers ran down my spine. I decided to stay at home and requested my friend to give me company. Gathering up enough courage, I searched the guy up on the internet. After going through his past, I clicked on the list of his victims, relieved that I wasn't going to be among them. Among the photos was a girl.  
That girl who was with me.

Yesterday.

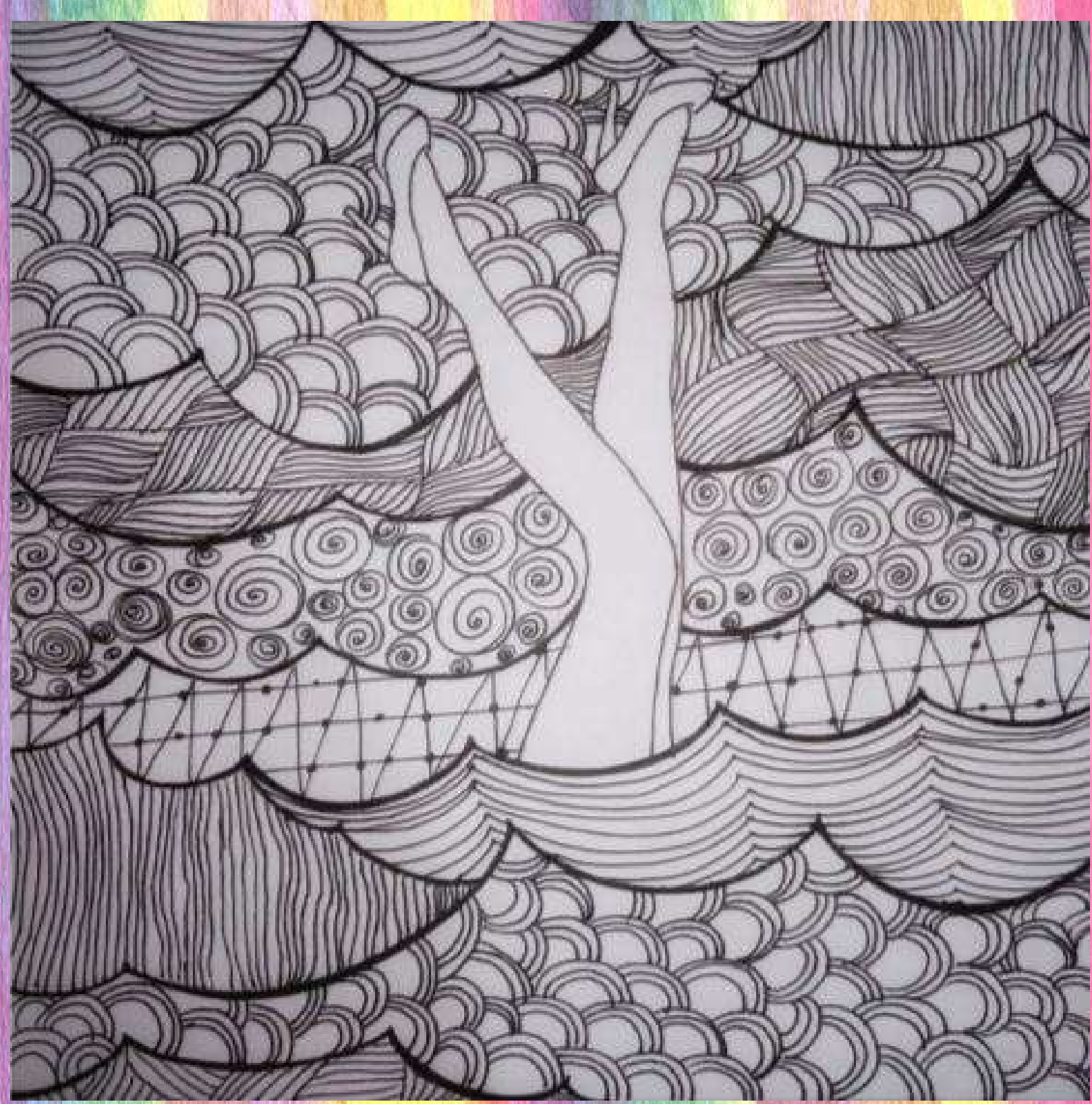
She had been stabbed to death two years ago!

My heart was racing at an abnormal rate and my breaths were constricted. The page described her to be a kind, loving and helpful human being. Tears gathered and escaped my eyes. I felt weighed down by the sudden dump of emotions as my friend hugged me and tried to calm me down. I quit my job after that and found the location of her grave. I visited her a few days after that and somehow uttered 'thanks' to her, the way my emotions allowed me to. I didn't tell anyone about her but I realized, you never know when God will turn up on your door, telling you that you need to live longer. Appreciate each day you are alive, for some aren't fortunate enough to be granted with the privilege.

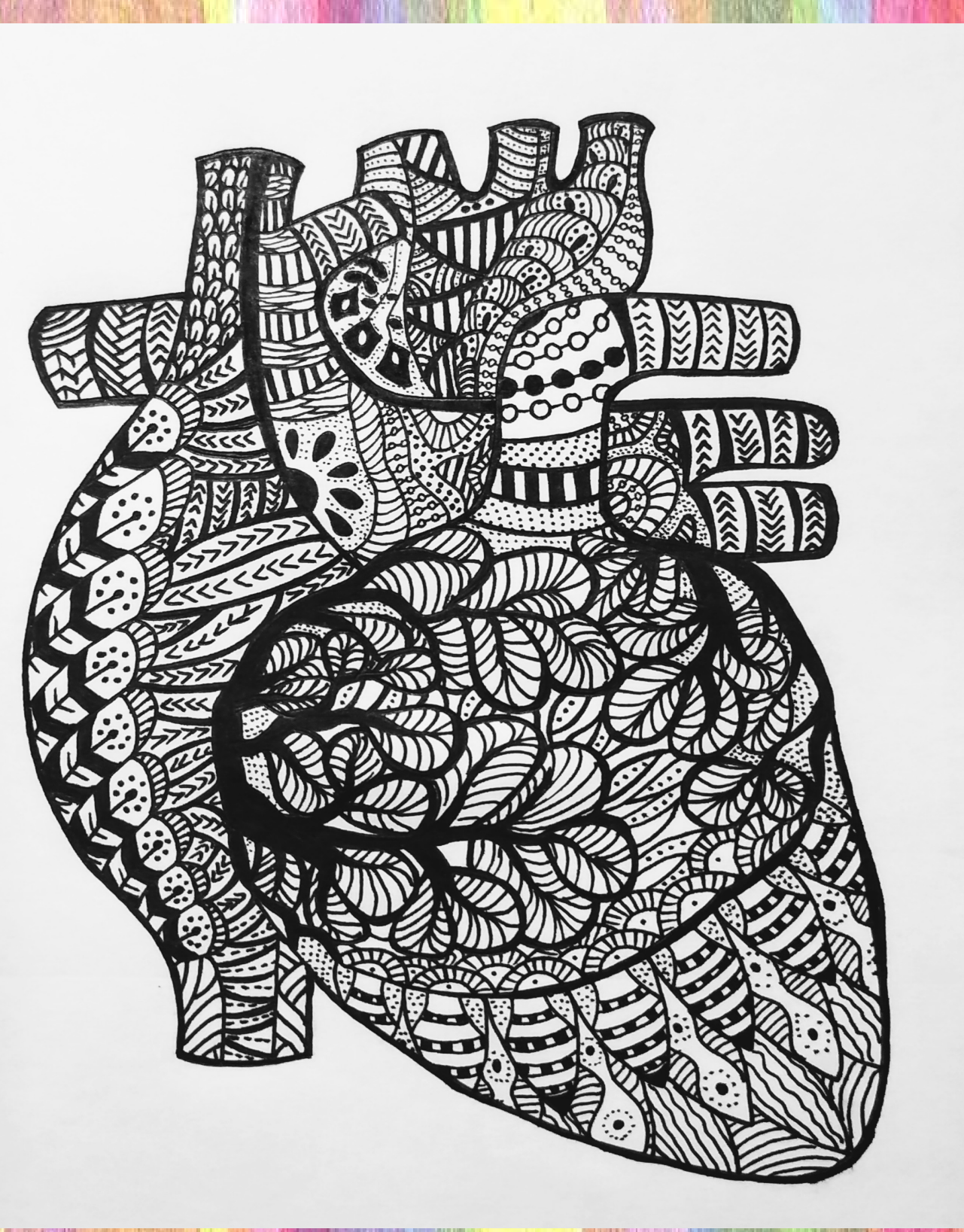
- Chaitravi Kothavade  
(FYJC ARTS)



# ART WALL



**POOJA DEDHIA**



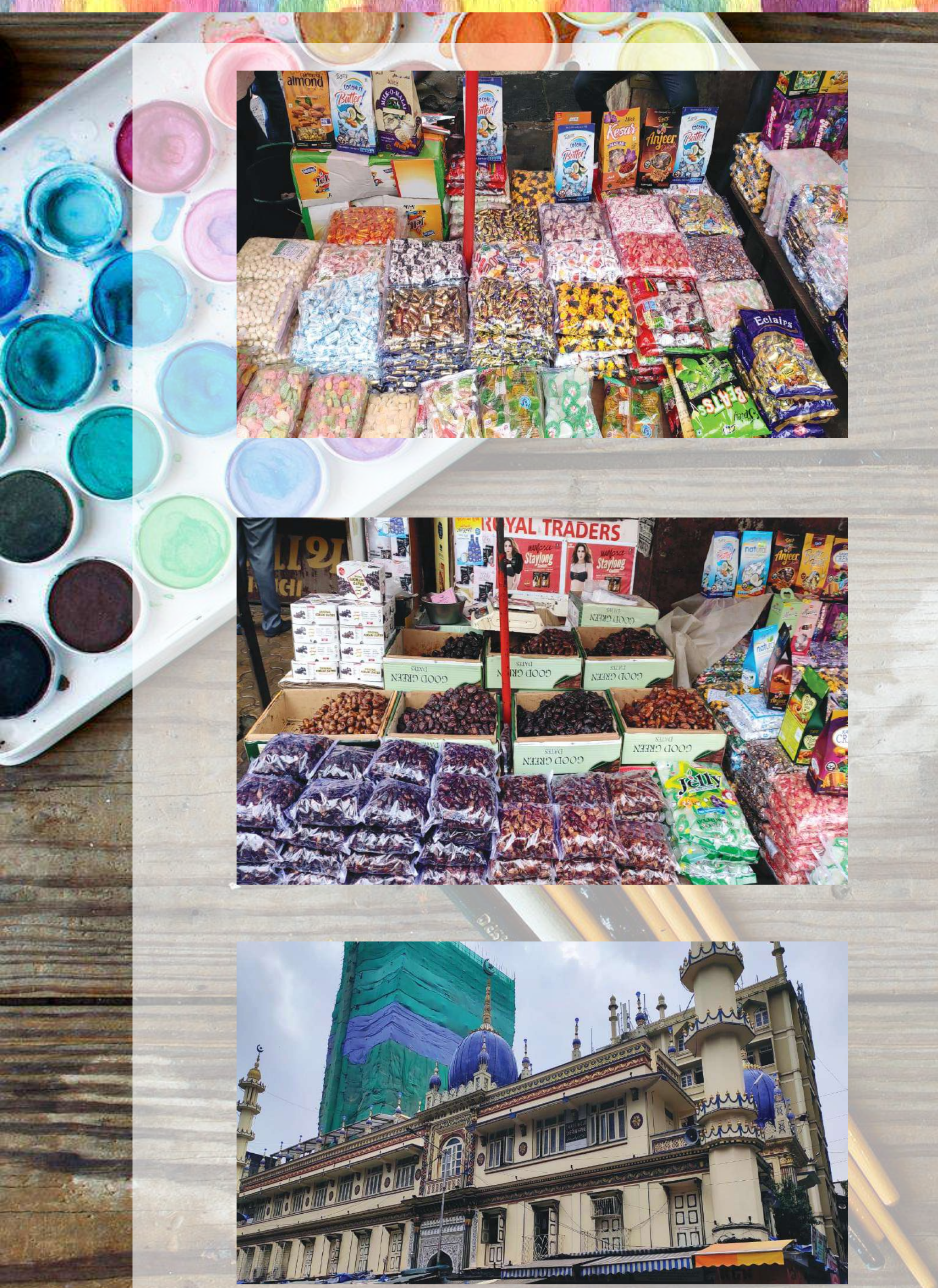
**ISHADA KAWADE**



**ISHITA JAIN**



**PRATIKSHA R**



## Roaming Around The City

Visiting Masjid Bunder during the peak hours means I can see the city bustling. Honestly, the place is crowded but here you can see many people busy with their daily routines.

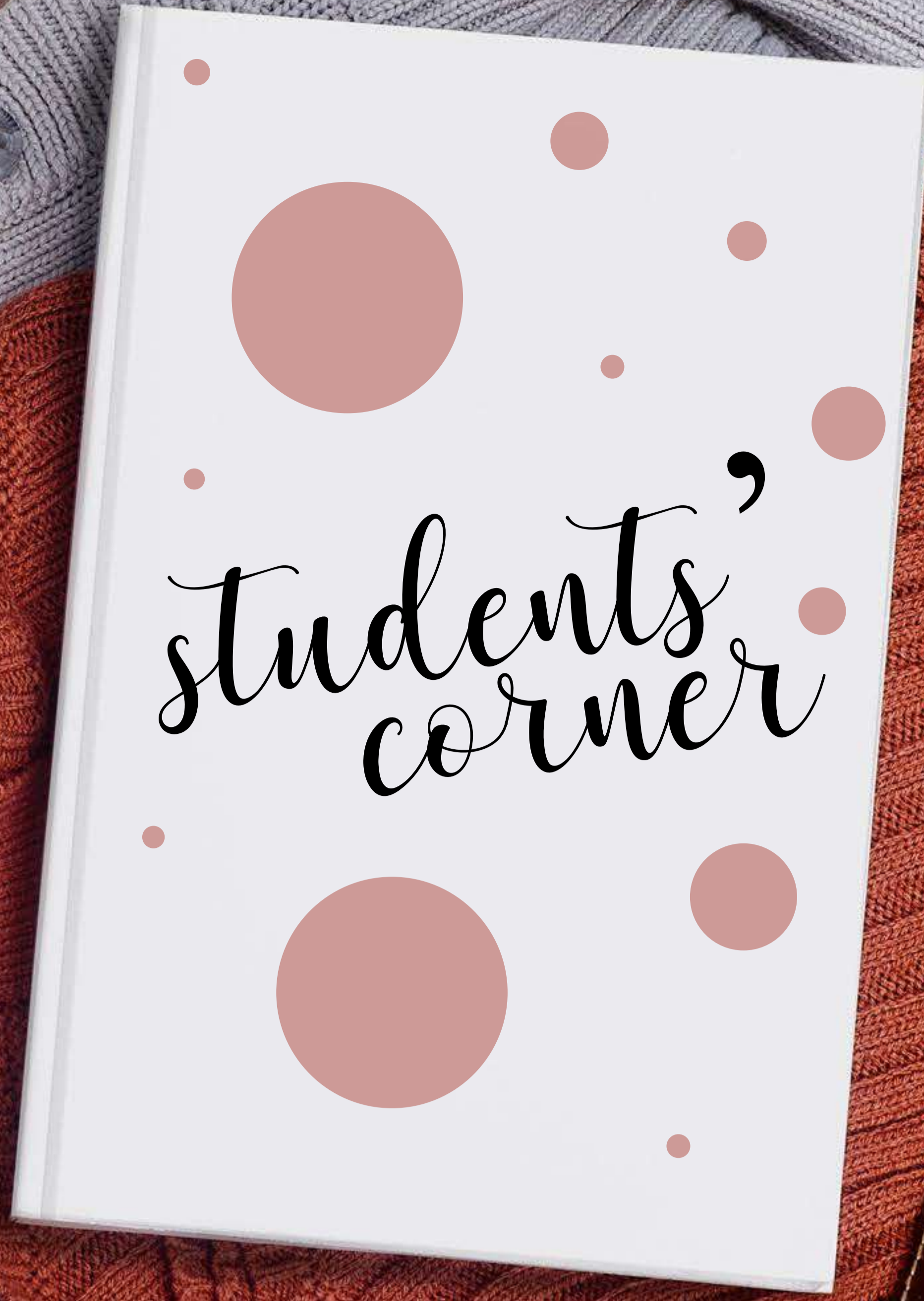
Once you exit the station you can see many old shops selling dry fruit at a very affordable rate. You can find a varieties of dates used in various exotic dishes here.

From mobile covers, to clothing, and chocolates; Masjid has a lot to offer in terms of shopping.

Bargaining is difficult, but once you convince the shopkeeper you can get items at a budgeted price.

Apart from shopping, there are some old buildings with unique architecture like old decorated windows which makes for great street photography .

Asavari Shinde



## शाळेच्या दाराने लिहिलेले पत्र

प्रिय

'बेहतर दिनों की आस लगाते हुए हबीब

हम बेहतरीन दिन गवाँते चले गए'

हबीब अमरोहबी आज कुणास ठाऊक कसे पण आठवले. पटापट मोठ्ठं व्हायच्या नादात तुम्हाला इथून जायची फारच घाई लागली होती, हे मला ठाऊक नव्हतं असं नाही. खरंतर पहिल्या दिवशी जेव्हा तुम्ही माझ्या उंबऱ्यातून आत आलात रडत रडत, आई वडिलांना घट्ट पकडत, तेव्हाच मला ते कळालं. इटुकले पिटुकले होतात तुम्ही तेव्हा, गोंडस! मला घट्ट धरत, आत जायचं नाही म्हणून डोळ्यात पाणी आणून तुम्ही भोकाड पसरलं होतं, तेव्हा आयुष्यातल्या सगळ्याच महत्वाच्या प्रसंगांचा भार 'दार' म्हणून आपल्याला सहन करावा लागतो, याची नव्याने जाणीव झाली. तसं पाहिलं तर शालेय जीवनाच्या आठवणीत मला फार मानाचं स्थान कधीच नव्हतं, म्हणूनच तर शाळेतील छोट्यातल्या छोट्या गोष्टींवर लिहून, बोलून सुद्धा मी लक्षात येत नाही कुणाच्या, शेवटी वर्गाचा दरवाजा ही काही फार आठवणीत राहणारी जागा कधीच नसते. म्हणून म्हंटलं आज आपणच काढावी मुलांची आठवण.

सुरुवातीच्या दिवसांत बिचकत बिचकत येणारे तुम्ही केव्हा हसत खेळत, मस्ती करत वर्गात येऊ लागलात हे मला सुद्धा कळलं नाही. दरवर्षी जुनेच तुम्ही नव्याने मला भेटायला लागलात. जसे जसे मोठे झालात तसा तसा होणारा बदल मला ही दिसू लागला. आधी मनमौजी प्रमाणे येणारा विराज जेव्हा माझ्यातून डोकावण्याआधी केस ठीक करू लागला तेव्हा हळूच आवाज आला की पोरगा मोठा झाला बरं! किंवा आधी छान दोन पोनी घालणारी मीनाक्षी घट्ट वेण्या घालून येऊ लागली तेव्हा आपले निरोप घेण्याचे वर्ष जवळ येत चालले हे जाणवलं. बाकी तुमच्या खोड्यांची शिक्षा म्हणून वर्गाबाहेर जाताना काही जण 'बरं झालं सुटलो' म्हणून नाचायचे तर काही भावनिक पोरं हमसून हमसून रडायची हे दिसायचं बरं मला. माझ्याजवळ बेंच असणारे तर वर्गाचे watchmen बनत. प्रिन्सिपल सर दिसले की तुमच्या गोंधळाला शांत करायचे. आठवतंय का? एरवी मला विसरणारे तुम्ही शाळेच्या कार्यक्रमांसाठी मात्र तोरणाने मला सजवायचात आणि रांगोळीने फुलवायचात. बाकी तुमच्या वर्गाने खो खो ची मॅच जिंकल्यावर कल्ला करत वर्गात प्रवेश केला होता तेव्हा तुमच्या पावलांनी आणि स्पर्शाने मी किती मोहरून आणि भरून गेलो होतो हे कसं सांगू! शेवटी व.पू. बरोबर बोलून गेलेत, काळ फक्त माणसाचं वय वाढवतो, आठवणींना वार्धक्याचा शाप नसतो! वेळ गेला, तुम्ही मोठे झालात, वर्ग सुटला आणि सोबत मी पण! पण डोळ्यात स्वप्न आणि मनात आठवणी साठवत एक नवीन उंबरा ओलांडतना ह्या जुन्या उंबऱ्याला निरोप देणं हा नियम नव्हे कर्म! आशा आहे की तुम्ही मुलं जिथे कुठे असाल तिथे आनंदाने आयुष्य जगत, देशाच्या उपयोगी पडत प्रगती करत असाल. तसं खूप आहे बोलायला पण थांबतो, ते काय आहे आज शाळेचा पहिला दिवस आहे, काही इटुकली पिटुकली गोंडस बाळं येतच असतील! त्यांच्या स्वागताची तयारी नको का करायला! म्हणून आता राम राम घ्यावा!

कळावे,

तुमच्याच वर्गाचा दरवाजा.

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