



# the RUIAITE monthly

moving beyond papers

Welcome, everyone! September this year seems to have agreed to play host to the rains as well, allowing our seasonal guest to perhaps even overstay his welcome? Not everyone is happy with the extended rains – we at the Ruiaite Monthly find them mostly soothing and inspirational. If the downpour's got you stuck somewhere, and you're reading this, we're glad we can alleviate your ennui for a while!

This month, Tech-Tricked has dived into the world of self healing materials and the boundless possibilities they hold for the future. Science of Everything has been exploring options for the next generations as well, by taking a closer look at the applications of fungi, and genetically modified crops. They've addressed the major concerns haunting these artificial concepts and their safety. Buzz Around compiled the nitty-gritty details of the ramifications of Article 370 and the INX media case into a concise format so anybody who missed out on important information can get back up to speed.

On the subject of ongoing affairs, the Reporting team brought a comprehensive article regarding the special lecture organized by the Philosophy department, and we've even included a quick report on the monsoon sports that took place in our college, and the results! Careerwise and Safarnama teamed up to deliver a comprehensive interview with the editor of Safari Plus, a leading travel magazine. Together, they covered the finer aspects of travel journalism, what it takes to enter the field, as well as choosing tourist destinations and plans. Meanwhile, Behind the Scenes have brought some of the most special students of Ruia College into the spotlight, highlighting their achievements and their determination to overcome every obstacle in their way.

Op-Ed took a nostalgic trip down memory lane, exploring the hallways of our childhood schools – quite literally! Open Forum went wild with detailed descriptions of a judge who took his justice seriously, but with a different outlook, the line between patriotism and jingoism, and the struggles of subtitled shows against subpar dubs. Insight took an intimate look into the relationships of animals with humans, and discussed at length whether keeping pets is a humane choice, or just a human one. Fictionally Yours chose to go the spooky route, with a chilling take on an operating theatre where not everything is as it seems..

The year is winding down, everyone! We only have three months before the start of the third decade of the millennium. For us younger ones, perhaps it isn't that big of a benchmark – we have our whole lives ahead of us, after all! For the ones that are nervous, remember that we have so much left to do, and plenty of time; we must make sure that we make the most of our days!

Happy reading, Ruiaites!



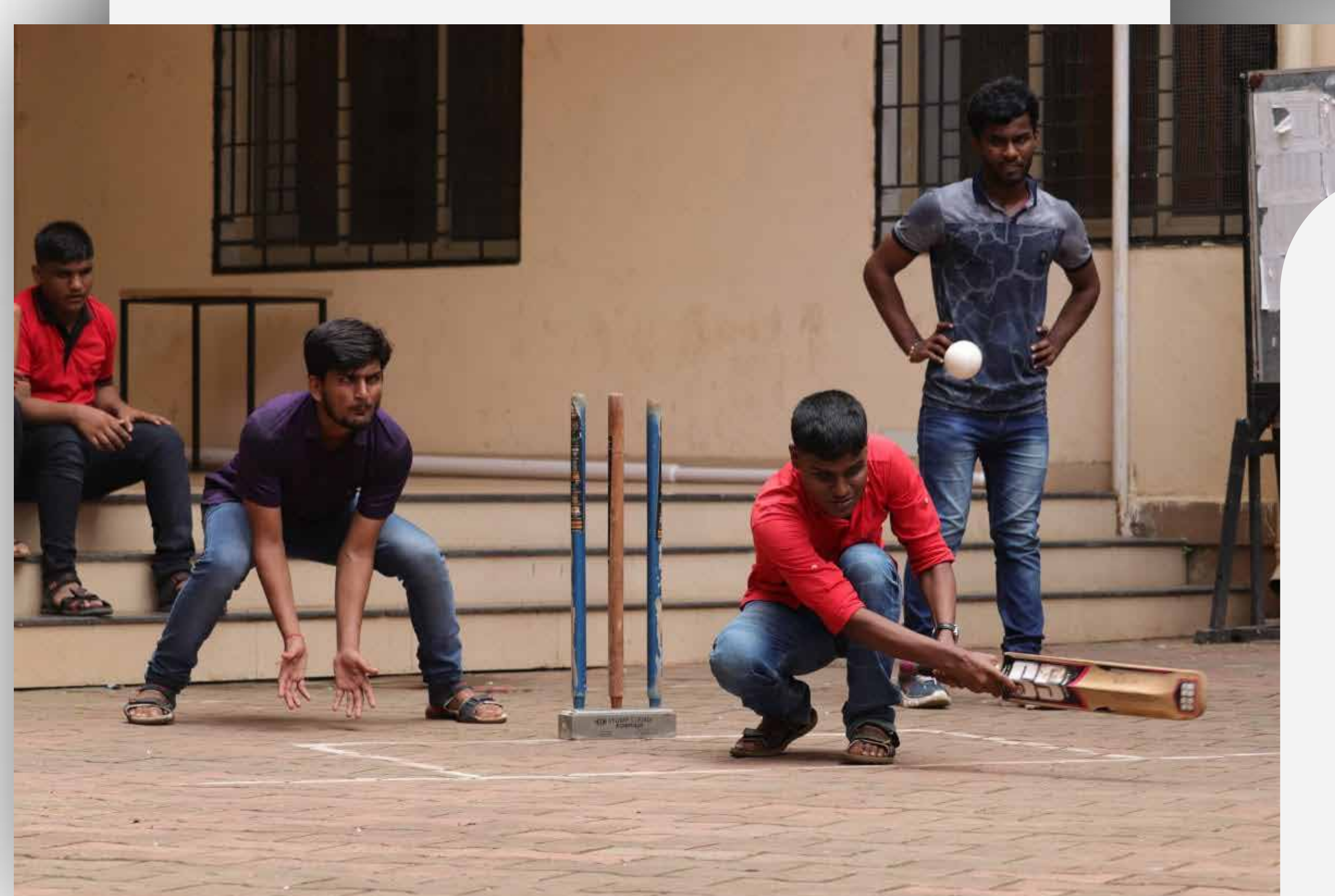
# Reporting

## Monsoon Sports 2019 - 20



Once again, the rains got all of us excited for the clamor and excitement for yet another majorly successful event, the monsoon sports. Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, Matunga, organized another exhilarating sporting event. Held on 22nd and 23rd of August, the event received a great response, thanks to all the efforts put in by the organizers and the participants, not to mention it's spectators, too.

There were a total of eight sports this year, from cricket to badminton, table tennis, chess, football, carrom and tug of war. These games and matches were spread over a span of two days. Carrom, badminton, chess, table tennis and box cricket were held on the 22nd of August. Box cricket matches along with tug of war and rink football were held on the 23rd of August.



Thanks to the enthusiasm shown by our teaching and non-teaching staff, carrom and chess matches were organized between them on the 22nd. Cricket matches between teachers and the non-teaching staff were held on the 23rd. The teachers won all three of the above mentioned games.

The tug of war event was the most exciting one. The games and matches were held on the college campus itself. Chess matches were held on the junior college quadrangle while table tennis matches were witnessed in the junior college foyer. Box cricket, rink football and tug of war was played in the senior college quadrangle. Badminton was held in the college's badminton court.



## Sufis as Mystics

The 7th of August, 2019 witnessed an amazing afternoon as a lecture based on the concept of "Sufis as Mystics" was organized by The Philosophy Department of Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, Matunga on the occasion of its 22nd Dr. N. V. Joshi memorial in the auditorium at 12.15 pm. Radhika Sathe, a student of TYBA Philosophy and founder of Sanskrit Education Forum welcomed the audience and thanked the sponsors for the event: Jai Kajal, Special Olympics Bharat- Maharashtra, Art partner- Chitrasutra Academy, Grooming Partner- Makeup looks by Supriya and Ruia College Alumni Association. The event commenced with a graceful Kathak performance by Shalmali Zankar, the lead dancer of Mughal-e-Azam who performed a Krishna Stuti. Mr. Sukumar, former president of Ruia College Alumni Association addressed the audience regarding the variety of events carried out by the RCAA and invited the ex-students to join the same. The head of Philosophy Department of Ramnarain Ruia College then briefed on the legacy of

Dr. N. V. Joshi memorial lectures. The podium was later taken over by the guest lecturer for the day, Smt. Manjari Chaturvedi, who was welcomed by the Head of the Philosophy Department by giving a tulsi plant. Smt. Manjari Chaturvedi, from Delhi is conceptualizer of Sufi Kathak, TEDx Speaker, Parliament House Performer, founder of Sufi Kathak Foundation, Cultural academician and knower of Sufism not just as a philosophy but a lifestyle and has been appreciated by Dr. Abdul Kalam, the late President of India for her work and dedication. She gave a speech on the various aspects and facts of Sufism, like its origin, spread in India, Sufi saints and their amazing life stories. She also explained the similarities of Sufism with Indian Bhakti culture and intense love and devotion towards the God as worship. She emphasized on importance of music, dance and poetry in Sufism, significance of chanting and the Philosophy of moving meditation. She enlightened the students on Sufism as a lifestyle, specifically considered the mascu-

line or feminine form of God in Sufi literature, the efforts taken by Sufi saints to achieve harmony between 2 religions, and social statements made through the sect. It was an interactive kind of a lecture with the inclusion of various videos, music clips etc. The students of college thanked Manjari ji for the wonderful lecture with a token of love: A beautiful poetry by Vikas Satpute and a painting of her. The saga of amazing mystical experiences continued when Kushal Chheda, an ex-student of Ruia College and a prominent singer and musician guided the audience through a musical meditation session. The event came to an end with an amazing performance by Samrudhhi Yogi, a student from TYBA History, disciple of Guru Ranjana Phadke accompanied by Rohan Deshmukh for vocals, her Guru bhagini Tejashree Vaidya for Padhanta, Shaunak Pimpulkar on Tabla and Chinmay Sapre on Harmonium. Dr. Himani Chaukar presented a vote of thanks and formally concluded the event.





## ARTICLE 370

Article 370 of the Indian Constitution which falls under Part XII of the Indian Constitution deals with ‘Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions,’ and gives special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. It was a temporary provision. All the provisions of the Indian Constitution which are applicable to other states are not applicable to the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

### History of Article 370 –

Article 370 was the basis of Jammu and Kashmir’s accession to the Indian Union, at the time when the erstwhile princely states had the choice to join India or Pakistan or remain independent. Maharaja Hari Singh, the ruler of Kashmir, did not join either India or Pakistan but chose to remain independent. However, on October 22, 1947, thousands of armed men backed by Pakistan’s army attacked the state from the north, forcing Singh to seek help from India by signing the Instrument of Accession. In 1949, the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had directed Kashmiri leader, Sheikh Abdullah to consult Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the then

law minister to prepare the draft of a suitable article to be included in the Constitution.

Article 370 was eventually drafted by Gopalswami Ayyangar. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the principal drafter of the constitution had refused to draft this article. It was included in the Indian constitution on October 17, 1949. It came into force in 1952. Till 1965, this provision allowed J & K to have a Sadr – e Riyasat for governor and prime minister in place of chief minister.

### Provisions in Article 370 -

The article grants special autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir. All provisions of the constitution applicable to other states are not applicable to J & K. The laws regarding citizenship, ownership of property and fundamental rights of people residing in Jammu and Kashmir are different from those living in elsewhere in India. As a result, under this article, citizens residing in other parts of India cannot buy property or a land in Jammu and Kashmir. The centre has no power to declare a financial emergency under article 370 in the state. It permits the state to have its own constitution and it has its own flag along with India’s tricolour. Under this article, except for defence, foreign affairs, finance and communication the centre requires the state government’s concurrence to apply all other laws. It can only apply national emergency in case of war or external aggression and not on basis of internal disturbance in the state, unless it is made with request or concurrence with state government. Any amendment in the Constitution of India does not apply automatically without the passage of the bill in the State Legislature.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act was passed by parliament which led to the division of the state into two Union Territories – Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature and Union Territory of Ladakh without a legislature. The reorganisation is supposed to take place on 31st October, 2019. President Ram Nath Kovind signed the bill thus revoking Article 370 which superseded the 1954 order making all the provisions of the Indian constitution applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. After the resolution were passed in both the houses of parliament, the President issued a further order on 6th August, declaring all clauses of article 370 except clause 1 to be inoperative. Many people however questioned the manner in which Article 370 and Article 35A were revoked. On the whole, many people in India rejoiced when the article was revoked. Some opposition parties including Congress,

Trinamool Congress and the PDP (Peoples’

Democratic Party) opposed the move. Home Minister Amit Shah on the behalf of the government expressed hope that with the revocation of Article 370 along with 35A will boost employment opportunities, will eradicate terrorism in Kashmir and it is a monumental step towards national integration. and bring peace and normalcy in the Valley. Life is slowly trying to limp back to normalcy in J & K, though the internet and mobile connectivity is still blocked in some parts of the Valley. The exact implications of the move will be seen in future.

-Swati Achwal  
SYBA, Columnist  
Buzz Around

## SIMPLY PUT INX MONEY LAUNDERING CASE:

After high-tension drama, former Finance Minister P Chidambaram was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation in relation to the INX Media case on Wednesday. The veteran Congress leader will be produced before a special CBI court on Thursday morning. Over the past day, Chidambaram lost interim protection against arrest and was labelled as the kingpin behind the INX Media case. Here’s a timeline of events under the said case, which eventually led to the arrest of P Chidambaram:

### 1. What is the INX media case?

-The INX Media case is related to alleged irregularities in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance to media group INX Media receiving overseas funds to the tune of Rs 307 crore during the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government.

In January 2008, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND) of the finance ministry had flagged a foreign direct investment (FDI) of over Rs 305 crore by three Mauritius-based companies in INX Media Pvt Ltd, then owned by Peter and Indrani Mukerjea. The Income Tax department handed over the case to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which in 2010 registered a case against INX Media for alleged Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) violations.



### 3. What is the latest development?

-P Chidambaram was also questioned by the ED in December 2018 and January 2019. The ED has attached properties worth Rs 54 crore belonging to Karti Chidambaram in connection with the case. The agency has also attached properties belonging to Indrani and Peter Mukerjea.

On August 20, 2019, P Chidambaram’s plea for anticipatory bail in the case was rejected by the Delhi High Court. Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram was arrested by the CBI Wednesday night from his residence in connection with the case. The following day, he was arrested by the CBI from his residence.

The Supreme Court is expected to pronounce order on Chidambarams bail in INX media money laundering case on September 05.

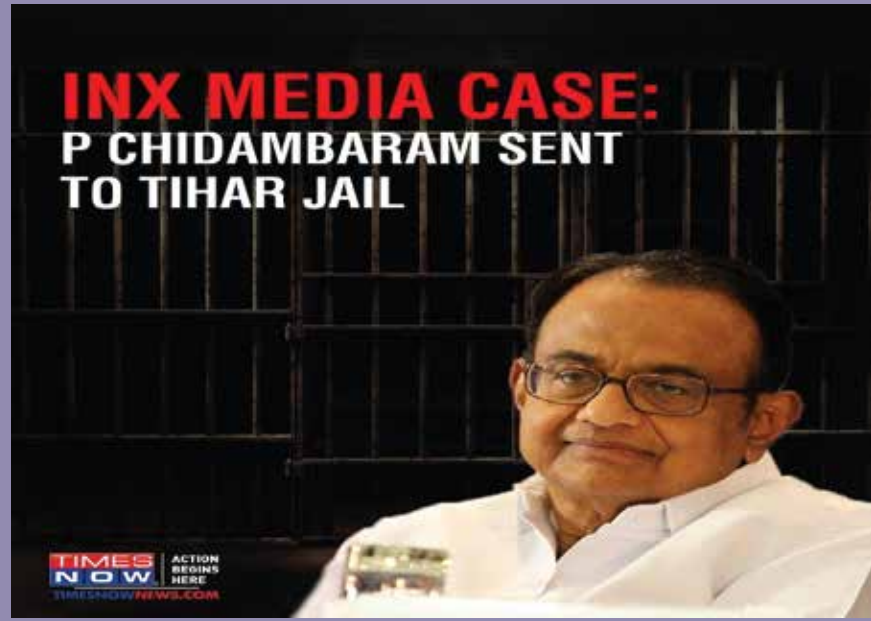
### 2. What was Karthi Chidambaram’s role?

-Indrani Mukerjea and her husband Peter, who co-founded INX Media in 2007, were charged with entering a criminal conspiracy with Karti Chidambaram, whose father P Chidambaram was the finance minister at the time, to get foreign investments and evade punitive measures for not having the necessary FIPB approvals.

In March, 2019, Indrani Mukerjea told the CBI in a statement that a \$4-million deal had been struck between Karti Chidambaram and the Mukerjeas to secure FIPB approval in favour of INX Media.

In July 2019, Irani pleaded for pardon in the case in exchange for full and true disclosure, which the Delhi high court agreed to.

Karti Chidambaram was arrested by the CBI in February 2018 in connection with the INX Media case and then released on bail. The Enforcement Directorate has questioned Karti Chidambaram on several occasions in the INX Media case.



-Riddhi Solanki (TYBSC)  
Columnist  
Buzz Around

## Top 10 news

1. Government scraps articles 370 and 35A amidst high tensions in Kashmir.
2. Ex-Finance minister P Chidambaram arrested by CBI in INX media case.
3. Huge number of wildfires rage through the Amazon forests and northern Brazil. Brazilian army to take control of the firefighting.
4. PV Sindhu becomes the first Indian shuttler to win gold at the World Badminton Championships.
5. At the G7 Summit, on Trump’s offer to mediate on Kashmir issue, PM Modi says that the two neighbours can solve their issues bilaterally.
6. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announces raft of measures to boost the economy.
7. Flash floods across multiple states including Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala result in more than 250 deaths.
8. MNS chief Raj Thackeray questioned for over 8 hours by Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case.
9. Automobile sector sees sharp slowdown as sales of passenger vehicles to car dealers fell almost 30% from July 18 to July 19.
10. Hong Kong continues to protest for the 5th straight month against the proposed extradition bill.

Spoke to my two good friends, Prime Minister Modi of India, and Prime Minister Khan of Pakistan, regarding Trade, Strategic Partnerships and, most importantly, for India and Pakistan to work towards reducing tensions in Kashmir. A tough situation, but good conversations! -  
Donald J. Trump  
@realDonaldTrump

Chinmay Parulekar  
TYBSc, Columnist  
Buzz Around





# safarnama

## THE EXPERT'S VOICE

One of the best ways to know more about the tourism industry is through travel magazines. They publish articles about the latest travel trends, give you insights on offbeat places, inform you about so many travel hacks and so much more. Some of the best travel magazines you can find in India are Outlook traveller, National Geography Traveller, Lonely Planet, CN Traveller and Safari Plus.

Team Safarnama got an opportunity to do an exclusive interview with the Chief Editor of Safari Plus – Mrs. Parul Kesari.

Safari Plus – A Tale of Tourism is a bi-monthly travel newspaper. It covers news and does analyses on tourism destinations, Travel Agencies, Hotels, Resorts, Cruises, Tourism Trade Fairs, etc.

The interview with Mrs. Parul Kesari is as follows:

What are three of your favourite unknown and unseen places?

Chopta (Uttarakhand), Waynnad-Kerala (in rainy season) and LaxshwaDeep (some newly opened-up islands)

Which holiday destinations are popular this time of the year?

Baku (Azerbaijan, Asia), Austria (Europe) and Bali (Indonesia, Asia) [Baku – It's a city in Southwest Asia. Baku is rich in heritage and has lot tourism potential. The city is very safe to travel.]

How is travel different in India from abroad?

In India we have everything that can fascinate a traveller. But the only thing we need is to educate our people that tourism is the only industry that can be a driver for development in each segment. One such example is tourism in Gujarat and Kerala.

What are the upcoming tourism trends?

Backpacking and Rural Tourism. [We see an increase in the number of solo travelers. More and more millennials are fascinated by the idea of living a nomadic life. Youngsters are thrilled with the concept of unplanned travelling and living off just their rucksack's contents. Also, we see more accommodation options coming up that are suitable for backpackers. Countries and state tourism boards are marketing and developing many rural places as travel destinations to divert tourists from the over-crowded places. Example – Bhandardara, Ganpatipule, Sardinia in Italy, Kufri in Himachal Pradesh, Sidi Bou Said in Tunisia, Sumba in Indonesia, Istria in Croatia]

Give me an example of any out of the box content that you published.

A story on STAYCATIONS and a client forced us to publish his advertisement upside down. [Staycation is when you visit places near your house for a relaxed holiday.]

Which are the three must read/watch travel books/movies according to you?

Movie – Chal Jeevie Layi (Gujarati movie)

Book – My Travel Journal (journal for your child to carry along while traveling)

What are the topics about awareness that you try to convey through your travel magazine?

Sustainability through Tourism and Self Responsibility towards Mother Nature while we travel.

What are the major challenges faced by the tourism industry in India?

Infrastructure, self-responsibility and self-realization. To grow tourism in our country should be everyone's business. From the point the tourists enter our country, it's everyone's business that he/she should return with good memories and should be our ambassadors to bring more tourists to our country.

What measures can we, as students, take to help with India's tourism?

We should educate the importance of tourism to all who are related, like taxi drivers, souvenirs shopkeepers, road side eateries and to everyone who is serving our tourists, be it a domestic or international traveler. We should always remember "ATHITHI DEVO BHAVA" - Serve with smile, no cheating; help the travelers, humanity in nature.

What advice would you give to the readers of our student magazine?

Life is short and the world is wide. Life is meant for spectacular adventures. Let your feet wander, your eyes marvel and your soul ignite.



# CAREERWISE



EXPERT’S VOICE.  
“Travelling makes you modest!”

It give you a new and bright outlook. Parul Kesari, the owner of Safari Plus, a bi-monthly travel e-magazine that covers all adventures and takes of travel was recently interviewed by Ruia’s Students. Here is the exclusive interview:

Ø After getting the idea for starting a magazine focused completely towards tourism, how did you plan the entire process of start-up?  
“Passion equals drive, drive equals determination and enough determination equals Success.”Passion for Travel and experience in real estate magazine gave the idea to bring out a Travel Magazine. That was in year 1999, when there were very few travel magazines focusing on trade and giving out insight information on Travel Destinations. With the limited resources we started and there was no reason to look back as the opportunities were sky’s limit.

Ø What efforts did you take for the publicity and the sponsorship for the 1st edition?  
1st edition was dedicated to the Lord Ganesha, for his blessings and to start of our new journey. There was only 1 Ad of Nishiland (then an upcoming theme park).

Ø How has your way of publicity evolved over the years?  
“Dreams and dedication are a powerful combination”. Our dedication and the will power not to give up has brought us to this stage.Anything and everything needs one’s dedication, passion and time to flourish.

Ø What are the different types of advertising methods that you use and which among them is most effective?  
We use ground level of advertisement like participation in events, road shows, press conference and social media. But the most effective advertisement method is participation at events.Client Satisfaction- Its your presence at each and every travel event which speaks louder for you and your client to give them visibility and take them to every know travel trade partners. The more visibility and business your client gets the more trust you build in the market.

Ø After the content is ready, what role does the design and photography team play?  
That’s the vital role. Photographs are the universal language of our era. Whereas photography team create, edit the pictures which can directly get in touch with the traveller.On other hand design team design each article as the content comes over, and help to change the look and feel of the magazine.

Ø Have you ever faced a writer’s block? How did you overcome the phase?  
Never

Ø How can the popularity of travel magazine grow in India?  
On the contrary, travel magazine doesn’t need the publicity because travel magazine is related to travel industry and travel is something that doesn’t require popularity as every single persons wishes to travel.You really need to understand and follow the current market trend. And the need of the hour.

Ø For a student to be a travel blogger or any content writer, what qualifications are needed?  
“The Wilderness holds the answer to more questions than we have yet learned to ask.” THE EXPERIENCE- The more you travel and read about the place the more you can curate your story about the destinations. And one should update them with what is happening in Travel Industry.

Ø What skills are needed for a tourism journalist?  
There are two major skills for travel journalist. One: Be a active traveller because it opens your heart, broadens your mind and fills your life with stories to tell. Two: Hunger to learn and one should know our history and geography.Rest you learn with the time and experiences.

Ø How is the travel magazine different from the other main stream magazines?  
We need to be more prominent and responsible as we are the ambassadors and news carriers. One should know the art to promote the tourism in positive manner. As Tourism is the industry which gets affected with any of the negative publicity or the phase after any natural calamity.

Ø What type of content you love publishing which has to get more readerships according to you?  
The content which is more popular amongst the readers would be of lesser know Destinations and also places which are picking up as the adventure sport destinations.

Ø Which group of readers you usually focus on? How do you connect with your target audience?  
Readers who are keen interested in travelling. We connect to our target audience via social media, blogging, newsletters and last but not least with our magazine. Parul Kesari is a true inspiration for all! Thank you so much Ma’am for sharing such important and great information about Tourism!

“Passion can drive you to any success journey”.



# BEHIND THE SCENES

## PATH BREAKERS

### Article no.1:

She showed the courage to challenge the challenges and is shining just like a bright star that shines in the night sky. She is Simran Joshi, a visually challenged student from our college, who stood 1st in the HSC exam among the handicapped students. She is from the Arts stream and has scored 89.84% marks. Her phenomenal performance has been the talk of the town. We tried to capture a few not-so-known incidents from her journey. She used to study almost 4-5 hours a day. Sanskrit is her favourite subject. She developed interest in it because of the teachers and has now decided to do a career in it. Her hobbies include playing musical keyboard. She's professionally learning that since March. She loves listening to Bollywood and Hollywood songs. She learned basic typing in 2nd standard and joined computer classes when she was in 5th. She learned typing in Devanagari on her own when she was in

8th. She has learned to use screen readers like NonVisual Desktop Access (NVDA) and JAWS. She explains, "You can hear the words that you type. This makes things much easier. There can be miscommunication in case of a writer. Writing our own paper is a joyful experience." She typed all her papers for HSC exam. She said, "Once Vinod Tawde, the education minister, had visited our school. I asked him about typing the papers. A GR was circulated, but unfortunately the permission was not given. I emailed him in 12th and got the permission to type my papers." She mentioned one incident during her school days. "In 9th standard, I had scored low marks in the unit test. I was very disturbed. I was thinking that I'm not being able to study properly and I lack the abilities. I had started questioning myself. My school friends motivated me a lot. They boosted my self confidence. It's really important to

have such friends in life. I'm really thankful to them." She gets motivation from inspirational songs. "Baar Baar Haan" song from Lagaan is her personal favourite. She is learning French at Alliance Francaise in Vashi. Her dream is to visit France someday. She wants to become Sanskrit professor and is working hard to pursue this. She mentioned, "People should treat us with empathy and not sympathy. Also, to the students like me, I would like to tell that learn doing things on your own, including writing your paper. Be independent. You are capable of doing amazing things." Her mother, Mrs. Amruta Joshi, gave all the credit of this remarkable success to her. "I just used to read books and forwarded notes on the phone by the faculty, 4-5 hours a day for her. She managed the rest. We utilized Sundays for this and especially the time after Diwali vacation", she said.

She has been a writer for a few such students. While sharing that experience she said, "It becomes really difficult for them to find writers. Some don't have access to study material due to their financial background. The CDs and braille books for all subjects of HSC were available in the college and teachers were also very supportive of these students . Rohit Vishwakarma is a visually challenged student of Ruia who has a positive attitude and passion towards studying. I used to encourage other such students by giving his example." She told about the method of studying that Simran had followed, "She is a totally 'curious' soul, asks a thousand questions. She wouldn't leave even a word from the notes I used to read. She always asked about the meaning of each and every word. We even googled a few words at times. This process was slow, but once she understands any concept thoroughly, she never forgets. She has a sharp memory. She is like this since she was a kid."

Simran's mother narrated a few

incidents from Simran's childhood. "We had to face problems for her admission in school. According to one rule introduced in 1995, intellectually good visually challenged students can learn with normal students. But, the school authorities were reluctant about giving admission to her, saying she would not be able to manage." This was shocking for her. "I cried a lot that day. They had no right to underestimate my daughter's potential. I learnt braille for translating books. I was firm about educating her with normal students." Simran's parents got to know about Sou Laxmibai English Medium School in Mulund East, where there was a possibility of getting admission. "She had attended Nursery. We had prepared paper cut-outs of letters and numbers filled with sponge, a 3D structure, to make her understand the shapes. She used to like this a lot. We told the authorities in this school about that. They were impressed. They had put a condition while giving admission - If Simran manages to cope up with the teaching pattern in junior kg and senior

kg, then only we'll think about her admission for first standard. " Simran proved her mettle by consistently performing well in academics as well as extra curricular activities like fancy dress and drawing competition. They used to stick threads on the outline of the drawing and she used to colour by feeling the presence of crayon by touch. She was given admission in the first standard and later on she stood first in her class in 2nd/3rd standard. She learned maths and braille from Shukla sir who was a teacher of NAB (National Association for the Blind). He taught her computer as well. She has received scholarship in 4th standard. Her mother opened up about parents' role in motivating these children. According to her, parents of these students should make them aware of the outside world. They should give them as much verbal information as they can. She was feeling ecstatic about her daughter's success. "I'm proud of my daughter", says Simran's mother with a beaming smile.

### Article no.2:

Presenting before you the journey of another special child from our college, Ms. Preeti Mhaske, who scored 86.46% in the HSC board exam and is currently studying in the first year of our degree college. Being a visually challenged child, Preeti can only see partially. But she never thought of it as a disability an developed her personality in all the diverse directions. Her vision is widespread and aims are far-sighted. As a child she had dreamt of being an air hostess and flying in the sky throughout her life. She is working very hard to pursue her dreams with conviction and determination. When Preeti was new to college in FYJC , she befriended a new language - French. And in almost two years she fell in love with it. Her score in the HSC board exam was 98 in French. She used to listen to the language as much as possible, converse it with her classmates. Her passion for it made learning it much more fascinating. Even now in the degree college she has chosen French Literature, Economics and History as her combination. Her choices are courageous and her

willingness to pursue them is commendable. Since this month, Preeti has taken up a project to teach English communication skills to the students in our "Self Vision Centre". 'I always like to share my knowledge with others. The exchange of information is a multi-faceted learning process and I enjoy it.' When asked about study tips, she highlights, 'I always make it a point to study in the morning when my mind is fresh. Before beginning to study I always pray for two minutes asking God to shower wisdom upon me. Short study sessions with good concentration has always been my focus. I always try to understand the concept, give a thought to what I learn and have my own opinions about the subject matter'. Preeti lost her parents at a tender age of three. Since then she lives with her aunt's family. Her aunt Madhumala Narvade and her cousins have been with her as dear companions throughout the process. They've always helped her, be it dropping her to college, reading books, choosing clothes or playing games with her. Swimming, singing, playing basketball, listening to music, skipping,

surfing through travel audios and videos are some of her hobbies that she enjoys in her free time. She wishes to visit France and enjoy the cuisine over there. Preeti says 'If you firmly tell yourself, that yes I can do it, then no one can stop you from achieving your goal. It's all about the confidence that comes from your inner heart. In my case, strong and sharp memory has always been my sixth sense, be it in remembering concepts, directions or names. Your belief in yourself leads your way towards your destination and even makes the journey much more interesting.' Preeti's aunt defines her as "A person who looks at life very positively. The one who overcomes hurdles by transforming them into the stepping stones for success". Preeti wants to donate money of any scholarship that she'll get in future to poor students. She supports Preeti's decision of working for welfare of the needy. Preeti believes in looking at the brighter side of the story. By this thinking, we'll be able to make the most of it. In her words, "Always hope for the best! Never give up!"





# THIS IS NOT

## Petmate

Harry had Hedwig, Hermione had Crookshanks, Sirius had Buckbeard, Hagrid had... well, too many! Toothless, Scooby-doo, Bolt, Pluto, Perry the Platypus, Snowbell and so many other fictional characters warm our hearts and bring in the desire of having a small furry (sometimes feathery) friend by our side.

Lets put it straight, human existence wouldn't have been fun without animals around! Dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, birds etc are a huge source of happiness for man since time immemorial. If you have loved being around animals, you can't deny that urge to go and pet them, because it feels so comforting and adorable. And if you are lucky to have supportive parents, there is a furry friend with you already. So how did we start keeping pets in the first place?

The relationship between humans and animals dates back to prehisto-

ry - albeit one of predator and prey. Gradually wolves, the ancestors of all dogs, became the first animals to be domesticated for hunting purposes when humans realized that wolf cubs could be trained to obey.

Dogs followed their pawprints and were used as companions for hunting, guarding, herding, etc. Humans started settling in the Agricultural revolution, and rodents relished their hard grown grains. There entered the wild cats in human domestic household, where they were allowed and later encouraged as pets for the sake of keeping rats away. In some civilizations animals were given a place of honour in last rites of humans where 'कुतू को खलिा देना' was actual practice.

During the Middle Age, aristocrats kept pets for showing their status and power. Hunting was a favourite

pastime, and demand for good breeds of hounds increased. This affectionate bond threatened even the Church, which linked it with pagan worship.

People were persecuted for witchcraft and pet keeping was held as a valid proof for it.

Fast forward to modern world, where pets are seen as companions, status symbols, therapists, helpers and even an alternative to biological kids. Yes, thats true.

If you look closely at the evolution of keeping pets, this social animal has always kept the furry, feathery creatures for his selfish interests. But who are we to decide their worth? Is it right to keep pets in the first place? What benefits do we derive from them in todays time? Lets find out!

- Sara Chavan (TYBA)

# SHO, HO, HO, HUMAN!

I'm good at loving animals. From a distance. Yes, fear and love coexist for me when it comes to animals. No, theres no sob story wherein I was attacked by animals and developed an irrational fear. (Cant say for sure about insects though.) But I wonder how I, who used to play with puppies for hours, grew to fear them. Or are these threatening memories just repressed, Dr. Freud?

I wish I could explain to people who get offended when I flee from their animal friends. They are unable to understand my plight. I'm just not great at expressing my love for animals, nothing else. How do I bridge this gap of communication when there is no remedy for it? And then there are people, kids and adults alike, who derive sadistic pleasure by scaring the living daylights out of us poor individuals by surprising us with some lovelorn licking laden with saliva, from their favourite non-human species.

I guess the only fill of some animal-loving I experience is on Animal Planet or with soft toys.

I have purposely referred so called pets as animals because I wish to raise a question, like those many others who refuse to call

themselves as owners of their pets. What right do we have to keep animals in our house in the first place, to domesticate them, which assumes animals are somehow a little unsophisticated for our concrete jungles? They are simply animals. They have their own rules and norms like we do in our societies to which we wish to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear.

Unlike us who are in dire need of power, control, animals are pretty much sorted in their hierarchies where theres no dethroning across species because they simply understand individual differences. They coexist and live and let live until theres a question of survival. How do we take decisions to keep animals as pets, use them for security purposes or destrosors or for commercial gains for that matter? In this process, we fail to realise that we are treating them as a means to an end. This is not exactly unexpected for we are infamous for our use and throw mentality when it comes to people, things, nature without a seconds worth of thought.

Helping strays or weaklings or those injured in need of help is an act of kindness, a noble deed.

Imagine where there were no zoos, but

open spaces where humans and animals evolved together to develop interactions and relationships. Today, we are enclosing ourselves in bars. We are barring ourselves from the sheer vastness of nature by creating high rises and multistoreyed buildings and destroying forestlands, creating a city of humans out of nature.

Befriending someone and adopting are two different things. Either we create a more accommodating space, where theres more nature than technology to do justice to develop any sort of relationship with animals , or sit in our ivory towers and simply forego another dimension of existence.

Encroaching upon territories more than necessary was our first mistake, but encroaching upon their personal freedom is simply being dictatorial.

Someone needs to teach us some manners first.

- Tanvi Padia (TYBA)

# The Purrs and the Bites!

Some of us have been lucky enough to come home every day to the cheerful yelps or purrs of a furry four-legged companion, or the chirping and trills of a companion who can take flight or the open mouthed gulping of an aquatic companion but why? Why do people spend blood, sweat, tears, time and money on buying these animal friends, on making them comfortable and keeping them healthy? Why do people go out of their way, change plans to go to animal shelters and cat café's?

A study conducted in 2002, at the State University of New York suggests that pets reduce stress much in the same way as having close friends or family around. Certain rehab facilities allow or even recommend having pets around to their patients.

The connection between pets and hypertension is still being debated but having a pet has the potential to lower blood pressure, especially in hypertensive or high-risk patients, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Pets act pretty much like valium does. They reduce anxiety which in turn reduces pain. They improve cholesterol levels and improve our mood.

But even with all these benefits, why do people choose not to have pets? Well, first of all, it's an

expensive commitment in terms of money as well as time. When you bring a pet on board you bring a family member on board and all that will entail. Dogs and cats require vaccinations, spaying, and parasite prevention. Food and medical care will rack up your bills and finding time for them will cost you your hours as well. Even pets you won't socially engage with like fish will take up your time.

Fishes need their tanks regularly cleaned and checked. A dog needs to be walked. Apart from this, they require basic obedience training. A cat needs her litter cleaned.

But all the benefits and drawbacks to us aside, we must remember that we are not the only ones affected when we get pets. We have neighbours, family members and friends whose quality of life may also be affected. When bringing these lives into our homes we should consider whether we have cultivated the best environment for them to live in - or are being selfish enough to consider only ourselves.

- Lakshmi Kalarikkal (SYJC)

# #Pawsitive Vibes Only!!

In 1859, Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, wrote, "A small pet animal is often an excellent companion for the sick, for long chronic cases especially." There is something about the gentle strength of animals that has always steadied human hearts throughout the ages. It started from farm animals being involved in helping differently abled people recover in the ninth century and carried on throughout the hospital rooms of the world wars where dogs were a shred of innocence in the middle of the bloodshed, making soldiers laugh at their antics, helping heal wounds medicine would never reach. Healing requires untangling the patchwork frame of your bruises with utmost patience and perhaps there is no one better than animals to support you through the process, creating affection that leads beyond

words. It is rabbits assisting children in speech therapy and horses helping in anger management exercises, tender in their care, accepting growth as it is without the burden of expectation. It is dogs calming domestic abuse victims before their court hearings, helping create safe spaces even in the face of horror. It is abused parrots helping war veterans overcome their trauma, conveying that even when life didn't seem to take care of you, you can still take care of others. It is cats in shelters gladly weaving in and out from between your feet, creating happiness. Those who don't share language can share silence the best.

Perhaps it is inhuman to exploit even such a delicate relationship. Animals are confined in large numbers in a narrow spaces which are stressful for them, forced to adapt to an ev-

er-changing crowd of people who initiate contact that may be unwanted in the first place, all for the sake of commercial gain and entertainment. To hide the grim reality behind the cute appearances, it is shoved under the facade of pet cafes and other establishments. It takes the essence of the previous concept and recreates it grossly, without considering the comfort of the other side, selfishness overpowering of the silence of those who do not have our language to guard themselves from it.

It is necessary then to understand just where we began to overweigh this fragile balance and start mirroring the love that we have always undeservingly received.

- Anushka Nagarmath (SYBA)



When was the last time you visited your old school? When was the last time you lived through the memories of donning on your uniform complete with a bag that looked almost too large for our tiny shoulders? This month we took a trip down the memory lane and went 'Back to School. Socome join us!



LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL  
CENTRAL CAMPUS FREEDMAN CENTER

MEET  
H. JOSEPH'S CLASS HONOR  
PARENT NIGHT 8-9 PM  
21 22 23 PIRAL CLAME  
BALLY 1000

1098

# OPENED

## Of Morning Assemblies, PT Period and Uniforms

The one thing that hasn't changed through the years of trying to get an education in school and in college is my aversion to morning lectures. Waking up every morning to go in a room of people just as sleepy as I am is kind of a downer. But hey, we all have to do it, don't we?

Things were different in school though because morning assembly was something that my very religious school insisted on doing meticulously with an elaborate 20 minute routine we followed everyday. The 20 minutes were long enough for me to squeeze in a little nap even when we stood in attention. The assembly had it's advantages because every minute is precious when you haven't completed your homework that is due in the first period. Even as innocent kids we found our ways to be sneaky, didn't we?

The one thing I dearly miss from school is the PT period. Weird how someone with no affinity for athletic things would run to the ground with abandon for school rules, right? With 7 hours at school everyday, every minute of playtime is precious. But the 7 hours themselves never felt like a task. They flew away, like the paper planes we threw outside the window when it was windy and we never knew where they went later.

The weekly nail checks, the fixed seating arrangements, the pressure to look immaculate in school uniform all annoyed me to no end. But now they're something I look at very fondly. The uniform I detested for being boorish now commands a special spot in my wardrobe with all the pride and love it has come to earn. When I left the doors of the school my teachers told us it will always be a second home. And it still feels like home to me.

**- Shabduli Shinde**

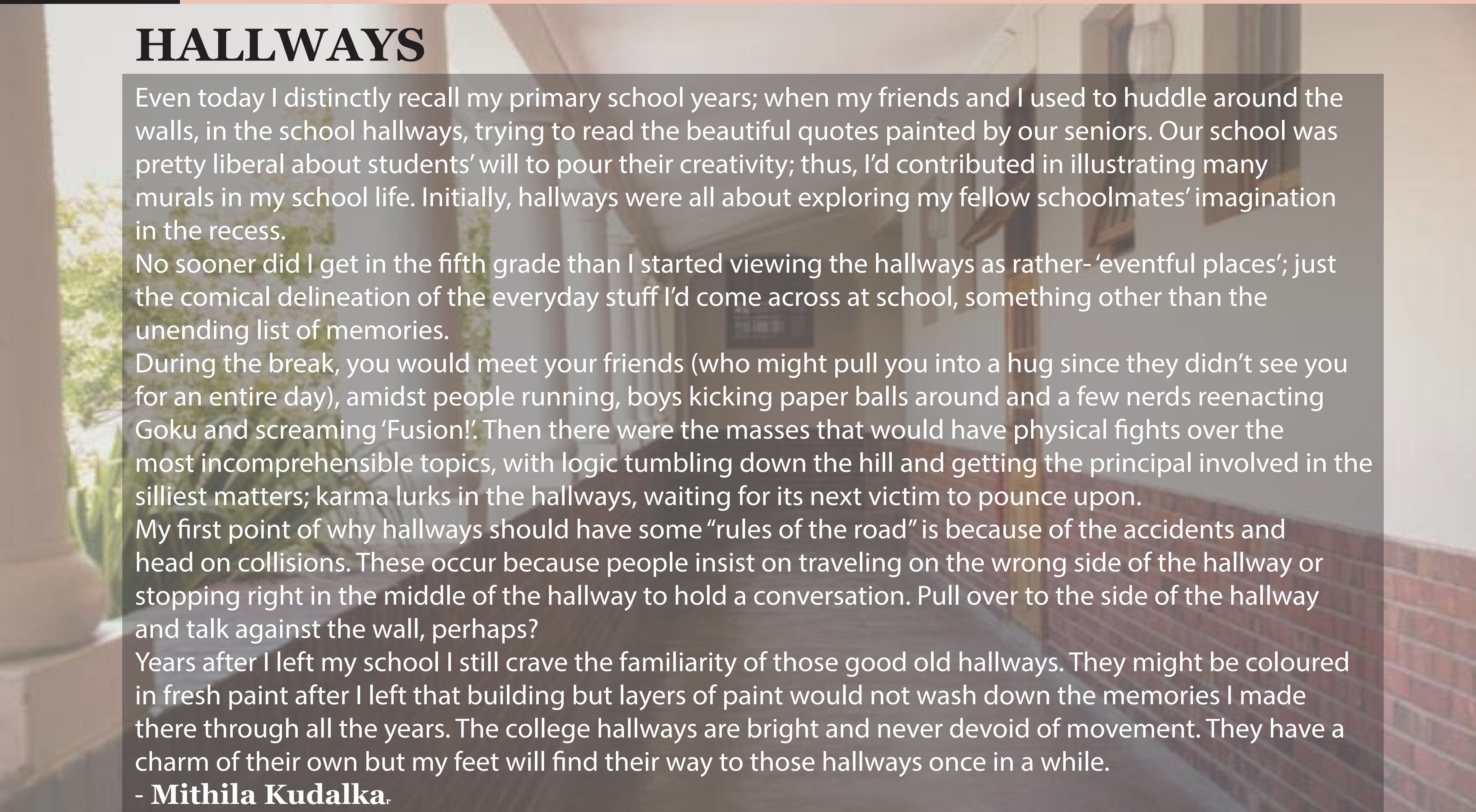
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# RECEIVED

The Indian food culture is extremely diverse and even though you would find people protesting against adopting someone else's language but you won't find anyone who has a problem accepting different cuisines. And that is the beauty of recess.

# HALLWAYS

Years after I left my school I still crave the familiarity of those good old hallways. They might be coloured in fresh paint after I left that building but layers of paint would not wash down the memories I made there through all the years. The college hallways are bright and never devoid of movement. They have a charm of their own but my feet will find their way to those hallways once in a while.



# HALLWAYS

Even today I distinctly recall my primary school years; when my friends and I used to huddle around the walls, in the school hallways, trying to read the beautiful quotes painted by our seniors. Our school was pretty liberal about students' will to pour their creativity; thus, I'd contributed in illustrating many murals in my school life. Initially, hallways were all about exploring my fellow schoolmates' imagination in the recess.

No sooner did I get in the fifth grade than I started viewing the hallways as rather-'eventful places'; just the comical delineation of the everyday stuff I'd come across at school, something other than the unending list of memories.

During the break, you would meet your friends (who might pull you into a hug since they didn't see you for an entire day), amidst people running, boys kicking paper balls around and a few nerds reenacting Goku and screaming 'Fusion!'. Then there were the masses that would have physical fights over the most incomprehensible topics, with logic tumbling down the hill and getting the principal involved in the silliest matters; karma lurks in the hallways, waiting for its next victim to pounce upon.

My first point of why hallways should have some "rules of the road" is because of the accidents and head on collisions. These occur because people insist on traveling on the wrong side of the hallway or stopping right in the middle of the hallway to hold a conversation. Pull over to the side of the hallway and talk against the wall, perhaps?

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- **Mithila Kudalka.**



# OPEN FORUM

## OUR JUSTICE

One humid Sunday morning, a close friend called to offer me an invitation to a lecture by Supreme Court Justice DY Chandrachud. It was scheduled for that very evening at the Oberoi, and I was promised that we would be served dinner. I like both, the progressive Chandrachud as well as free dinners at the Oberoi, so I accepted.

We arrived a few minutes after the appointed time – but were still earlier than His Honour and most of the guests. (Such is the Indian tradition.) It was immediately obvious that we were out of place. The average age of the room had to be above fifty, and they belonged inside the Oberoi’s walls in a way I didn’t. Most of them were on familiar terms with each other. I felt self-conscious holding my discount umbrella in that crowd of refined-looking men and women.

Justice Chandrachud himself looked young for a man of fifty-nine working one of the most stressful jobs on the planet. I had expected an ill-tempered, no-nonsense sage, cool of mind and sharp of tongue. The person who did somewhat resemble that image was Zia Mody, the famous corporate lawyer, who introduced him to the audience. Mr Chandrachud himself had an easy smile and looked almost embarrassed to have been invited to lecture. The topic he had chosen was “Imagining Freedom Through Art”, and I had felt that this staunchest of freedom’s defenders would positively bedazzle us with his eloquence and tickle us silly with wit.

Alas – impressive judge he may be, but I was left sorely disappointed by his oratory! He had much to say, and whatever he had to say was good enough to jot down. But speeches are not made by substance alone. The good judge was forever glancing at his prepared notes before speaking. There was no sweeping flourish of the hand or even eye contact with the audience. It is clear to me now that expecting an SC judge to be a good speaker just because he is an SC judge is unspeakably silly. A judge’s task begins and ends with laying down good law, and good law is its own eloquence. I was more likely to get good oratory from a lawyer like Zia Mody, or even a politician.

After the lecture was over, questions were invited, with Mrs Mody acting as moderator. If you know me, you know that I’m the first to put up my hand. But this was no foundation course lecture; everyone had something to ask of the judge. Someone wanted to know whether he preferred Delhi or Mumbai. He outraged everyone in the room, including me, by answering that Delhi had become more cosmopolitan than cocooned Mumbai. A second person wanted to know about Sabarimala. A third wanted to know about the horrible delays in the legal system and overburdened judges. An old man rose from his seat in the back out of turn and refused to be silenced by Mrs Mody. The organisers gave in and let him speak. He first complimented the High Courts on their supposed lack of corruption, and then asked something unintelligible to me and probably also to the judge.

“Just keep your hand up all the time,” my friend told me. “Otherwise you won’t get to speak.” The old man sitting next to me assented. “Look at everyone else who’s doing the same thing.”

Practical, if cynical, advice. After all, the old man got his say. But I did not heed it. Years of being a teacher’s pet have drilled into me a respect for classroom procedure – to raise my hand when it is proper to do it and to put it down when it would be disrespectful. “Besides,” I argued to myself, “what if everyone does it? That would destroy any such Q&A session altogether.”

The session ended before I had a chance to speak. The gathering broke up, but Justice Chandrachud was still at the dais, surrounded by several different groups of people. I was about to walk away, but my friend told me to get in line and ask my question. I’d never get another chance.

The crowd of people gathered before me was mostly law students, led by acquaintances of the judge. A few of these students wanted advice for law exams; most wanted selfies. I waited in line getting angrier and angrier. I made it to the head of the line, but then another one of those acquaintances cut in front of me to introduce her students. Then the judge turned away and made to leave, only to be stopped by yet another Acquaintance and her students. The judge turned to me and asked me in confusion if I was one of her students? “No,” I said meekly. “I just have a question to ask.”

Finally Zia Mody showed up and began to lead Justice Chandrachud away. By now I was in a state of dismay and ran after him, courtesy be damned. I brazenly asked my question; he nodded and smiled and gave a half-answer as he walked away conversing with Mody, perhaps discussing his overburdened schedule and the demands of his job.

Also we went home without dinner.

- ADITYA NEGI

## THIN LINE BETWEEN JINGOISM VS PATRIOTISM

I had an irritating experience while watching Aamir Khan’s Dangal recently. During the national anthem sung within the film, a few people got up. I did not. A lady next to me tapped on my shoulder suggesting that I get up too. To avoid an ugly scene I rose from my seat but later, made my point to her. I did stand during the anthem before the start of the film. Ordinary people, who honestly pay taxes, love their land, are far more patriotic than false patriots.

Jingoism, false patriotism, is causing concern worldwide with the rise of people like the U.S. President Donald Trump. That is why a Swedish television journalist in Mumbai, Malin Mandel Westberg, found it necessary to interview me on my experience while watching the film and this was aired primetime on Swedish T.V. on our Republic Day along with the coverage of celebrations.

I am happy when our sportspersons win medals for the country but the obsession with medals as depicted in Dangal, only adds to this false patriotism. A real sporting spirit goes beyond this. I am a proud Indian but having said that, I must say a true patriot should be the first to criticise wrong policies of his or her government. As Noam Chomsky has pointed out: “It would be very unpatriotic of an American not to oppose America’s war in Iraq”.

Some people have very strange ideas about being patriotic. To be a true Indian you are expected by some people to hate Pakistan. That is sad. I am very critical of many policies of the Pakistani establishment. But people everywhere are basically nice and there should be people-to-people contact.

“Be true to thine own self” as Shakespeare said. The logic behind the slogan: “Workers of the World Unite, you have nothing to lose but chains” is very good. But countries, which ruled in the name of communism, did not do a very good job in promoting this.

Mahatma Gandhi is our great asset, strength. His views on simplicity, decentralisation and environment are most precious and we should be very wary of grand-sounding ideas like India becoming a superpower, world-class and that sort of stuff. It is very deceptive, even insulting to talk in these terms when people do not have water, food, healthcare and

housing. Attaining equality, happiness for all should be our goal — it may be difficult to achieve but it is desirable. The current path of development leading to growing inequalities is dangerous. The rise of the Naxalite movement in answer to this shows there are flaws. We talk with pride about being Indians but we have colonised the lands of poor in our own country — taken away their livelihood, rivers and farms.

- Shwetal Fundea

## DUB IT!

Movie night with my friends: everyone picks a movie at random, and we draw slips with their names to see which ones we’ll be seeing. The last round, my friend pulled out a paper, read it and groaned.

“I can’t even read this. Natasha, this has to be you.”

“Oh, you pulled Kimi No Na Wa! Nice!”

Sighs of disappointment invaded the room.

“.... I brought the English version.”

“Oh, okay then! Pass the popcorn.”

Every anime/foreign film lover among us has suffered this ignominy. No one likes venturing out of their comfort zone, especially not when it comes to leisure time. On the flip side, if you’ve ever made a new friend who likes animated shows and said, “Yeah, I saw it on Netflix, I’m glad it got an English dub!” and gotten a side-eye, it’s because you’ve been severely judged. Subtitles or dubbing? The age old conundrum, that when broken down really does come to a person-to-person preference.

I’ll take subtitles any day, personally, not because of principle or anything of the sort. I actually really like dubbed series – Kakegurui and Fullmetal Alchemist Brotherhood have some top-notch dubbing – and that’s because they stuck to the source script. The major issue with dubbing is that many people take the language change as an opportunity to deflect. Sometimes this works out – the Persona 4 animation is hilarious in English mainly due to the American voice actors having fun with the lines, and Takeshi’s Castle is the novelty it is thanks to Javed Jaffrey’s commentary, which is widely different from the original. But in most cases, this derails the story and often ends up making the show or movie lose its impact.

Perhaps the funniest example might be Hindi dubbing. It wasn’t until I was older that it registered in my brain that Brock, a Pokemon Trainer, should not be aware of Karan Johar or the supposed existence of a film named ‘Soup Soup Hota Hai’. Yes, this actually happened. The source dialogue was him gushing about a famous film director in their world. In a more serious case, the Neon Genesis reboot currently airing has received tremendous backlash from fans because the English dub has deviated to a ridiculous extent, changing dialogues to the point where certain scenes and relationships between characters do not make sense in the dubbed version.

I really want dubs to progress in quality so the world can enjoy international content the way they want to, as some people genuinely don’t have the luxury of learning multiple languages. We’ll get there soon. I’d love to watch my favorite movies and shows in English, but not at the cost of the story that the original writers wanted to tell. So for now, it’s subtitles for me, no matter how much my friends complain.

--Natasha Desai



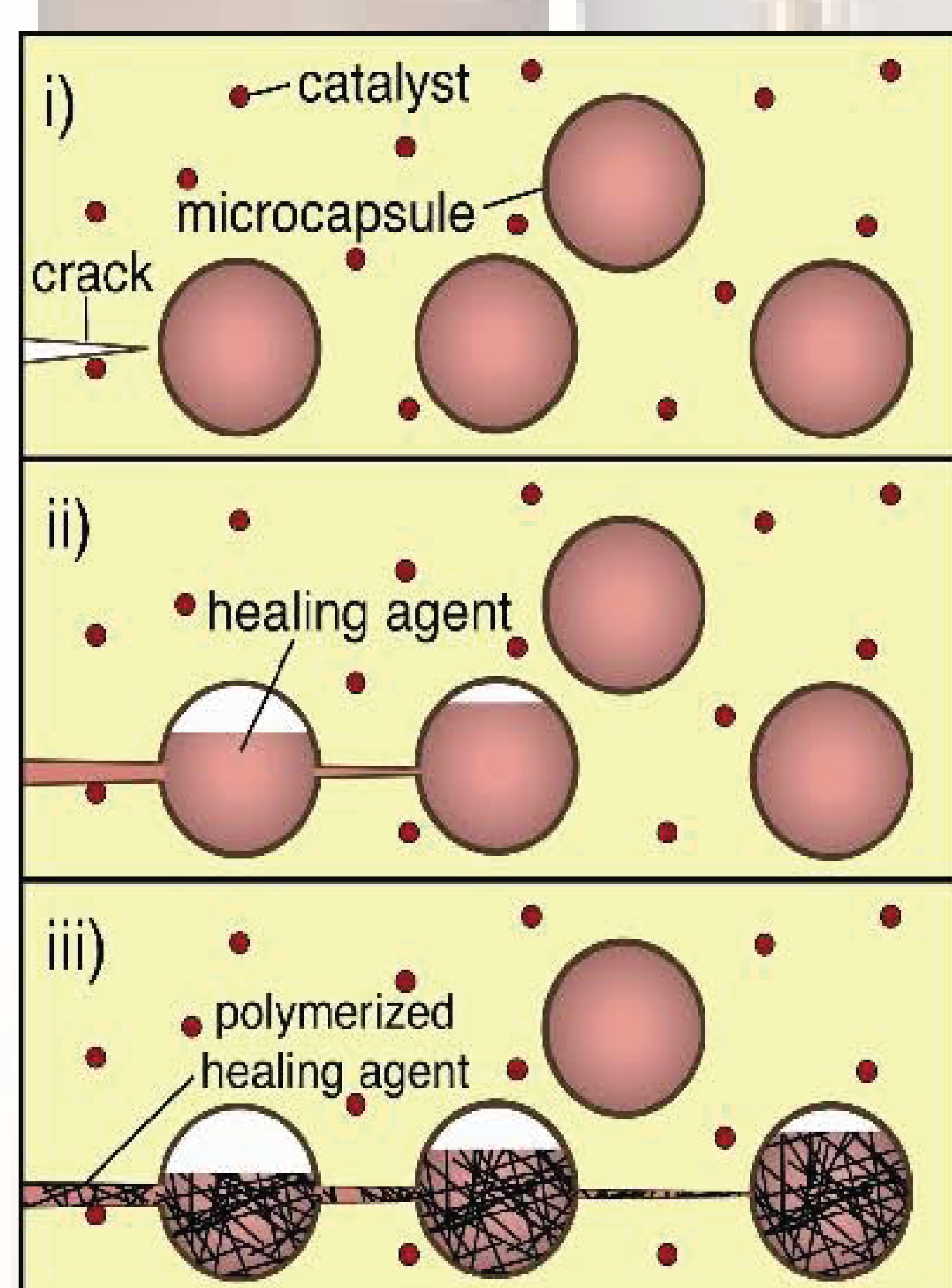
# TECH TRICKED

## The Wo!verine Of Tech Universe!

Technology is nothing but the application of science in practice. This definition is enough to tell us that technology is exclusively dependent on hardware. It is evident that many devices or gizmos tend to lose their efficiency over large elapses of time. This is mostly because of the microscopic wear and tear of the substances that the device is made of. As a cure to this inconvenience, wolverine materials or 'self-healing' materials are used. The self healing technology is a widely recognized field of study in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

era of enhanced consumer experience, infrastructure maintenance, environmental management, as well as countless unprecedented and unique applications resembling those in science fiction. Wolverine materials are used in many industries such as automotive, biomedical, construction, electronics, marine, telecommunication, wearable technology, aerospace and deep space exploration etc. Getting a material to automatically 'heal' itself is very much nature-inspired or biomimetic. The field of material science and engineering

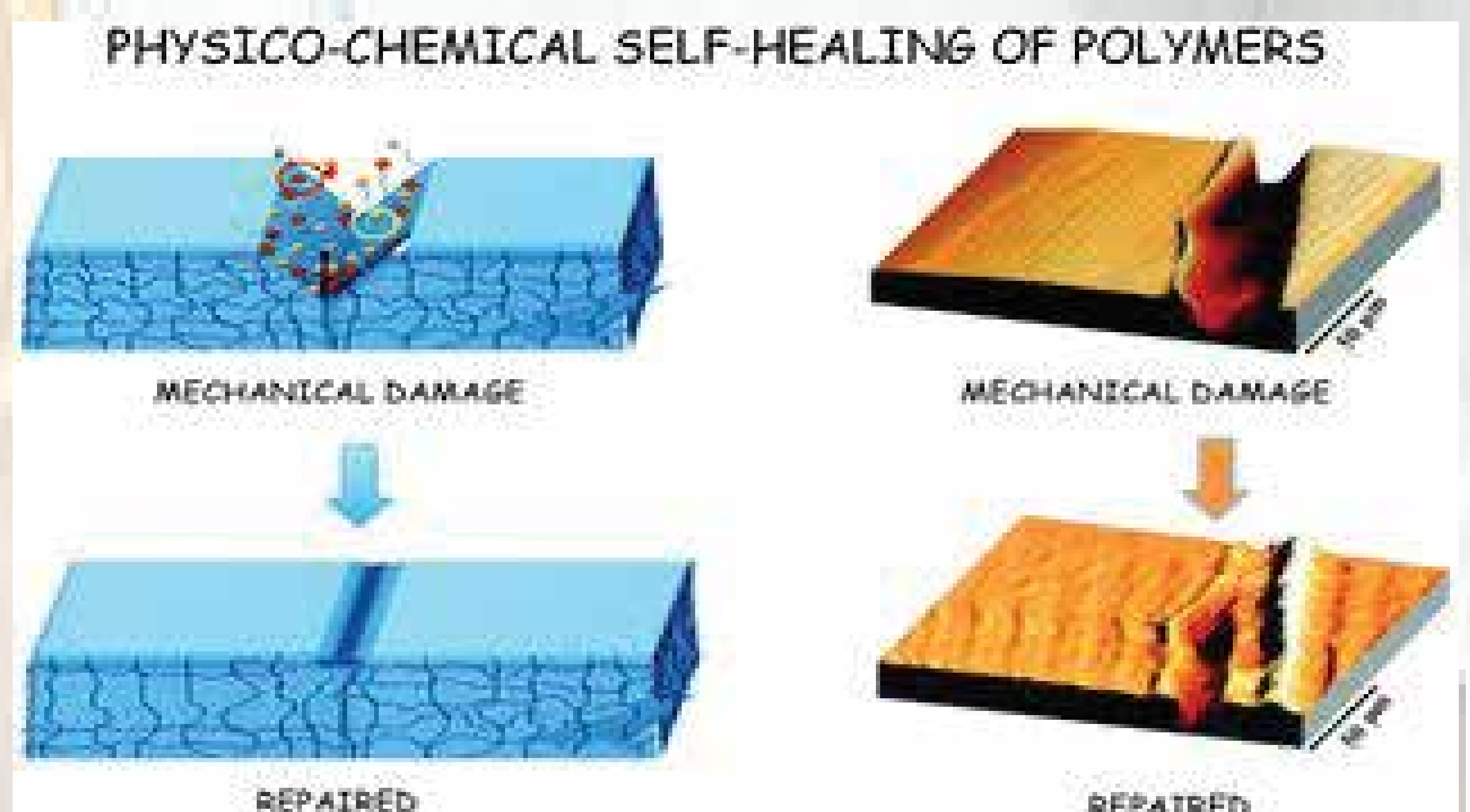
touch screen sensor capable of 'self-healing' was fabricated by laminating two composite films on an LED display to heal itself from an intentional cut. High temperatures were used to restore display functionality and sensing capabilities. The sensor was able to withstand four events of cutting-healing cycle. A research in avoiding the higher temperature for restoration is also on going so that wearables capable of self healing can be made. In terms of biotechnological applications, the self-healing sensor skin technology is highly targeted



in commercially viable quantities. In other words, further investigation is still very much needed to bring self-healing technologies into commercialization. Besides serving functional, sensory, aesthetic, and cost-saving purposes, self-healing technologies are paving the path towards sustainable development by generating less material waste resulting from replacement of faulty/defective materials. With the rapid advancements in AR(Augmented Reality), AI(Artificial Intelligence) etc. one also starts to contemplate

Basically, wolverine materials are synthetic substances which have the property or ability to respond to damage by self repairing it. The self healing technology is useful because it does not need any external diagnosis or human intervention. Over a prolonged use of devices or due to environmental conditions various properties of the material may change. This eventually leads to breakdown of the material. Cracks at their initial stage are difficult to locate. Self healing materials rule out these drawbacks. Recent years

plays an eminent role in the developments of self-healing technologies. Some prominent examples where wolverine materials are used for their rapid healing time would be wiring systems for space shuttle orbiter, conductive materials etc. As of this day self healing materials with healing periods of less than 20 seconds have been reported, where readings were taken at room temperature. Even more rapid rates of 'self-healing' (i.e. below 2 s, at elevated temperatures) exploiting the viscoelastic properties of materials have also



for bionic limbs which are susceptible to wear and tear of daily usage. Several other biotechnological applications of self-healing technologies include their uses as bio-textiles, and biomimicry artificial parts or tissues with inbuilt ability to heal themselves. 'self-healing' is also applicable to modern day textiles as chemically protective suits targeted for farmers, factory or chemical industry workers etc. with substantial commercial interest from textile producers. A few other biotechnological uses of wolverine materials are

on how to handily apply these in the developed wolverine materials or systems for boosting their performance, sustainability, and relevance in the new age.

With continuous development and integration of self healing material technologies into devices, we are slowly but surely making progress towards a whole new aspect of artificially selected evolution. It also brings to the table enhanced consumer experience, infrastructure maintenance, environmental management as well as countless unprecedented

have witnessed significant advancement in self-healing technologies. Some of the noteworthy breakthroughs in properties of wolverine materials are rapid healing time and impressive restoration of functionality. There is also an emphasis on the utilities and benefits of self-healing technologies, as well as some of the key challenges in their integration and translation. It is anticipated that with continued development and seamless integration of self-healing materials into modern-day settings, it is set to open up a new

been developed by NASA aiming for bullet-proof, aircraft, rotorcraft and spacecraft applications.

Today, wolverine materials are being actively explored by NASA to raise the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of thermal protection system applications targeted for use in space environments. Self healing does not just mean that the material possesses properties for self-mending of gaps and hardening of cracks, but also restoration of the mechanical, chemical, electrical and other functional properties of the materials. As an example, a

found in tissue engineered scaffolds, cosmetics, hair/nail cuticle coatings, etc. A pioneering research took place in the field of biotechnology which showed that ceramic materials can be imbued and self-healed by bacteria, fungus, sunflower oil etc.

As of today, the fact that self-healing electronics or textile technologies are still commercially unavailable in the consumer market today suggests that the real challenge is to scale up the production i.e emphasizing on the need to select cost-effective materials, which are also available

and unique applications resembling those in science fiction. All the advancement and breakthroughs that are happening regarding wolverine materials should be considered as the tip of the iceberg in comparison with the possibility of successful integration of self healing technology in practices. We are just getting started!

**-Suvin Mayekar**

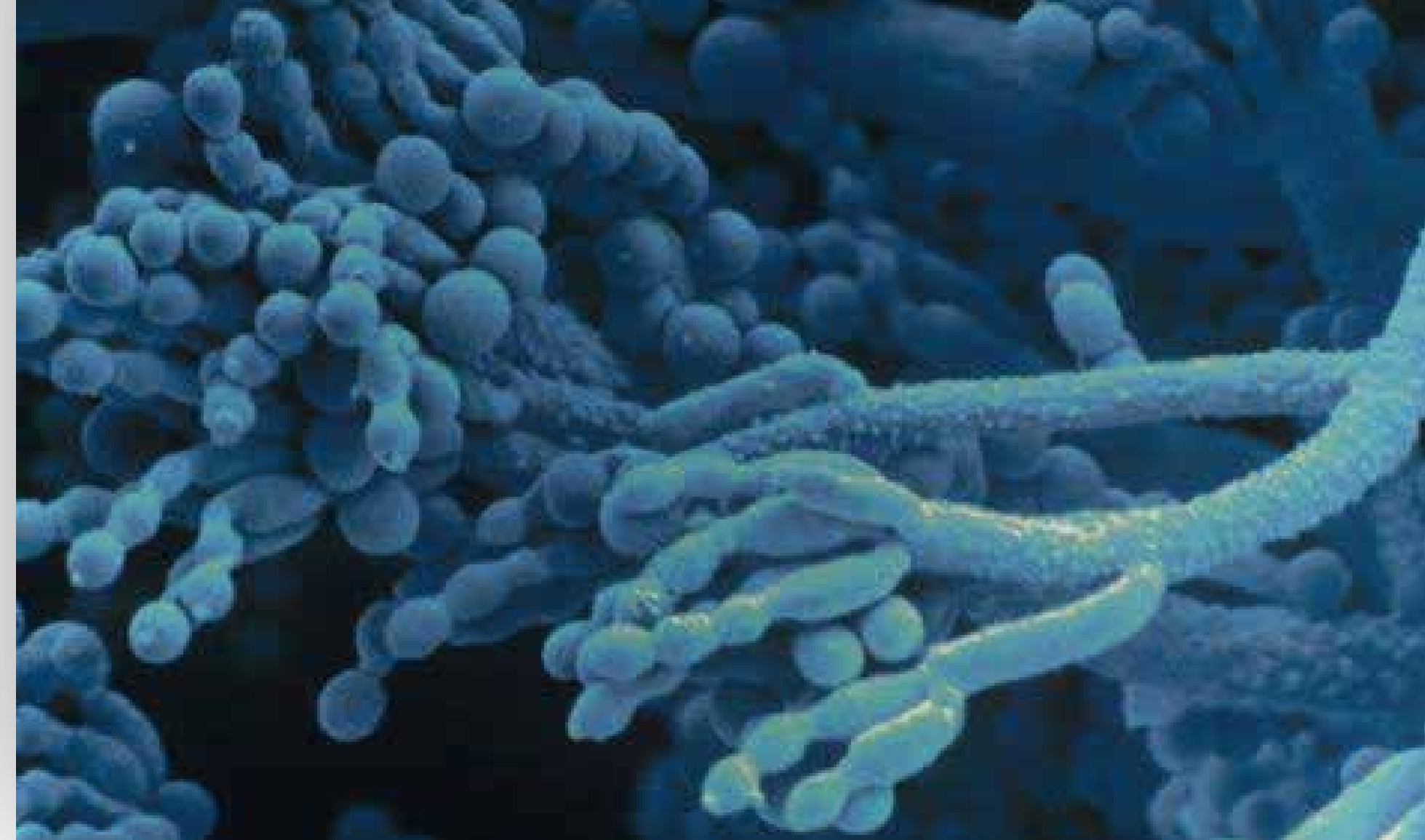
### •Glossary:

1. Biomimetic - relating to or denoting synthetic methods which mimic biochemical processes.
2. Viscoelastic - exhibiting both elastic and viscous behaviour when deformed.



# SOE

## INTO THE WORLD OF FUNGI



### Is there any connection between fungi and us?

Haven't you ever noticed that eating a perfectly cooked portobello mushroom is closer to eating meat than a salad? Well, that isn't exactly a scientific explanation of the connection, but this new revelation of our link to fungi does shed some light on the trouble we have with fungal infections in the body. It is notoriously difficult to treat fungal infections, rather than viral and bacterial pathogens, and this close genetic link may explain why.

Fungi and animals are both eukaryotes, with nuclei and other complex structures inside their cell membranes, whereas bacteria are much simpler – composed of just genetic material and a cell wall. Therefore, when we try to fight a bacterial infection, the body is able to easily differentiate and neutralize the threat. Unfortunately, with fungal infections, the body sometimes thinks that the infection is... us. Drugs that are synthesized to fight the cells of fungal infections may also attack healthy human cells, as there is very little structural difference.

This is certainly a problem for medical treatment, but it's also a fascinating bit of news about our common ancestors. So, this is how fungi makes a vital part of our life. Next time you ask for mushrooms on your pizza, remember that it's slightly closer to cannibalism than just ordering onions!

Think back to the last time you took a stroll through a dense, overgrown forest. You probably saw a variety of plant life – vines, bushes, moss, trees, and fallen logs. A forest is one of the best places to see the circle of life at its most beautiful, which is life balanced with death. But what happens when these plants die? This month we're going to learn about the unavoidable organisms which are harmful to humans, but also play an important role in our lives.

When things die in nature, they begin to break down and decompose, which is where fungi come into play. Fungi belong to a kingdom all their own, just like animals, plants, monera (bacteria), and protista (algae). Fungi are eukaryotic organisms that absorb nutrients from other organic matter. Therefore, when a tree falls or an animal dies, fungi are typically the first on the scene to begin the natural process of decomposition.

Fungi are inextricably linked to our lives and livelihoods. They affect our health, food, industry and agriculture in both positive and vexing ways.

Fungi are sources of important medication. The antibiotics penicillin and cephalosporin, as well as the drug cyclosporine, which helps to prevent transplant rejection, are all produced by fungi. Yet by the same token, fungi produce toxins called mycotoxins that are harmful to us. For example, *Aspergillus* fungi that grow on corn and peanuts produce aflatoxins. This mycotoxin is considered a carcinogen and has been linked to liver cancer.

Yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) is essential to the fermentation of wine and beer, and to the baking of raised, fluffy bread. The characteristic azure hue of blue cheese is due to the sporulation of the fungus *Penicillium roqueforti*.



Neha Raut  
TYBSc Bioanalytical

## Genetic Food!

Combining genes from different organisms is known as recombinant DNA technology and the resulting organism is said to be 'Genetically modified (GM)' or 'Transgenic'. GM foods are foods produced from plants or animals whose DNA has been altered through recombinant DNA technology as mentioned above.

At present there are several GM crops used as food sources. As of now there are no GM animals approved for use as food, but a GM salmon has been proposed for FDA approval.

Some of the most common GM food includes Tomatoes, Cotton, Golden Rice, Soy, Corn, etc.

A number of animals have also been genetically engineered to study diseases and subsequently test drugs. GM animals are crucial in medical research. Transgenic animals are routinely bred to carry human genes, or mutations in specific genes, thus allowing the study of the progression and genetic determinants of

### Some benefits of genetic engineering in agriculture are

- Increased crop yields.
- Reduced costs for food or drug production, reduced need for pesticides.
- Enhanced nutrient composition and food quality.
- Resistance to pests and diseases, greater food security
- Developing crops that mature faster and tolerate drought, frost, and other environmental stressors.
- Production of ornamental plant products.

Some issues with GM foods are unknown health effects on human body, damage to other organisms that thrive in the environment, and lack of knowledge about their long-term effects on human beings.

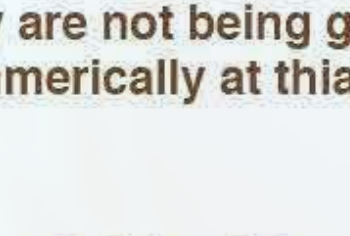
Overall, GMO crops are relatively new, and researchers know little about their long-term safety and health effects. There are several health concerns regarding GMO foods, and evidence for them varies. Reaching a conclusion will require more research.

## GMO Foods

### Tomato



Tomatoes have been genetically modified, but they are not being grown commercially at this time



### Alfalfa

GMO alfalfa is contaminating non GMO alfalfa crops at a rapid rate



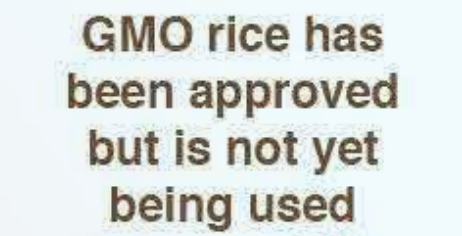
### Cotton

At least half of cotton grown in the world is GMO

### Rice



GMO rice has been approved but is not yet being used commercially



### Wheat

Unapproved GMO has contaminated wheat fields, and we don't yet know the extent of it

### Sweet Corn



More than 70 percent of corn grown in the United States has been genetically engineered



### Sugar Beets

90% of Sugar Beets (used to make 50% of our sugar) are GMO

### Summer Squash



Farmers don't like GMO squash but some experts say GM squash have blended with wild squash



### Salmon

GMO salmon has not been approved by the FDA, but it will be very soon



### Soy

More than 93% of soybeans the United States produces are genetically modified

### Canola Oil



87% of canola grown commercially, and 80% of wild canola is GMO



### Peas

Peas have been genetically modified but are not approved or available

### Yeast



GMO yeast for wine has been approved



### Hawaiian Papaya

Most Hawaiian papaya is GMO, even many organic crops are contaminated

organic lifestyle  
MAGAZINE

Prajakta Velankar

TYBSc Bioanalytical Sciences

## POISONOUS PLANTS

### Gympie-Gympie

Don't let its harmless, fuzzy-leaved appearance fool you: the Gympie-Gympie stinging tree will leave you in agonising pain from the gentlest touch.

Gympie-Gympie is its common name, its scientific name is *Dendrocnide moroides*. It is one of the three stinging trees of Australia. It is found in rainforests in Northeastern Australia, the Moluccas and Indonesia. The leafy bush with the heart shaped foliage is covered with hollow, hair like stinging needles that contain powerful neurotoxin that causes excruciating pain. The gympie-gympie's active compound, moroidin, is so persistent that it has been known to torture its victims for over a year if its stinging hairs are not

### Water Hemlock

Water hemlock (*Cicuta* spp.) is one of the deadliest poisonous plants in North America. It contains a deadly toxin called Cicutoxin, which is a mild convulsant. It acts on the central nervous system. Roots are especially toxic but ingestion of any part of the plant can be fatal.

So now be careful whenever you go to a forest or a place with lots of plants because even a harmless looking plant can be poisonous.

### White snakeroot

White snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*), also called white snailc, is a poisonous North American herb of the aster family (*Asteraceae*).

White snakeroot contains toxin called tremetol. When white snakeroot is consumed by cattle, the milk gets contaminated with toxin. Ingesting such infected milk causes 'milk sickness' in humans, condition marked with vomiting, constipation, weakness and can even be fatal.

### Castor beans

*Ricinus communis* i.e. Castor is widely grown as an ornamental plant native to Africa. We all know the medicinal uses of castor oil. But the seeds from which the oil is extracted are first processed because the castor seed contains a toxic substance called ricin. The seeds cannot be chewed as it causes removal of seed coat and release of ricin which can cause deadly effects. For release of ricin mastication is necessary. Whenever you see beautiful castor bean don't get fooled by its beauty and chew it as now you know it contains the toxic ricin.

Sanika Upadhye

TYBSc Bioanalytical Sciences





# FICTIONALLY YOURS

## THE BEWITCHING HOUR

“Clear.”  
The corpse on the table jumped into the air before falling back again.  
Samantha closed her eyes, utterly devastated.  
“Time of death, 2:56 AM.”  
It had not been four hours since her first shift at the hospital had begun. Mr. Saunders, a man in his mid-forties with a tumour on his kidney, was her second patient of the night. With her qualifications and experience, it was a comparatively easy surgery; yet, he had flatlined. Second patient, second death.  
Doubt gnawed at the edges of Samantha’s mind. She began thinking if she had lost her touch. It wasn’t her first job. Samantha had worked as a surgeon for a good ten years – before giving it up. She left on her husband’s insistence, to dedicate time to raising a family. Immense pressure laid itself on her shoulders in the form of her in-laws and toxic husband. Now, divorced and still childless, she felt the need to go back to her old routine, just for the sake of normalcy. As she rinsed her hands, she stared through the

glass of the OT. Mr. Saunders face flashed before her eyes – him grinning, giving her a thumbs-up, ready for surgery.  
The glass faintly reflected her stare back at her. Her pale skin was a stark contrast against her dark, piercing eyes. You can’t blame yourself. Some people are just meant to go.  
Nodding at her own advice, she glanced down at her hands and froze.  
She felt a cold, sticky liquid spread over her abdomen. Blood coated her hands, her own wrists slashed. Crimson stained the while cloth covering her midriff, spreading rapidly.  
Samantha’s mouth went dry. Panic rose in her chest, ringing in her ears, seizing her limbs. She stayed absolutely still as the blood dripped onto the sink below her in a slow, steady rhythm. A child’s laugh echoed around the room. Immediately her mind flitted back to the first patient of the night – Nicholas. That was Nicholas. Nicholas was in for a transplant, but something ruptured and the blood loss was too much. He had bled to death, right from his abdomen, spewing from

the torn artery.  
“Are you sure nothing will happen to me?”  
“No, baby. You’re going to get better. This will make you better.”  
Samantha’s eyes prickled. Those were the assuring words she had told him before the surgery, but she could’ve sworn Nicholas was right next to her ear.  
“Dr. Taylor?” One of the Matrons asked cautiously.  
“Are you alright?”  
Samantha could suddenly move again. She licked her dry lips and swallowed hard. Her hands were damp with water, and some of the water had splashed onto her scrubs. What was she to tell the Matron? That she was hallucinating?  
“I’m fine, thank you,” she said with a watery smile, her voice sounding not quite her own.  
“This is not a very good time to be in the OT,” said the Matron, stocking the plastic gloves at the side of the sink. “It’s the bewitching hour.”  
“Oh, nonsense,” Samantha laughed awkwardly, trying to steady herself. “Back at my old place,

we conducted surgeries till dawn. It’s not unheard of...”  
Samantha’s heart rate spiked.  
A red t-shirt and blue jeans sat on the floor. Nicholas was happily inspecting his yellow toy car, making it zoom through the air. He paused, noticing Samantha looking at him, and smiled. His eyes were pitch black.  
“Dr. Taylor?” The Matron grabbed her arm. Her fingers were cold against Samantha’s warm skin. “Oh, sweetie. Perhaps you’d like to come with me?”  
Samantha’s gaze snapped to the Matron’s face. She had a kind expression on, but somewhere in those eyes, something was off.  
Or was it the paranoia talking?  
“Yes,” Samantha found herself whispering. “Please. I want to leave.”  
The Matron laced her fingers with Samantha’s and gently tugged her out of the room. Nicholas looked up accusingly, as if she betrayed him by leaving.  
The Matron led her down several corridors. Being new to the place, Samantha didn’t know where she was being taken, but she trusted the Matron. As she walked, she only seemed to panic more. Sweat broke out across her forehead, the base of her neck, trickling down her spine. The air seemed much colder. Her mouth was dry with every breath

she sucked in and forcibly pushed out.  
The Matron was grumbling under her breath. “I did everything you asked. Of course I did. What more do you want?”  
They turned another corner. Samantha’s head spun. “Matron, where are we going?”  
“You’ll see, sweetheart.” Then again, with a softer tone: “Oh, be quiet.”  
“Matron...” Samantha felt lightheaded. “Can we slow down a bit? I’m a little dizzy.”  
“We’re almost there.” Her grip on Samantha tightened painfully.  
“Stop,” Samantha gasped, tears pricking her eyes.  
“You’re hurting me. Please let go.”  
Another thought struck her. Where was everyone? She couldn’t see any patient rooms either. What ward of the hospital was this?  
Suddenly, the Matron pushed her roughly into a room. Samantha cried out and fell, hitting her head on the wheel of a trolley. Pain erupted in her skull. Spots of green and black bordered her vision. With shaking fingers, she pressed the back of her head slightly, propping herself up against the drawers on the wall.  
Blood. Is it real?  
Her gaze went up to where the Matron was frantically opening drawers, searching for something. Through blurry eyes, she made out that apart from

the door, the walls had lockers on them from floor to ceiling.  
It wasn’t a something. It was a someone. The morgue.  
Nausea flooded her belly, swirled dangerously with dread. Fear, pure and unadulterated, crawled up her throat and choked her slowly. Her head pounded.  
“W-what are you doing?” She croaked, trying to regain control of her body, with no avail.  
The Matron yanked open an empty locker and pulled out the ice drawer. She turned to Samantha with obsidian eyes.  
“Doctor Taylor,” she said slowly, “Do you remember all the people that have died at your hands?”  
Talk to her, Samantha’s common sense pulled through. Stall for time.  
“I r-remember most of t-them,” Samantha’s voice trembled.  
“Most? Not all?” The Matron laughed, the sound echoing ominously in the empty room. “How sad to think there were so many.”  
“I’m sorry about all of them,” Samantha whispered, her voice cracking in fear. “I really am.”  
Suddenly, the Matron had her icy fingers around Samantha’s neck. Samantha struggled frantically against her, clawing at her face, kicking and screaming.

The Matron slammed her head against the marble floor. Samantha sobbed as her head exploded in pain again, curling in on herself.  
“And what about your child, Samantha? Do you remember that death?”  
“I...” How did she know about that?  
“You killed your own baby,” The Matron whispered coldly. “I know. I know of all your crimes.”  
Samantha screamed as her stomach twisted in self-hatred. “You don’t understand! That was...”  
No one knew her secret. For years, she believed it was her fault. But who would explain the truth? To bring new life in a world like hers. In a world where she herself wasn’t happy. In a world where she wasn’t allowed to do what she wanted to do.  
“It’s you.” The Matron stood up and grabbed a syringe from the table. “You’re the one, aren’t you? You killed my Nicholas too.”  
“Matron, please,” Samantha begged, her hands shaking over her ears. She could barely hear herself over the sound of her heart thudding against her chest. “Please. Let me go. I’m sorry for what I’ve done. Please.”  
“I wish I could, sweetie. But someone has to go. She wants her share. She needs to eat. It’s either me or you, and I’d rather it be you. Killer. Murder-

er. You’re unworthy.”  
Samantha felt the Matron grabbing her hand again. “No! No!” She desperately tried to move her body, but even her attempts were sluggish.  
“Help! Someone, please!”  
“No one is coming, you idiot.” Something cold, pressed itself against the inside of Samantha’s arm.  
Liquid fire burned through her arm, spreading up to her shoulder, her chest, her torso. Samantha writhed in agony as the fire burned through her body, broken sounds barely leaving her throat. Through the haze, she felt herself being lifted from the ground. This is how I die, she thought. Her husband’s face flashed before her, before the Matron’s distorted image appeared. She held Samantha down as she towered over her.  
Samantha entered utter darkness as the Matron slid the drawer closed.  
Bang!  
“Dr. Taylor? Are you alright?”  
Samantha’s head snapped to where the Matron was standing.  
They were in the room beside the OT. The faucet was still running, the water flowing over Samantha’s hands.

“This is not a very good time to be in the OT,” the Matron moved the same blue box of plastic gloves beside the sink. “It’s the bewitching hour.”  
Samantha’s blood ran cold.

--Rhea Prabhu, SYJC Arts



# ART Wall



Rutuja Naigade



Asavari Shinde



Namita Gosai



Amruta Joshi

## Roaming around the city (RATC)

### Delta nutritives



A Italian gelato supply manufacturer. This company believes in making air free creamy well proceeded gelato. Amongst all the gelato shops in and around mumbai get their products form this company.

The location: Delta Nutritives Pvt. Ltd.  
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