



the RUIAITE monthly

THE EDITORIAL

Namaskar, fellow Ruiaites! Wasn't it just now that we turned a new leaf and started with the new academic year in college? Phew, here we are, enjoying the mid-term vacation, and relishing the fresh and crisp October edition of the Ruiaites Monthly! Here is another good one for you guys, garma garam, just out of the oven!

It was a significant journey on the part of Indians till the day the Supreme Court decriminalized Section 377, a step to warmly embrace freedom and choice. The spirits of Ruiaites soared high with Rose Day Celebrations, and with it, came a sentiment of pride when Ruia College crowned a transgender student as Rose Queen. Read the exclusive Rose Day

report in this edition. Know what Anjali Siroya, Ruia's Rose Queen has to say to us; and the details of section 377, along with the LGBTQ Community in a collaboration of Op-ed and Behind the Scenes.

October edition is a journey through past, present, and future: Explore the era of Romantic and Gothic Ages in Fictionally Yours, Price Rise of Petrol leading to Bharat Bandh in Buzz Around, and discover the careers that are going to play a crucial role in future in Career Wise. Does your fear for something get you every time you try to do something? Gain an insight into the topic in this month's Insight. Grammar Nerds, The Final WORDict by Open Forum will be

on Typeface and Fonts, so brace yourselves! Is there a San Junipero like the one in Black Mirror in real life too? Find out in Tech-tricked. High functioning sociopaths, here we are, with The Science through Deduction in Science of Everything. Finally, take cognizance of the spiritual travel destinations in Safarnama, and compliment the very talented artists of Ruia, with their artworks exhibited on the Art Wall!

We hope that the upcoming semester would be as colorful and happening as this one! We wish you a very happy reading! Cheers!

REPORTS

Monsoon Sports Report:

The much-awaited Monsoon Sports event was conducted by the Ruia Student Council on August 31 and September 1, 2018. The students were possessed by the spirit of the occasion. The two-day long event consisted of various games, both indoor and outdoor.

The day started off with table tennis, in which each serve foretold a fierce fight of skill. Next, the intellect of students was put to the test by engrossing games of chess. Carrom and arm wrestling both saw huge turnouts. A hundred hearts beat excitedly, and one could feel the adrenaline rush spread all

over the quadrangle.

The outdoor games drew not only a large group of participants but also an even larger to support their friends and classmates all day long. Badminton was the first outdoor event to be played. It was followed by foot volleyball, a unique hybrid of football and volleyball. The teams put up a spirited and united display, and the excitement and thrill was felt by every onlooker present. Box cricket delighted every cricket fan and created a stadium-like ambience with constant, deafening applause and cheers coming from the spectators. Tug-of-war put the physical strength of the participants to the test and the teams

proved that the right mix of balance and physical ability can pave the path to victory.

The star events of the Monsoon Sports were Rink Football, which only got more exciting with each goal scored, and blind cricket, in which vision proved not to be a prerequisite for its participants. Everyone enjoyed themselves throughout the games, filling the quadrangle with smiles and cheers.

All that is good comes to an end, though, and so did the Monsoon Sports. At the prize distribution, each winning team received trophies, medals and certificates. Here's to an equally vibrant Monsoon Sports next year!

Chemistry Department Program

September 5, Ruia college

A lecture on the topic of "Elements of Chemistry and Industry" was organized by the Department of Chemistry and Ruia Science Association.

The event was held in F11 and was graced by a big audience. The chief speaker was Padmavibhushan Professor M.M. Sharma, former Director at the Institute of Chemical Technology and the first Indian engineer to be a fellow of The Royal Society, UK. He earned his doctorate degree from Indian Institute

of Technology, Delhi; and was awarded the 'Padmavibhushan' in the year 2001.

The HOD of the chemistry department, Mrs. Jyoti Patwardhan commenced the event by welcoming Professor Sharma, Mrs. Shyamala Rao, and Dr. Sathe.

The lecture was held in the memory of late Principal A. P. Rao of Ramnarain Ruia College. The program was hosted by Mr. Manish Haate of the chemistry department. He also introduced the guest speaker and stated the achievements of Professor Sharma. A special felicitation of the academic achievers at the graduation level was organized for students who excelled in

Masters at different platforms and were awarded by Prof. Sharma.

Professor Sharma delivered a lecture where he stated: "Chemistry is everything, chemistry is everywhere, the entire world is chemistry". He gave an exhilarating speech about the uses of chemistry in industries. He explained several products and the way they are manufactured along with the difficulties that can arise. He guided the students through their doubts and encouraged them towards having a successful career in the regarded field.

Mrs. Jyoti Patwardhan proposed the vote of thanks and ended the program.

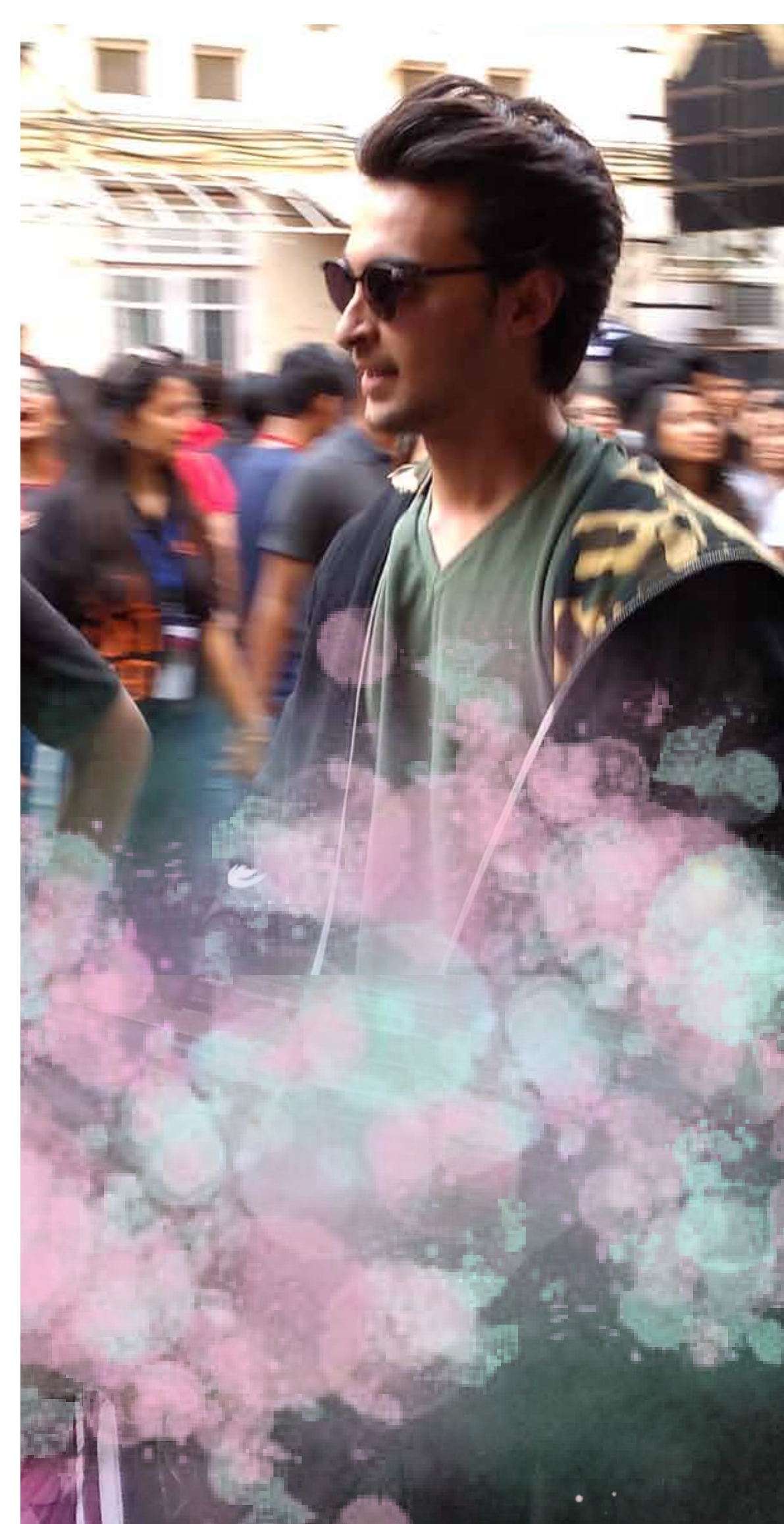
Rose Day Gets Remarkable; Celebrates #Pride In True Sense!

Ruiaite Monthly: September 8, 2018, witnessed the most awaited, love-filled event of the year, Rose Day. With 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani' set as the core theme, the vigor and enthusiasm of the crowd was quite palpable in the Quadrangle. The eccentric decoration imbuing the theme perfectly was quick enough to seek attention, all thanks to vibrant VPM platoon.

Ruiaites started gushing in the quadrangle post afternoon and in no time were down on the dance floor. Zeal and energy were rising constantly amidst students as they grooved to foot-tapping numbers. Meanwhile, the crowd was graced by 'LoveYatri' actor Aayush Sharma whose enthusiastic entry elevated the excitement to whole new level. After enjoying the 'Chogada' beats with students, he distributed the much-awaited 'Vidyarthyancha Raja' t-shirts amongst the crowd.

The competitive spirit started clouding when judges prominent in their respective fields, namely FilterCopy fame Apoorva Arora and actor-singer Siddharth Menon, entered. Participants who already had delivered their best in previous rounds added the oomph to the event with their sizzling ramp walk and impressive expression of opinions. While Arjun Nair was crowned as the Rose King, Anjali Siroya emerged as the limelight of the evening by setting a record of being the first transgender to participate in Ruia Rose Day contest and winning the title of Rose Queen.

Superlative zest, rhythmic bodies and wide grins on content faces marked the end of this indelible event!



BUZZ AROUND

DECRIMINALISATION OF SECTION 377

On 6th September 2018, the Indian LGBT community breathed a sigh of relief and freedom. It was on this day the SC decriminalized section 377.

Earlier section 377 referred to 'unnatural offenses' and states: Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life. This unjust and unfair law was decriminalized. The Supreme Court decriminalized consensual adult sex saying sexual orientation is natural and people have no control over it. This 158-year-old law was put forth by the Britishers to curb unnatural intercourse.

There have been many positive developments in favor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community on the international front. In May 2015, Ireland legalized same-sex marriage. The country which had decriminalized homosexuality in 1993 became the first country to allow same-sex marriage a national level by popular vote.

France, UK, Canada, United States, Australia, and Brazil have decriminalized homosexuality. Other countries like Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg,

Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and Uruguay allow either same-sex marriage or a civil union.

So let us have a look at reasons why some people argued in favor of section 377

Many child activists criticise Delhi HC judgment to decriminalize section 377 as it is needed to be on the statute book to tackle cases of child abuse.

Homosexuality or other forms of sex are criticising as these are against the law of nature.

Further homosexuality is against the norms or morals of society and religion.

A hard scientific truth is that any sex other than the natural cause of many serious ills in the human beings. For example, homosexuals are more prone to sexually transmitted diseases like AIDS etc than any normal person.

Now let's see why people are against section 377:

Section 377 is in violation of Right to Privacy and Right to Life as you can't restrict the freedom of consenting people as far as their freedom is not hurting anyone else.

This section is just an instrument of exploitation and it is almost not possible to decide what type of sex

two consenting individuals are having in private. It has been noted that section 377 is mostly used to harass sex workers and AIDS/HIV affected people.

Any person can be arrested on the base of suspicion like any two males are holding their hands while walking on the road.

We have seen both the sides now and so did the SC. Like any other decision, some will be happy with this while some may not. People who are against this decision have put forth some points which are morally and scientifically right, even though one cannot simply label a person criminal just on the basis of their sexual orientation. I personally felt homosexuality to be weird and unnatural, but after researching about this, reading to what many psychiatrists had to say, I came to know that it wasn't weird or unnatural. It depends on how you look at it, your mentality and the way you see them that matters most. Talking about the LGBT community, they have no choice over their sexuality. In fact, they shouldn't have, because what they feel or are wired with is totally natural.

PUSHKAR BHATLEKAR

SIMPLY PUT

Price Rise of Petrol (Causes and effects)

The rise in petrol and diesel prices has been making news for the last week or so. Change in fuel price indeed has far-reaching effects as it impacts ranges from daily budgets to macroeconomics. The Congress and several opposition parties observed the Bharat Bandh on 10th September over the rising fuel prices. Here is the roundabout of what is happening and why it matters -:



1. What are the causes of the price rise of petrol?

There are two reasons for the hike in the petrol prices - Rising International crude prices and the depreciation of rupee versus the US dollar. There is an increase in the demand for petrol in the domestic sector. Almost 80-90% of the country's entire income is spent to pay the import bills on petroleum products. The increasing demand for petrol is more than supply, thus resulting in the price hike.

2. What are the effects of the price rise of petrol?

Petrol hike directly or indirectly affects all major sectors like transportation, textiles, auto, FMCG etc for manufacturing and transportation. It affects the common man the most. Increase in petrol rise increases the

transportation cost which increases the price of the goods that creates a hole in the pocket especially to those who are trying to make both ends meet and the fixed salary middle-class families.

3. What is the Government's stand on the price hike of petrol?

The Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan expressed his views and assured that the Government is considering ways to keep the petrol price in check. However, he further made it clear that the government needed revenue for 'developmental needs.' And that the Centre and States bank on tax revenues to meet developmental needs. Forty-two percent of collections from excise duty (on petrol and diesel) goes to States and 60% is used to fund Centre's share

in the developmental scheme in states.

4. How is the petrol price calculated?

Petrol prices are calculated on the basis of worldwide supply and demand factors. Foreign suppliers sell crude oil to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in India at benchmark prices. Delivery price at the refinery and Brent crude's daily price are considered to calculate the actual cost of petrol in India. To calculate price, US dollars are converted to Indian rupee and then divided by 160.

Petrol Price = Cost of Distillation, refining + Crude custom levy+ Transportation charges + VAT + Commission of dealer + Total duty + Taxes (Central and State)

5. What can we as citizens do about the situation?

- 1) Reduce Oil consumption by using public transport for daily traveling.
- 2) Use cycles to go to nearby places instead of bikes and cars.
- 3) Develop alternate sources of energy like solar energy, bio-diesel.

As someone has rightly said, "Natural resources are not something we inherit from our forefathers but something we borrow from our children."

SWATI ACHWAL
FYBA

TOP TEN NEWS

Supreme court abolishes section 377 of Indian penal code, decriminalizing gay sex.

Rafale deal controversy heats up due to an involvement of Anil Ambani's Reliance Defence

Share market fluctuates adversely as Sensex, NIFTY lowers throughout the September.

Rupee hits the new low of ₹73 per USD as it continues to slide

India finishes 8th in Asian games held in Indonesia with one of the best ever performance in the history of the games

Petrol price reaches ₹90 in Mumbai, price hike results in opposition's protest all over the country (also Bharat Bandh).

Bombay High Court permits cutting of Aarey forest for Mumbai Metro phase 3 car shed.

Ban on DJs for Ganpati Visarjan processions, yet noise pollution levels continue to rise.

Goa CM Manohar Parrikar drops 2 BJP ministers from cabinet for medical conditions, who himself is undergoing treatment at AIIMS Delhi.

Naomi Osaka beats Serena Williams in a controversial US Open final, Novak Djokovic wins the Men's title.

Tweet of the Month



Narendra Modi
22.09.2018

Today Odisha got its second airport in Veer Surendra Sai Airport at Jharsuguda. It is a matter of immense joy for the state and I hope it enhances connectivity in the region.

ADYA
SYBSC

CHINMAY PARULEKAR
SYBSC



CAREER WISE

A PEEK INTO THE FUTURE

“The future lies in your hands, heart, and mind.”

Unlike the present scenario, the careers of the future will be based more on passion and inclination. Let's look at some of the careers that will gain huge popularity in the coming world.

E-Sports

“That's going to be game! Team Optic Gaming are your 2018 world champions!” yells the commentator over the mic. Not many people understand the meteoric growth of e-sports. E-sports are electronic sports - in other words, video games in their various forms and genres. The most common video game genres associated with e-Sports are fighting, real-time strategy (RTS), first-person shooter (FPS), and multiplayer online battle arena (MOBA). The legitimacy of e-sports as a sports competition still remains in question. However, they have been featured alongside traditional sports in multinational events, and the International Olympic Committee has explored incorporating them into future Olympic events.

Can e-sports really be a real career?

Yes, they can be! According to an e-sports observer, the total money

earned by gamers through e-sport in 2013 was about forty-eight million US dollars. Shocked? The total number of tournaments was almost 2800 in 2015, with some having a seventeen - million - dollar prize pool. This shows a glimpse of the industry's value. This has caused e-sports to become a serious career option.

Why has the industry been getting all this attention lately?

The increase in viewership is causing e-sports to grow rapidly, making it a multi-billion dollar industry. It makes enough to support teams in a region, pay players, and even have those players earn extra money by winning tournaments. And most importantly, a life of gaming is great fun!

Now that you have made up your mind, here are the ways to make a career in it.

To become a professional e-sports player or have a career in the industry, the steps

are similar to any other career. Everyone starts in high school, then goes to college and later moves onto the professional level. Similar to traditional sports, gamers must be on a team every year to keep improving and advancing. Eventually, skilled gamers get drafted into professional play.

Many traditional athletes argue that a career in e-sports isn't really a career. However, it has all the aspects of a regular sport- except for the fact that it is not athletic in nature. To conclude, the e-sports industry has boomed so rapidly that it has created a valid career that holds a vast audience captive across the world. So next time your mom shouts at you for constantly being fixated on video games, why not give a thought of making them your living and enjoying each moment of it?

Conservation Scientist

India has developed rapidly in the industrial, scientific, digital, medical and arts fields. There has been an evolution in these sectors because India has a tremendous number of people working in them. We as citizens take pride in and are inspired by, this transformation in our country. However, we also talk about the problems in our natural habitat regularly - but then mostly ignore careers in the environmental field.

Pollution, environmental degradation, global warming - we all have heard rants about these issues frequently. But what can we, the masses do? To tackle these issues, India needs people in the environmental science department. We do have many people

taking careers concerned with the maintenance of the environment. But one specific job that is very rarely considered by Indians is that of a conservation scientist.

Who is a conservation scientist?

A conservation scientist is someone who manages the overall land quality of forests, national parks, and other natural resources. They work with landowners and all levels of government to devise methods to use and improve the land while safeguarding the environment.

What are the steps to be a conservation scientist?

~ Get a degree in any of the life-science subjects like physics, chemistry, biology, zoology.

~ Get work experience.

~ Join as many as environment clubs as you can in college.

~ Finally, learn to be well-versed with computers.

Are you a person who loves working outdoors, adventure, and telling the world about your thrilling journey? You have found your ideal career. Worrying about salary? According to a recent survey conducted in 2018, a conservation scientist earns \$61,350 a year on average.

Times are changing and so is the environment. In the near future, conservation scientists will be in high demand. So think out of the box and give it a try for an amazing and successful future career.

Actuarial Science

Do you get confused when you see memes about 'mathematics being the toughest subject'? Do calculations excite you? Then this is the ideal career for the Aryabhata in you.

Who is an actuary?

An actuary is as a person who analyzes the financial impacts of uncertain future events. This enables individuals and organizations to make financial decisions more confidently. Their work involves analyzing the past, modeling the future, assessing the risks involved and communicating what the results mean in financial terms. Most of their work is related to the insurance sector.

How can one become an actuarial scientist?

To become an actuary one needs to pass a few actuarial exams. All these exams are based on a combination of economics, statistics, and mathematics. What are the skills one must possess?

An actuary is required to have top-notch mathematical and statistical aptitude. Most people pursuing a career as an actuary study for a BSc, a B.Com., an engineering degree, chartered accountancy, ICWA, MBA, etc. They are required to have good analytical and problem-solving skills and must be good at applying logic. They should also have business awareness and be up-to-date

with financial markets. Actuaries also need to be good with computers and programming, as most statistical work nowadays is performed using SAS, R, Python and C++ programming. They also need to be good at communication as most people don't understand statistical terminology.

How much can I earn?

Starting salaries typically lie between 1 to 2 lakhs per annum. But high-end jobs can earn one about 15 to 20 lakhs or even more annually.

To all mathematics lovers, keep your spark for calculation alive and use it throughout this growing career.

Veterinarian

Ruia and its cats are inseparable. When Ruia's students find one of those cute cats injured, they unite to treat it with love and care. To all those who love to treat animals and relieve their pain, a career in veterinary science is the one for you.

Who is a veterinarian?

A veterinary physician - usually shortened to "vet" - is a professional who practices veterinary medicine by treating diseases, disorders, and injuries in animals.

Veterinarians examine animals to diagnose their health problems, treat and dress wounds, perform surgery on animals, test for and vaccinate against diseases, operate medical equipment, advise animal owners about general care, medical conditions, and treatments, etc.

You can choose any one of the following types of veterinarians:

1) Companion animal veterinarians treat pets. Most often, they care for cats and dogs, but they also treat other pets, such

as birds, ferrets, and rabbits. These veterinarians diagnose and provide treatment for animal health problems.

2) Food animal veterinarians work with farm animals such as pigs, cattle, and sheep, which are raised to be food sources. They spend much of their time at farms and ranches treating illnesses and injuries and testing for and vaccinating against disease.

3) Food safety and inspection veterinarians inspect and test livestock and animal products for major animal diseases, provide vaccines to treat animals, enhance animal welfare, conduct research to improve animal health and enforce government food safety regulations.

You must possess these skills!

Compassion, communication skills and decision-making skills

Manual dexterity - it is important for veterinarians because they must control their hands movements and be precise when treating injuries and performing surgery.

Problem-solving skills - Veterinarians

need strong problem-solving skills because they must figure out what is ailing animals.

How to be a vet?

To be eligible for a bachelor's degree in Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry course, a candidate should have passed the class 12th (+2) examination with Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. Admission to most veterinary colleges is based on the marks obtained in the entrance examination conducted by the university concerned.

Those who want to pursue a master's degree in veterinary science or animal husbandry must have completed their bachelor's in respective branch with adequate marks.

Salary: Their average gross starting salary ranges between Rs.10, 000 - Rs.15, 000 per month.

This job guarantees a lot of time to spend with favourite animals and also pays for it. Though it is not that popular now, with increasing love for pets, this profession will gain more importance.

INSIGHT



THE MONSTERS UNDER OUR BED

Fear. One word. Four Letters. Yet, it is able to induce so many intense emotions within us. How? Why? And for what? Read along as Insight answers these questions and confronts those monsters under your bed!

IT

It follows me.

I take the train, in the compartment, I can only smell it. I dare not see it, but can feel it touching me, creeping in, seeping in, settled.

In the office, it stares back at me, reflecting on the laptop screen.

I open my lunchbox, filled with temptations, only to be disappointed. My colleague offers me respite, chocolates. Bittersweet treats, dark chocolates. I shy away.

I reach home. Going back home is comforting. The journey is.

Retracing my steps homewards, backwards.

The sunlight doesn't glare at me, the dark night sheaths, I cover myself in its coat. Darkness won't scare me.

Movement, left foot after the right, followed by left; a rhythm sets in, familiar and memorised, so I don't have to look down or back. I look up, upwards, skywards. Watch, always watching. But in the light, I'm watched.

But, space intrudes on me. It occupies me. Home. I am home. I splash water on my face, look up into the black mirror. Objects in mirror are closer than they appear.

I painted it. It was too much.

They tell me I have become a shadow of myself. How is it possible that I have become my fear?

My shadow follows me.

It follows me, and now,

I am my shadow.

The fear of self is projected onto everything else - objects, ideas, things.

Identity is lost, lost in shadows. Shadows that creep in between dark and light, like a Peeping Tom.

That which define your identity are lost; personality, qualities, individuality, lost in the sea of social constructs, constructs of beauty, success and ideals. The senses are haywire, and so is the sense of judgement.



-Tanvi Padia , SYBA

THE CLUTCHES OF FEAR

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines fear as 'an unpleasant, often strong emotion caused by expectation or awareness of danger'. Fear isn't rigid, rather it is a spectrum: one end of it is mild like worry- that inkling at the back of your head, slight restlessness, the fidgeting that might follow. Towards the other end, it strengthens into unfiltered terror- that tightening in your chest, difficulty in breathing, the cold sweat trickling down your spine.

We have often thought of fear as a basic instinct, one designed to protect us from the perception of danger we have inherited from our ancestors. However, another side of it is conditioning, slowly trickled into our lifestyles as we develop, teaching us what to fear.

When growing up as a child, we learn slowly over time to be afraid of things which are perceived as dangerous. We're warned to stay away from strangers and not to touch fire, and hence, we grow up with a healthy fear

of such things. However, sometimes certain stimuli that are completely innocuous may turn into triggers in the light of a traumatic event and strike debilitating fear into our hearts. A scarring event such as a war might result in a fear of loud noises, the bang of the door hauntingly similar to the sound of a gunshot. Fear cuts farther than knives or bullets, the wounds of which ache with phantom pains even in safety.

Babies are born with reflexes: self-protective reactions to disturbances in their environment. These reflexes fade as infants mature into alert, caring adults. A lot of about fear has to do with our awareness, which ages as we do, changing the importance of certain things for us. As we grow from fearing ghosts to our peers to paying the bills, our fears slowly become more tangible. Our instincts slowly merge with conditioning; the abstract slowly being forged into the concrete.

If fear is the expectation of danger, one thing is true: the fear caused by the perception of danger is not as much as the one caused in the avoidance of it. The only way to overcome it is to dip your toes in that murky water.

Avoiding the subject of our fear provides temporary relief but ultimately the earth-shaking terror remains. We need not be exposed to the source of fear directly. Even the slightest indication of danger tends to make us afraid. We can be subjected to such signs in a safe environment. Exposure therapy works by desensitizing our senses bit by bit until we can walk through a roomful of things that were previously triggers without even flinching.

Emotional problems manifest themselves through physical symptoms. And hence, to treat them, we must address the body as well. Emotional Freedom technique utilizes the body's

unique meridian points to restore our emotional health. Sometimes we need to visualize our fears and give them a corporeal form. Sedona method reminds us that we're the ones holding onto our fears and not the other way around, enabling us to let them go.

corporeal form. Sedona method reminds us that we're the ones holding onto our fears and not the other way around, enabling us to let them go.

Fear has existed since before the beginning of the human race and it'll likely outlast us. All it does is make the wolf look larger than it is. But perhaps what is needed to be realized is this: it is not our fear that feeds the wolf, but our unwillingness to accept it. We must let fear be, for it is but an emotion, harmless in its existence. The wolf isn't chasing us, nor is it blocking our path. All that we need is the ability to see beyond the wolf!



Anushka Nagarmath, FYBA and Lakshmi Kalarikkal, FYJC

THE LOGIC BEHIND OUR FEARS

"A person can have access to common sense, only when s/he has stilled her/his fear."

- Rhonda.

As a kid, we are 'taught' to fear things.

Why?

Simple answer, kids don't have the intellect to understand the logic behind things (well at least that's what the adults think is a rational justification). That's how we are made to fear things which go against the society's good books, i.e its framework of good deeds; either by fear of God or of punishment. Talking about the 'fear of God', humans have always been afraid of displeasing Him. That's how parents get their kids to obey and listen to them, **नाही तर देवबापूपा रागवेल हा** ! Fear has always outweighed the use of Logic because it is the simplest way of demanding unquestioned obedience. Bring in the Fear element, and people won't ask you questions about validity. Sadly, this is how, even the most logical life practices mentioned by every religion, were

were passed on to generations, under the veil of Fear. And humans- as always- were too afraid to unveil the logic behind it.

The benefit this procedure had- Society became more harmonious to live in, and no one questioned the logic. But the biggest harm it did- humans became accustomed to Fear, to such an extent that in the absence of Fear, they created their own imagined fearsome circumstances. And the situation is so weird, that people don't actually fear the potentially life-threatening conditions the most, but are more afraid of seemingly imagined panic-producing scenarios that either have less probability of occurring or aren't lethal. According to a research survey conducted by Chapman University, it was observed that the biggest fears of people are -

- 1: walking alone in the dark
- 2: becoming a victim of identity theft
- 3: internet safety

4: becoming a victim of a mass shooting.

(Note- participants were Americans)

Point is, the threats that are most lethal never appeared on this list! None of the leading causes of death such as illness, disease, cancer, etc were amongst the most feared. Rather, situations which have petty chances of occurring come up as most feared. Finding the logic behind Fear is one bizarre thing that psychologists are researching about since few decades. But that's truly interesting because, we have developed or rather evolved a very uncanny notion of Fear, which isn't anywhere near the biological prerequisite that infants are born with. It is the 'taught' version of Fear, that is nothing but a means to gain power through obedience.

In no way does that trivialize Anxiety or Phobias, as they are definitely a major concern to think about and deal with.

But the fact that Rational Emotive Behavioral Therapy (REBT) works to resolve Anxiety, by making people look for the logic behind their fears, this itself explains the need for thinking rationally.

Fear, as natural it is, will always continue to be. It is necessary for one's survival and better too. The one's concern is, how we look at it, and how rationally we overcome it. For instance, logic and fear are like Salt and Pepper. Completely different from each other, and both having distinct and individual importance. It's in our hands how we add and reduce their quantities to strike a balance for living a tasteful life.



-Sara Chavan, SYBA



OP~ED

The LGBTQ Movement

Gone are the days of discrimination. India has presented us with a new pair of glasses, to give a new perspective, be a little more inclusive...

"History owes an apology to these people and their families. Homosexuality is a part of human sexuality. They have the right to dignity and free of discrimination."

These words, of Justice Indu Malhotra on 6th September 2018 created history in India as the day became 'Second Independence Day' for LGBTQ community.

With so many questions regarding what LGBTQ community is, we've come with the answer.

LGBTQ stands as the acronym of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer. These are the people whose sexual orientation and gender identity is different from the heterosexual and cisgender majority.

In ancient Indian history, we can see

transsexual forms like Mohini, Ardhanarishwara, Shikhandi to name a few. However, the most crucial event that proved to be the turning point in the history of LGBTQ in India was the inclusion of section 377.

Section 377 was introduced in colonial India in 1830 by Thomas Macaulay. This law deteriorated the condition of the community. They were denied basic rights and were isolated from society.

In the 1990's when HIV / AIDS was creating a threat, homosexuality was linked with it. Victims of this epidemic from the LGBTQ community were ill-treated. Recurring violent and discouraging acts against the community sparked the need among people to fight for them. Thereafter many organization such as Naz foundation, Humsafar trust, Bharosa trust, Udaan trust worked for them.

With growing awareness regarding section 377 and LGBTQ community, the

pressure to take a firm decision regarding them was increasing. United Nations supported the cause on a humanitarian basis. All this resulted in the declaration of section 377 as unconstitutional.

With this decision, the Supreme Court directed the government to ensure that correct information should be broadcast to the masses regarding section 377 and the LGBTQ community. This decision has rewritten history of crores of people.

Taking a look at world scenario many countries like Canada, Norway, Belgium, Sweden, France gave equal rights and status to the LGBTQ community. However, there are more than 72 countries where homosexuality is still criminalized. We hope that the dawn of humanity that India saw on 6th September will be soon seen in those countries as well.

-Mrunal Sapale

Society and LGBTQ

The Supreme Court's decision on decriminalizing Section 377 has not only stirred a pathway for plurality in the country but also has given momentum to the queer movement.

India being a country keen about their weddings, there would be the wave of change and something exceptionally new coming up with regards to same-sex

marriage. It's time we rewrite the Indian marriage vows to welcome the change.

The increasing use of Mx. instead of the rudimentary honorific like Mr., Mrs., etc is in itself a subtle but important revision. Skipping the post-nuptial name change or coming up with a hyphenated last name is craving a pathway towards a more egalitarian and inclusive society as

couples consider each other as equal members in a commitment.

Even the representation of the queer community in movies as normal humans and not some supernatural beings helps in normalizing the situation like the character of Raymond Holt in the Netflix series Brooklyn 99.

The Flag

You've seen it at rallies, parades, and protest. You know the pride flag well. But what is the history of the Rainbow flag? It is as interesting as it is colorful.

From peace movements to political parties, the rainbow flag has been the symbol of dozens of historical and cultural organizations. In 1978, though, a gay artist and civil rights activist Gilbert Baker, alongside the Grove Street gay community in San Francisco, made the first rainbow pride flag, originally hand-stitched and hand-dyed with eight colors. By 1979, the six-color version became the official symbol for gay pride. Let's find out what the colors of the rainbow flag mean

Red - Life: The top color in the rainbow flag, red represents life.

Orange - Healing: Bright and bold, it stands for healing, a symbol especially important in light of recent events.

Yellow - Sunlight: A message about being you instead of hiding in the shadows.

Green - Nature: As it does in many other instances, green represents nature in the rainbow flag.

Blue - Serenity: When the flag changed from eight colors to six colors, the original turquoise and indigo stripes were replaced with blue, the cool and calm color that stands for serenity.

Violet - Spirit: Saving the best for last, purple, that falls at the bottom of the flag, stands for spirit.

-Lekshmi Prakash
-Disha Shanbag.

In order to highlight recent events favoring the moment, we have interviewed Anjali Siroya, a Ruiaite and proud member of the LGBTQ community. Sharing excerpts from the interview.

1. How is your life? Any significant experiences and people who inspired you?

There's nothing significant about my life. It's just like yours. Yet some people make it more difficult for us to live a normal life.

Having role models is especially important in the LGBTQ community because we feel like 'I am the only person in the world who feels the way I do'. We need people to stand up and say that it is not true. I look up to Sushant Divgikar and Laxmi Narayan Tripathi. They have inspired me a lot and have given me confidence.

Our community needs more role models. I aspire to be one to a few people. I never had a role model in my earlier college who was from my community.

I joined Ruia because of their Rose Day theme in 2015 which was 'Inclusivity'. It took me 2 years to gather the courage to participate in the Rose Day. I did it for all the people who wanted to participate but were holding themselves back.

2. What was going on in your mind before facing the huge crowd on the Rose day?

I was nervous, not because it was the first time I was facing a crowd but because it was the first time I was facing my college. Hardly any people knew me. I wanted people to see and believe that even we had talent. I wanted to prove it to myself and be the face of my community in my college. I wanted to

win the competition. I wanted to break the stereotypes and be the first trans Rose Queen.

3. What are your opinions regarding the abolition of section 377 of the IPC?

I'm very happy. On September 5th at night I found out that the said verdict was to be passed the next day. We were really nervous and then suddenly it was there. It brought people so much happiness. That's the first step taken. Having that verdict from the supreme court was not easy but having that verdict from every single house, from every parent is going to be a task.

4. How significant is it for everyone to know your sexuality and interests and accept it?

It is not necessary for everyone to know it and acknowledge it, but at some point, there are some people in your life who need to know something so personal to you. My sexuality is not a topic for people to gossip about.

There are a lot of people in our country belonging to alternative sexualities and genders. Yet our education system does not teach us about them, to accept them. We are a part of this culture but society is intolerant towards us. If they wish to not understand us then just live and let live.

5. If someone is unaware of the LGBTQ community or homosexuality, what is the best way to explain it?

First of all, parents need to understand it and accept it. They can talk about our Gods or goddesses, they have queer forms too. If the education system makes it a point to teach kids about different sexualities and including them, there's not much for the parents to do.

6. What does it feel like to be a woman?

Biological women have womanhood that is God-gifted. But that femininity is gifted to me by myself. I believe femininity does not only belong to women, but it also belongs to everything in this nature. I really like this thing in the Bhagavad Gita where Lord Krishna said that he is the only Purush and Prakriti is Naari. You cannot doubt the womanhood of nature.

7. Any advice for the teenagers?

Teenagers have spirit and energy. They are our future and can work for the betterment of the society. If they use their enthusiasm for the betterment of the society the world would be a happy place to live in.

I want to thank Ruia College and the Ruiaite Monthly to allow me to speak for the community. This brings about a lot of change for us in the college and makes it an inclusive space not only to sexualities and gender minorities but to everyone who doesn't fit into the boxes created by the society.

-Shabduli Shinde
-Mithila Kudalkar

BEHIND THE SCENES

Not So 'Straight' Forward

"The first step towards change is acceptance. The second step is acceptance."

-Nathaniel Branden

Meet a survivor of stigma and brutality, a trans woman who prefers the name Anjali. A TYBMM student, she, just like any of us, has a plethora of hobbies including fashion, shopping, painting, dancing, exploring new places and the occasional singing, among others. She prefers not being called a part of the LGBTQ+ community. "It's not about being a member of the community, it's just the way I am. I was born this way." She says the community, for her, is a means of spreading awareness about its members. She says her friends always had a hint about it and she was taken with a side of friendly humour but they were very supportive when she came out. On the contrary, her family has not adjusted to her identity.

After coming out, she felt more confident and it brought a new perspective of life for her and the world. "Because of society's intolerance and fear of acceptance, we have to go through some bad experiences." Anjali was mocked and bullied by her relatives, molested and blackmailed by friends. Growing up, she was scared to use washrooms in college



Photo by Kirsty Lee on Unsplash

or to sit with guys and walking alone in streets was a scary experience. "People tease you, try to make you uncomfortable, become violent. Train travel is sometimes so bad it makes you want to jump out of it right away."

She hopes that one day, members of the LGBTQ+ community get all the basic rights that every other Indian has. She wants the society of the future to be inclusive of everything. "No one has given society the right to choose for someone else or choose what is right or wrong." As a message to others, she says, "the fight that an individual has with themselves is the toughest; others are secondary. If

you've fought this fight, you've won half the battle. Be whatever you want to be and don't let others be the cause of your depression or sadness."

Living the life of an average 19-year-old Indian, a fellow student from Ramnarain Ruia College has been attracted to girls ever since she was in school. Choosing to stay anonymous, she wants to share some of her opinions about living a regular student life as a lesbian. To her, identifying herself as a member of the LGBTQ+ community wasn't much of a task; she felt it came to her naturally. Coming out is still a bit of an issue given that she's worried about its outcome.



Photo by Gaelle Marcel on Unsplash

Being from a family with traditional beliefs, she's unsure whether to stay hidden in the closet or be true to herself. Acceptance from her close friends and sister instilled some confidence in her. They still look at her the same way regardless of her sexuality. She recalls some brickbats from a close friend she once opened up to. "She tried telling me being a lesbian isn't 'real' and that I wasn't like that." But that didn't stop her from

being herself. And if her friend couldn't see that, it was her problem to resolve.

Regarding the recent SC verdict on Section 377, she quipped, "India certainly has a long way to go. It is something to praise, but it doesn't spread the best possible message. It's as if we can have sexual relationships with a person of the same gender but we can't marry them. You see, it's not only about finding the same-sex person attractive, but also falling in love with their souls. The move will certainly lessen the stigma in our society about LGBTQ+ community." When asked about what she would like to change about the society, she laughed and said that there were many aspects that required changing and for one, people could try being more open to new opinions and not try to stick with old ones. "It's completely okay to question yourself. It's a natural part of knowing yourself and your desires better. You should be confident about what you feel and then, other people will respect you for what you are. I understand that you won't be able to confide in your parents or friends about this. I also know about the loneliness that follows this inability to convey to them what you feel and your own confusion about it. Stay strong, because things do get better."

A student of sciences - who wishes to stay anonymous - wants to pursue a doctorate degree. He likes to draw, paint and play the violin. Basically, he is doing what he

loves and dreams of settling in the UK. Till this point, all seems well. But when this person starts relating with the characters from Hollywood movies, gets puzzled about his own identity and is concerned about a few confusing questions, there the problem begins. He asks his sole confidant Google and figures out that he is gay.

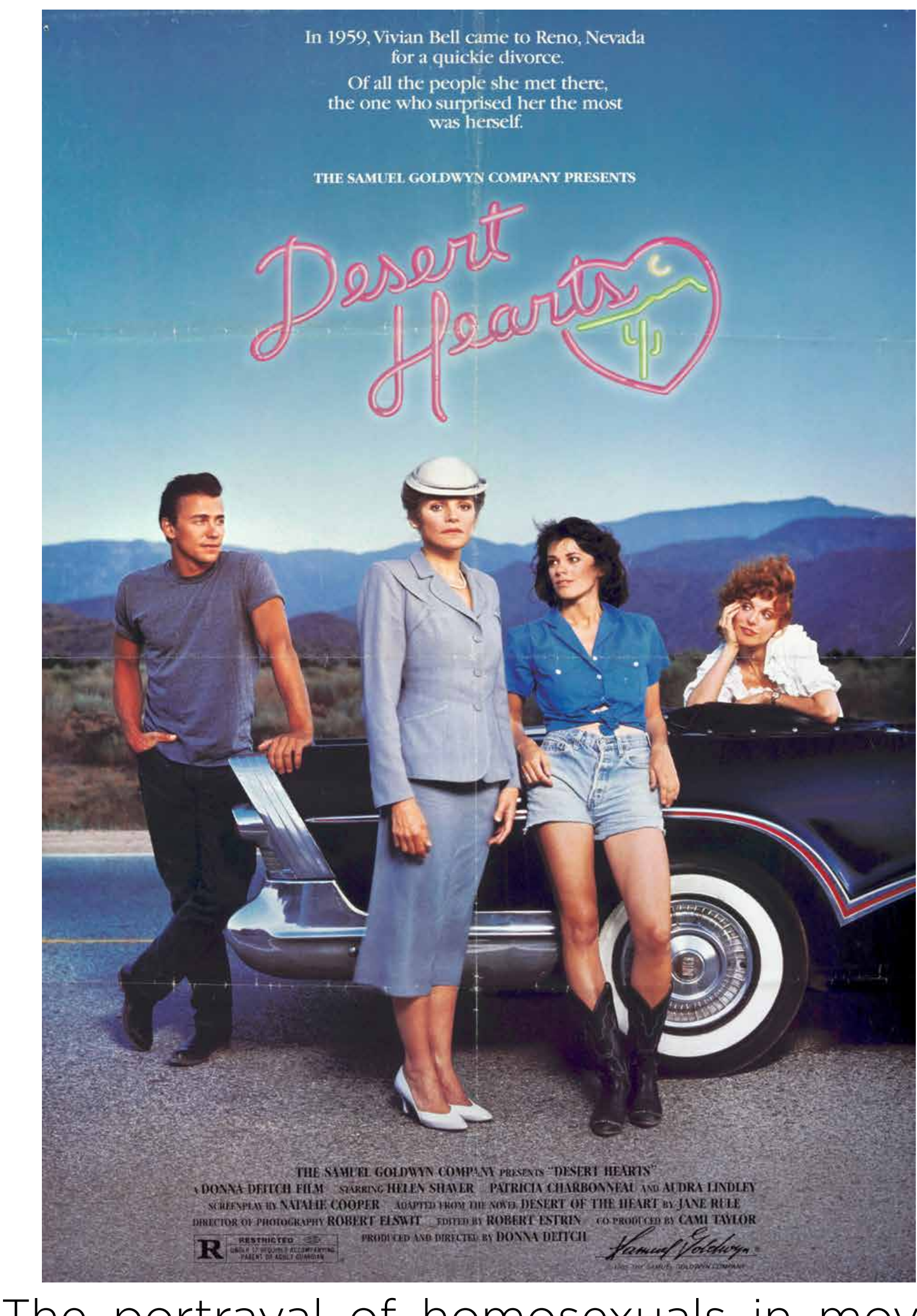
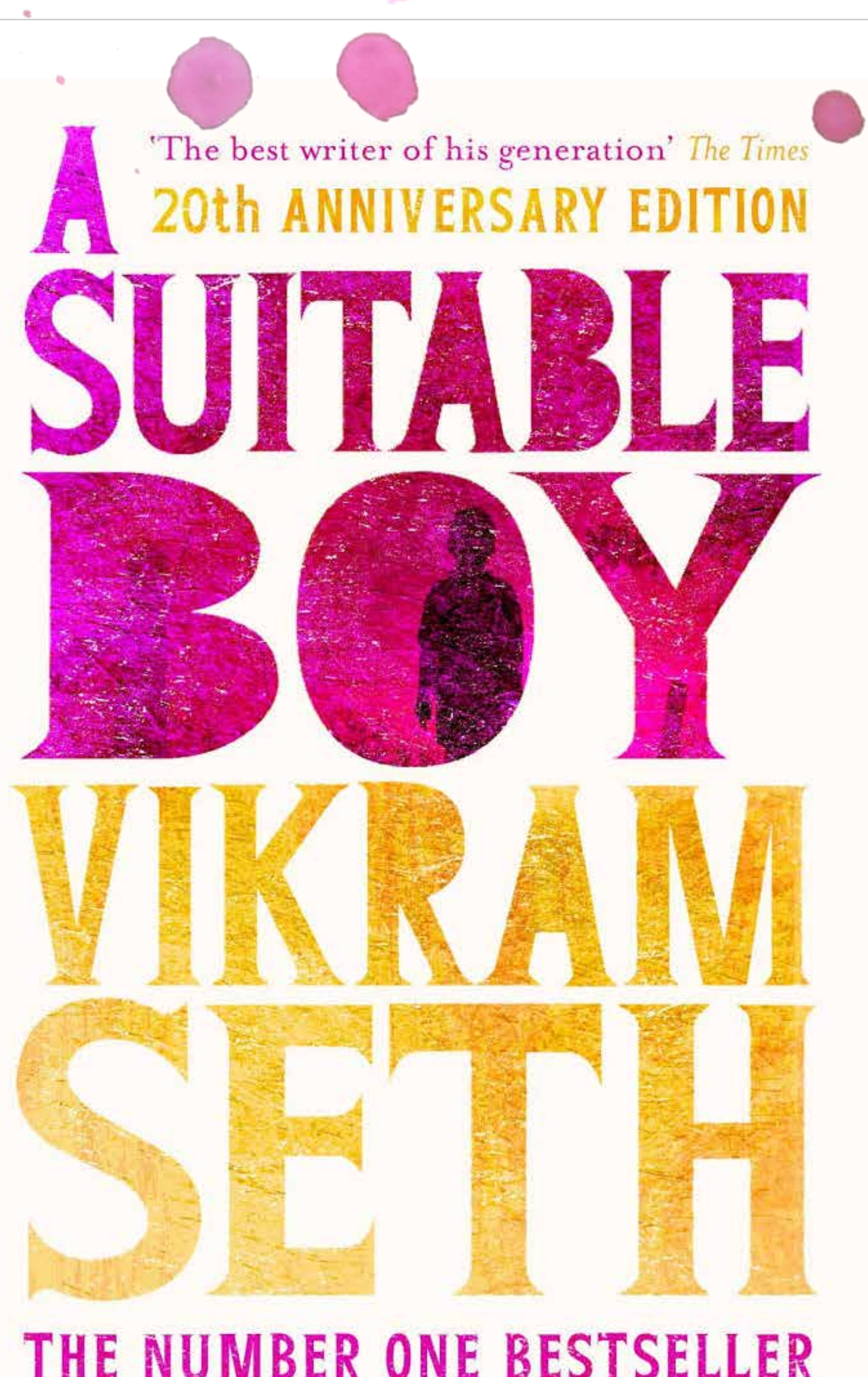
The period of self-acceptance was definitely not a cakewalk. But his siblings and close friends played a major role in his transition period. They never treated him differently. They all were really comfortable with him and admitted that sexuality is a small part of one's life. 'But what about society?' was an unanswered question that nagged at him. He really thanks the SC verdict for accepting the LGBTQ community as they are. He further expects that they will be given the right to marry and adopt children. Yes, there is a long way to go in legal terms, but the verdict has indeed given a greater push. But to change the actual scenario in the society we still have to go a long way. Awareness about the issue needs to be created among youths and adults alike. Each one's private life needs to be respected. The community does not want any exalted social status; it is only asking for acceptance. They need the help of the society to replace the feeling of insecurity in their minds with warmth, love, and affection.

An FYBA student introduces themselves as Pranjali 'Obeisance' Ektare. A peace-loving person, they want to major in psychology and do research in developmental psychology. Born in the body of a woman, they have always felt uncomfortable with it, thus having to deal with gender dysphoria for a long time. They discovered their identity not long ago and identified themselves as a non-binary person, their pronouns being they/them. They are attracted towards females, which would make them gay if they identified as a woman, but they don't know how to label it now. They feel privileged for having really supportive parents and friends who have stayed by their side on this journey. Nothing has changed after they found their identity. They talk with their friends about each other's crushes. When coming out to one of their friends, their friend said, "I don't care. Just correct me when I address you wrong. And let me know if anyone's giving you a hard time." Talking about the SC verdict, they said, "It's the sound of the second domino. Everything will fall into place. Now all that's needed is a society to back the verdict up with its acceptance." They believe that society is a great place to belong to, but it should stop imposing norms which hinder the development of an individual and the society. They wanted to convey the following message: "People need to stop viewing gender and sexuality as a binary concept, both the ideas are spectrums. People need to understand what they

have been taught for all these years might not be the entire truth. Just sit back and hear the others out for once."

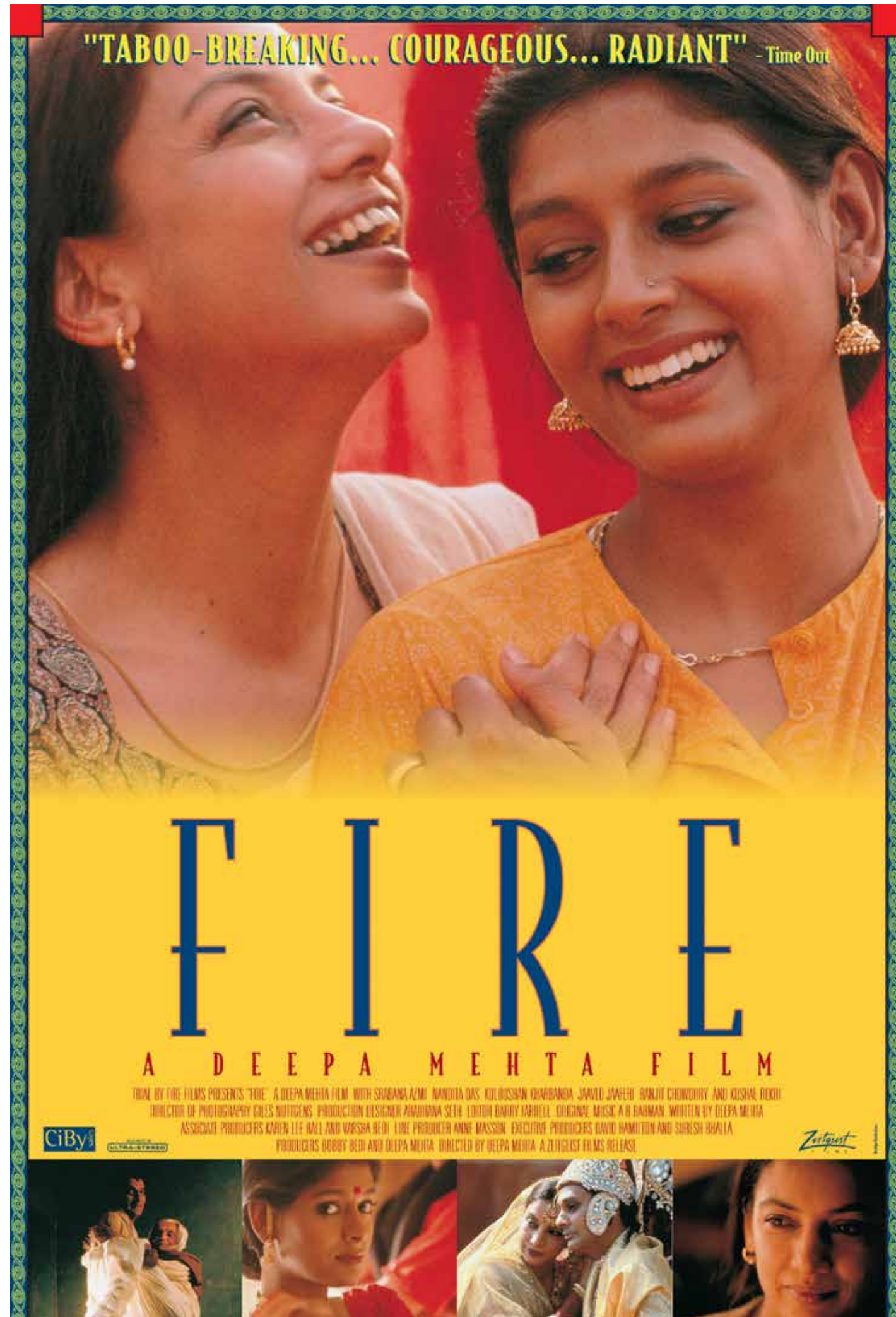
When accepting and owning your sexuality is difficult, the following LGBT people in the public eye not only fought for their acceptance and rights but also achieved big heights in spite of numerous obstacles in their ways.

An Indian writer Vikram Seth, a Padma Shri recipient, has been active for more than three decades in literature. He is best known for his novel 'A Suitable Boy'. His mother Leila Seth, the first woman chief justice of a High Court, was openly supportive of his bisexuality. He was a leader in the fight against the draconian Section 377. He penned down a poem on the recent verdict decriminalizing gay sex titled 'Through love's great power'. A transgender activist Gauri Sawant adopted a young girl and chose to break the gender mold that sticks with parenting roles. Caitlyn Jenner, a transgender actress from the US, has completed sex reassignment surgery in January 2017. But, as she's sexually attracted to women, she'll identify as asexual for now.



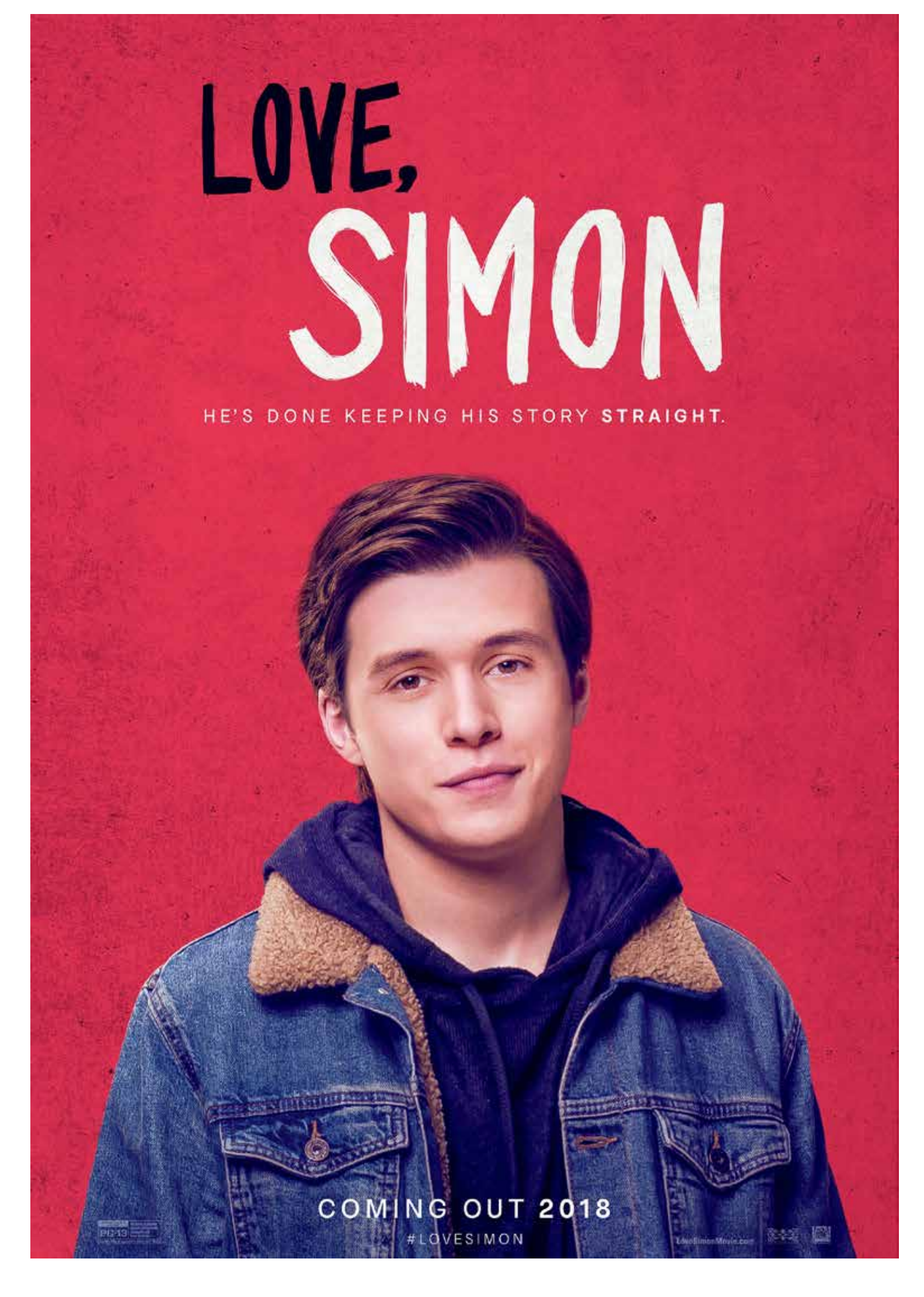
The reaction of homosexuals in movies has been a great journey in itself. A 1985 film 'Desert Hearts' tells the story of a university professor awaiting a divorce who finds her true self after meeting a free-spirited younger woman confident in her romantic and sexual orientation. Though the reaction of film critics was mixed, it is regarded as the first film to present a positive portrayal of lesbian sexuality.

A revolutionary film about lesbian relationships was released in India in 1998 called 'Fire'.



It was one of the first mainstream Bollywood films to explicitly show homosexual relations. It was passed uncut by the censor board. After its release, there were many protests, setting off public dialogue around issues such as homosexuality and freedom of speech. In

recent times, films like 'Margarita with a Straw' and 'Love, Simon' are examples of the changed approach of the masses towards homosexuality. When the later film was banned in India, there were protests for its release showing the fact that the society is ready to wholeheartedly accept the LGBT community.



Apart from the commonly known terms like lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, some of the terms are Transsexual, Two-Spirit, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Pansexual, Gender Variant, Gender Variant, Pangender. LGBTQ is the more commonly used term in the community; possibly because it is more user-friendly. This initialism and the various terms are always evolving - but the important thing is to be respectful and use the terms that people prefer.

Gender is an identity. It does not, and should not be allowed, to hinder what a person can achieve. Through this article, we have attempted to bring the community a bit closer to outsiders peeking in, by bringing into light the lives of some of its members in our own college. They also live normal lives - the only difference being the problems that they have to face arising only from a lack of acceptance from the society. We need to start accepting and start loving.

"Every one of us is, in the cosmic perspective, precious. If a human disagrees with you, let them live. In a hundred billion galaxies, you will not find another."

- Dr. Carl Sagan, Cosmos

OPEN FORUM



A COLUMN FOR THE AGES

ADITYA NEGI, SHWETA FUNDE

The two are quietly standing there at the main entrance of the college. They're tall, sturdy, and thickly built, but it would be a stretch to call them particularly handsome. We've brushed past them numberless times by now, but how many of us have paid the unfortunate pair any mind? A shame too. They've been there since 1937, at least. With any luck they'll be here for years and decades to come, doing what they've done best - holding the college on their shoulders, or part of it at least. It's a hard, thankless job being a literal pillar of support, but hey, someone's got to do it.

Of course, it's not just R. S Patanakar and Co who employ these real-life Atlases in their buildings. Whenever you need to hold up thousands of kilograms of roofing, you want a column. Ask Lyutens and Baker, designers of the Sansad Bhavan. The twelve dozen or so columns circling our Parliament building immediately evoke Lok Sabha meetings, screaming politicians, and a republic that is alive and kicking. Obviously columns are cool as units of architecture. But though we at Open Forum like structural integrity as much as the next Ruiaite, there's a lot more to them than that. Throughout time and space, freestanding columns have been constructed as symbols - sometimes of conquest, other times of peace, but always as proof of civilisation.

On winning the Dacian Wars against the Eastern European province of Dacia, the Roman emperor Trajan erected the aptly named Trajan's Column, and inscribed on it the following:

The Senate and people of Rome [give or dedicate this] to the emperor Caesar, son of the divine Nerva, NervaTraianus Augustus GermanicusDacicus, pontifexmaximus, in his 17th year in the office of tribune, having been acclaimed 6 times as imperator, 6 times consul, pater patriae, to demonstrate of what great height the hill [was] and place [that] was removed for such great works.

In less haughty and high-flown language, the Romans excavated a hill and constructed the 35-metre tall structure to demonstrate their engineering and architectural savvy. In even less haughty and high-flown language, they built it simply because they could. Trajan's Column is hardly the only column commemorating military victory - there's Nelson's Column at London commemorating Napoleon's defeat at Trafalgar, for instance, along with dozens of others.

On the other hand, we have some very anti-war columns right at home. Emperor Ashoka was particularly fond of them; after he converted to Buddhism, he constructed dozens of columns inscribed with his edicts all over the country. Only twenty of them still stand, but hey, one of them was

lucky enough to become our country's emblem. So why have columns been in fashion for ages and ages now? Sure, there are religious reasons - Hinduism holds that it is a bond that joins heaven and earth, for example. But there's more than that; there's something about them that appeals to our innate human nature, or so we think. The big one? A column stands out. It's tall, it's bold, and it's visible. No matter how simple, a freestanding column grabs all eyeballs in a vice grip. Look at me, it seems to say. I'm reaching for the skies. It doesn't matter whether it is a hundred metres tall or ten - it will always hold that same primal fascination for all of us humans.

There is something to be said about the elegance of columns as well. They're so basic! Yet in any building or monument, they're the unsung heroes. Yet, when the rest of the structure has long crumbled to ruins, the columns still stand, humbled but unbowed by the ages. Take the Parthenon, defined today by the columns that survived the pillage of the ages and a gunpowder explosion. Who knows? Perhaps in the far, far future, the last signs of humanity will be the last few columns of our modern age crumbling to dust. Columns give us a sense of grounded permanence - and we humans, we transient things, will continue to appreciate that as long as we are around.

THE NOTE IN A BOTTLE

- SAYLI MAYEKAR

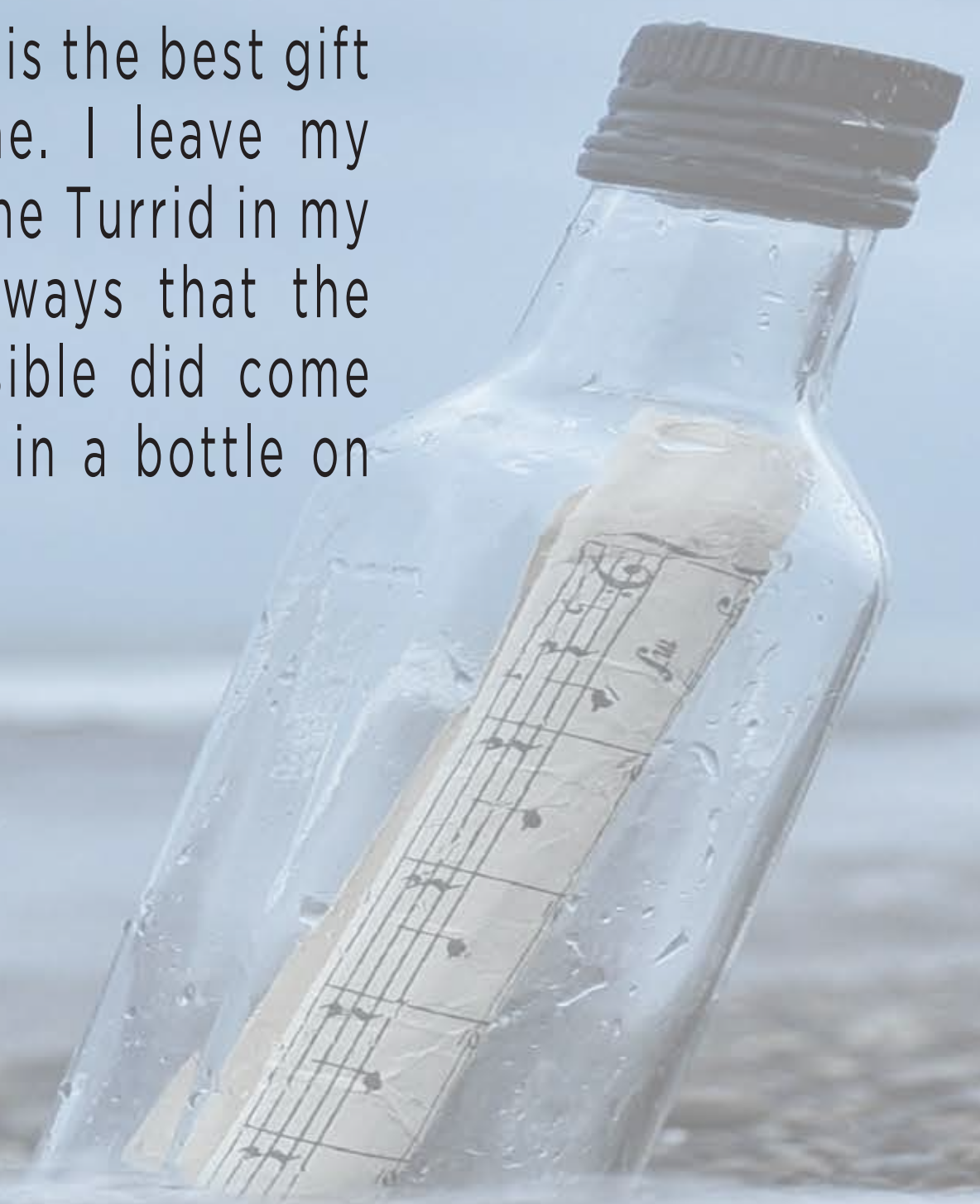
I reach up on my tiptoes to get my rucksack from the top shelf. I quickly discover it is a mistake given my clumsy nature as the intended item topples down on me along with several other things. I give a thought to cleaning everything up, but spotting a familiar bag, I sit cross-legged on the floor instead. I open the bag with the memories already lurking in my mind. Picking up the biggest shell, I bring it up to my ear; the urge to hear the ocean's resonance winning over my knowledge of what the sound actually is. The moment I hear the hum, I am transported back to the summer of my youth spent at Radhanagari beach.

The breeze was blowing lightly, ruffling my hair in the process. The sand under my bare feet was soothingly warm on the cool night. The silver of the waves, the full moon in the starry night sky illuminating my path, no soul in sight, and the silence

broken only by the crashing waves - it was a night like no other. I looked down when my foot hit something. Picking up the object I saw that it was a glass bottle. And in an utterly movie like way, it had a note in it. After struggling with the cork for a good five minutes, I managed to pull it out and take out the paper in it. Shining my torch on it, I saw - 'To whoever finds it'. Intrigued, I opened the folded paper and out fell a shell. It was a Turrid. I held it up to my ear and heard the ocean. Reading the note, I can't help but smile - 'I always wanted to send such a note ever since I had seen it in a movie. Since it isn't meant for anyone in particular, I decided to add the little gift I found on the beach. Whether you are a fellow shell collector or not, I hope you like it. Yours, a beachcomber.'

The shell I found, or rather, was gifted, that day might not be the prettiest one.

But for a closet romantic, it is the best gift anyone could ever give me. I leave my shell bag at home but put the Turrid in my rucksack, to remind me always that the wish I had thought impossible did come true once - I found a note in a bottle on the beach.



A FONTNESS FOR FLAIR

- Natasha Desai

I'm a sucker for the good old-fashioned pen and paper writing style. There's just something appealing about settling into your favorite chair, and pulling out a scruffy notebook and scratched pen, that your fingers have grown accustomed to feeling, to scribble your thoughts. However, when it comes to full-blown literary pieces, like stories or articles, typing gets my vote. To be more specific, the ability to manipulate the aesthetics of the text via stylized fonts is one of my favorite things to work with.

There are innumerable fonts for innumerable styles of writing, and each one of them helps convey the writer's message in a more lucid, compelling and (as it goes with **COPPERPLATE** and *Monotype Corsiva*) flamboyant manner. These rendering mechanisms add a touch of panache and impact to the writing, and help promote the overall tone of the piece in question. For example, an artsy, fantasy story would appear even more ethereal when

presented in a cursive lettering like that of Chancery, Calligraphy, or Roundhand. A more factual report could use **Times New Roman** or **Arial** to bring a more official and imposing aspect to the readers' eyes. And if for some reason you want absolutely no one to understand what you've written, **☎✠■♪♫♬♭♯♦** is always an option.

Typestyles are certainly the most effective way of bringing attention to a printed effort. **Comic Sans** and **Papyrus** became so popular in the art world, they got video game characters named after them. They bring a fresh appeal and emphasis to the important parts of stories. Admit it, that emphatic declaration of war just wouldn't have felt the same if it weren't italics, would it? Even simple adjustments like that bring dramatic flair and elegance into writing. Sometimes, the external appearance does matter - a bit. A quick font change might be all it takes to turn a profoundly expressive and well-written speech into a passage that

immediately stands out to the eyes and becomes a piece to remember.



TECH-TRICKED

FLUID AI

Fluid AI is a startup deploying artificial intelligence (AI) by providing virtual customer assistance and data analytics to business organizations. Fluid AI was founded in 2012 by Abhinav Aggarwal and Raghav Aggarwal. Before starting Fluid AI, the two brothers developed a cloud based platform in 2008 for schools and colleges and called it 'TrueTech'.

This web application was used by 3,00,000 students from educational institutions across the country. This application allowed students, teachers, and parents to access information regarding attendance, progress and class notes from any location. They have also won one of the world's largest coding competition 'TechCrunch Disrupt Hackathon' in 2012.

Fluid AI has been able to channelize recent advances in AI and related fields like machine learning, deep learning, etc; and harnessed neural networks and speech, voice and image recognition to build an artificial intelligence system that maps over hundreds of data points, analyses them, and make predictions and find solutions to complex business problems. Companies like Accenture and Open Innovation in India have deployed Fluid AI's data solution at a client loca-

first big customer for Fluid AI. Vodafone has deployed smart screen-based experience solutions in Customer Experience Centres in Mumbai, Gurugram, and Pune to have a better engagement with their clients, and thereby amplifying their brand reach along with improving customer services.

Fluid AI's experience based smart screen solutions have been deployed by RBL bank, and now other banks are also deploying similar solutions that help them win customers. A customer is greeted by a smart screen as it detects that customer by motion sensors. Significant and relevant information about banking and non-banking services can be found out without touching the screen. Gesture with hand and hover over a virtual button is the only thing. Fluid AI's software inside the camera mounted on the kiosk tries to study customer's face to measure the level of interest inside the camera mounted on the kiosk tries to study customer's face to measure the level of interest and let's say the customer is looking for a credit card, the system will show offers and services suited to customer's need. Apart from engaging the customers, RBL Bank also gets data collected by this system

which is further used to improve experiences and know a lot more about consumer behavior and preferences. Fluid AI's tech solutions are deployed by Barclays, Emirates NBD, Axis Bank, Vodafone India, Intel, Accenture, Capgemini, Toyota, Hero Group, Rolls Royce, Bank of America, Forbes and Reliance Industries.

Awards like Microsoft National Challenge Winner and IBM Deep Tech Winner are among many won by Fluid AI. Fluid AI is also included in Top 35 Startups in India by Startup India.

"Fluid Motion turns any screen in-store into a smart and interactive screen using artificial intelligence. It talks to customers who walk in front of it and puts them in a digital environment where they can explore the products using their gestures... We are trying to replace people with AI, which can better assist the customer with their queries eloquently and without errors... We want to be the plug and play AI engine for the world," says Abhinav Aggarwal, the current CEO of Fluid AI.

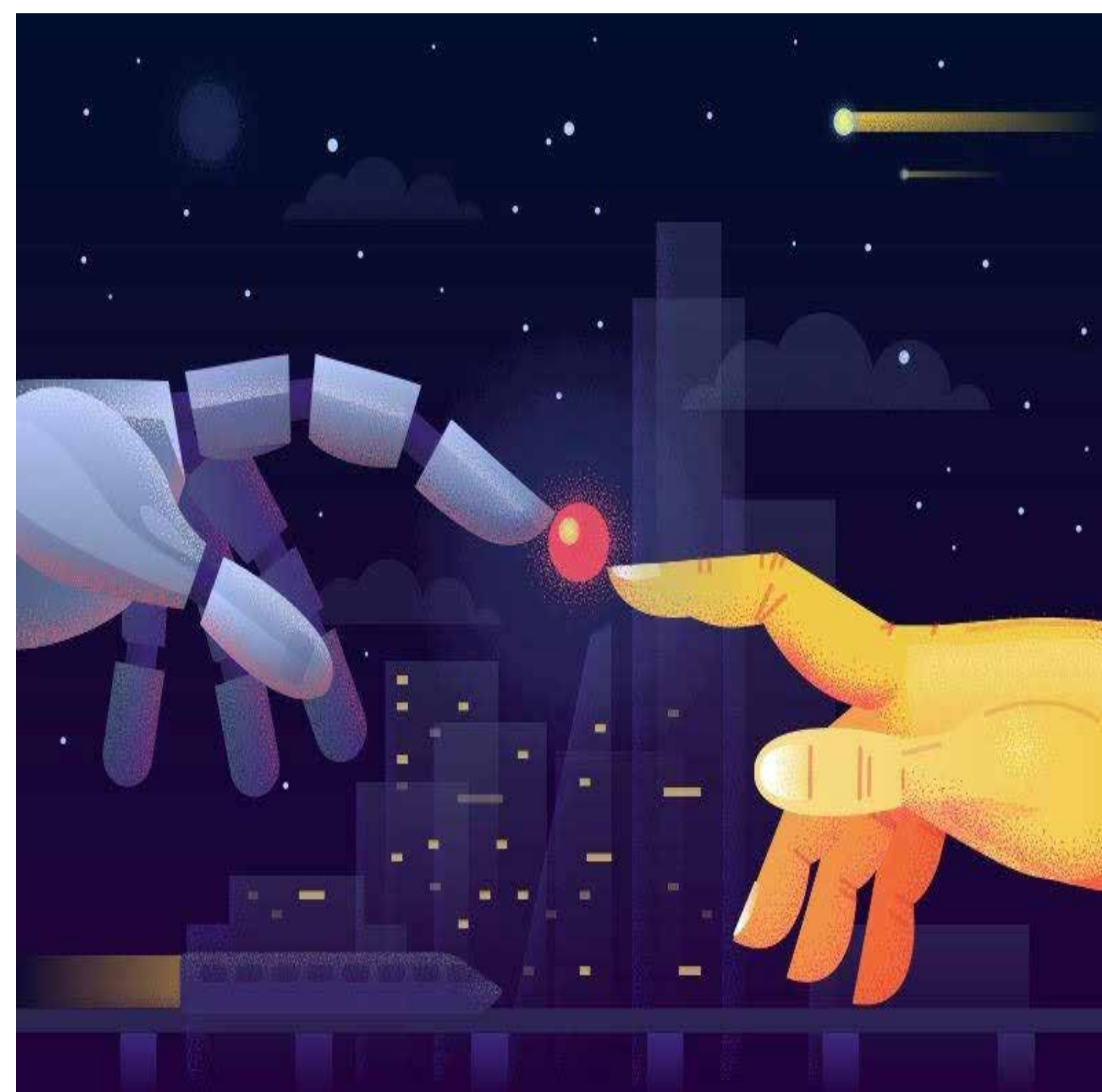
The Definitive Cure To Blindness?

A cure for blindness! Sounds something taken right out of science fiction. But science fiction is most of the times nothing but science which is ahead of its time. Same can be said in this case. Technology is a branch of science and development as a whole which is progressively updating itself for about a century and a half now. A remedy over blindness is nothing but a blessing in disguise due to one such part of the branch of technology termed Bionics or Biologically Inspired Engineering consists of an application of biological methods and systems found in nature to the study and design engineering systems and modern technology. The term Bionics itself comes from Greek origin and means 'life-like'. Some studies also suggest that the term Bionics is actually a short version of Biological Electronics.

In day to day life, the bionics technology is implemented in making prosthetics and other such applications where some biological systems are replaced by man-made machines or organs. In making the lives of physically impaired patients better, giving them hope, providing them with a better chance at life, etc. Bionic Implants are considered as a breakthrough. Implants are defined as to insert or to fix a flaw in a person's body. This is done by replacing the flawed organ of the human body with an artificial one. People are quite aware of replacement of considerably easier components of a human body such as hands, legs etc. But we live in the 21st century and nowadays technology is

upgrading and updating itself so rapidly that complex components of the human body such as eyes can also be made in a laboratory. Yes, it sounds easy and one can say that we already know how to make cameras. But developing something which can replace the human eye or give someone the gift of sight is really jaw-dropping. Not only that but a research suggests that there is actually a breakthrough in the process of making eye implant by a company called Second Sight. They are working on a brain implant consisting of an array of electrodes to be placed on the brain surface which aims to give a completely or partially blind person their vision back.

The company is already known for a product called Argus II on the market which is an eye implant. The brain implant is being called the Orion and is actually a modified version of the Argus II eye implant. Argus II bionic eye consists of a pair of glasses outfitted with a camera and an external processor. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has granted the company a conditional approval for a small study. Second Sight is yet to do further testing of the Orion but Argus II itself is quite the miracle made by mankind. Second Sight first got approval for Argus II in 2011 followed by an FDA approval in 2013. Argus II is designed to bring back some vision in patients with a genetic eye disorder which causes gradual vision loss because of light-sensing cells called photoreceptors in the eye break.



On an estimate, about 1.5 million people worldwide are diagnosed with this disease. Argus II uses a camera mounted on a pair of glasses to capture images. The images are sent to the external processor which uses special software to convert the images to a set of instructions that are sent to the implanted chip near the retina. These instructions are then transferred to an array of electrodes implanted around the eye. The Orion borrows 90% of its technology from its predecessor but bypasses the eye.

Instead, the array of electrodes is placed on the surface of the brain from where visual information is processed. The concept of Orion is still in its baby steps. But it sure is revolutionizing. The Argus II is usable by patients having the gradual breakdown of photoreceptors but for patients who have become blind because of some other reasons like cancer or damaged optic nerve, it is quite useless. Research is still being conducted on the possible uses of Orion to these groups of people. Researches and breakthroughs like this tell an inspiring tale of what technology can accomplish.

San Junipero in real life?

But on a theoretical level, at least, it's possible. In fact, it may even be possible on a practical level, and we're probably not as far away from living in simulated realities as we might think.

To achieve this feat we need to overcome two major problems, the transfer of our consciousness to a computer and the idea of a robust and realistic live-in simulation that mimics our reality.

For transferring our consciousness to a computer to be remotely feasible, not only would we need a computer capable of handling the computational load of our brains and of replicating the complicated web of neural connections, we'd also need a method for transferring the parts of our brains that make us who we are to a computer: our memories, our unique way of processing information, our personal quirks, all into a digital format. The things we don't know about the brain vastly outnumber the things that we do know, making building an artificial brain a pretty daunting task. But many futurists predict that with the advent of quantum computing all this could very well become possible by the year 2045. However even though we could create a digital copy of ourselves, that copy won't really be us, but it's safe to assume that for those trying to achieve digital immortality, it's the best option. Then there's a second level of the question of the plausibility of "San Junipero": the simulation itself.

This shouldn't be too difficult as AR and VR technologies are taking over and it's a natural tendency now to use these in every second application that's being developed. It won't be too long before we can simulate a copy of our whole world that'll be called "artificial realities". And this is where things get really weird, because if our natural tendency would be to create these artificial realities and simulations, and the only thing holding us back is processing and programming power, then the script starts to flip. When it comes down to odds, "San Junipero" isn't just plausible, it's probable. We might all be inhabitants of a server farm full of blinking lights that make up something that the base reality know to be the "Planet Earth" simulation.



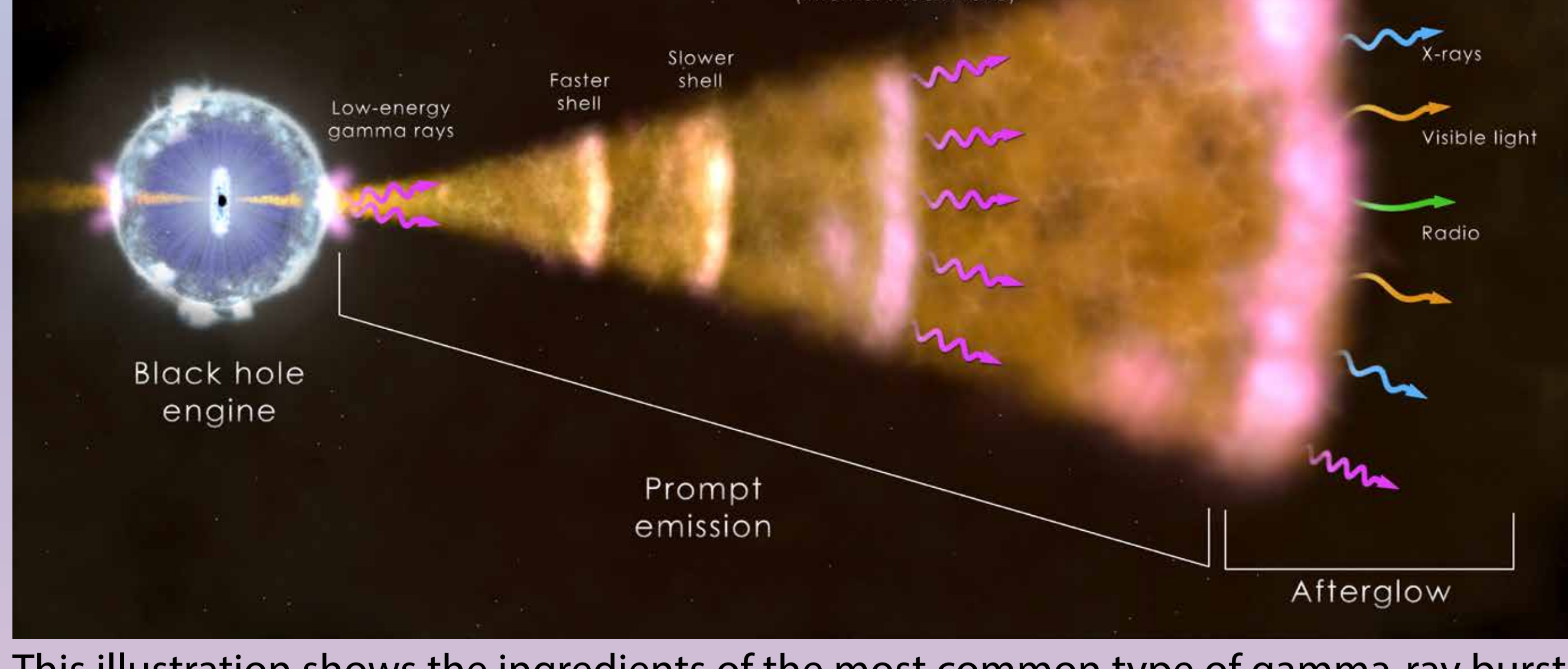
In the Black Mirror episode "San Junipero", the actors find one another in a simulated reality in which users' minds are uploaded to a sort of cloud — there's the option for doing so temporarily or permanently — so that they can actively participate in this reality. The alternate reality is set in a coastal town, filled to the brim with dance clubs. Users can choose which era to live in and can interact with all of the other users in this simulated space. It's a veritable paradise; provided you're looking to escape some kind of pain or suffering in your real life or if spending the afterlife (and achieving digitized immortality) in a simulated reality is your idea of a good time. On the surface, it seems pretty far-fetched. Uploading our consciousness to a cloud so that we can access a place that doesn't really exist isn't something that might be considered to be plausible.

SCIENCE OF EVERYTHING

Science through Deduction

Sherlock Holmes is famous for cracking mysteries by deducing from the minute details that a layman would easily miss out on. Similarly, when it comes to the unusual incidents and occurrences in nature, it is the scientist who has to use the deduction method. Deductions have been an important tool for discovering natural phenomena which are either great discoveries themselves or have given rise to the greatest inventions of all time.

Let's take a little detour to the past. World War 2 had ended but the Cold War was quietly building up. The United States built a gamma detector satellite called 'Vela' to see if Russians are breaking the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963. It was supposed to detect the nuclear radiation pulses emitted by nuclear weapons. But something unusual and amazing happened on July 2, 1967, when Vela 4 and Vela 3 detected a flash of gamma radiation, unlike any known nuclear weapons signature. After continuously receiving such signals from other satellites, the Los Alamos team studied the data. Their team concluded and published their research in 1973 claiming these 16 flashes of gamma rays are coming from space. After 3 decades, a dedicated gamma-ray detector satellite was launched and the scientists began to explore more in this field. Today after thousands of observational and theoretical models, we know that the Gamma Ray Bursts (GRB) are the brightest electromagnetic event known to occur in the universe! Even today GRB is one of the biggest topics that attracts researchers towards it.



This illustration shows the ingredients of the most common type of gamma-ray burst. The core of a massive star (left) has collapsed, forming a black hole that sends a jet moving through the collapsing star and out into space at near the speed of light. Radiation across the spectrum arises from hot ionized gas in the vicinity of the newborn black hole, collisions among shells of fast-moving gas within the jet, and from the leading edge of the jet as it sweeps up and interacts with its surroundings. Credits: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

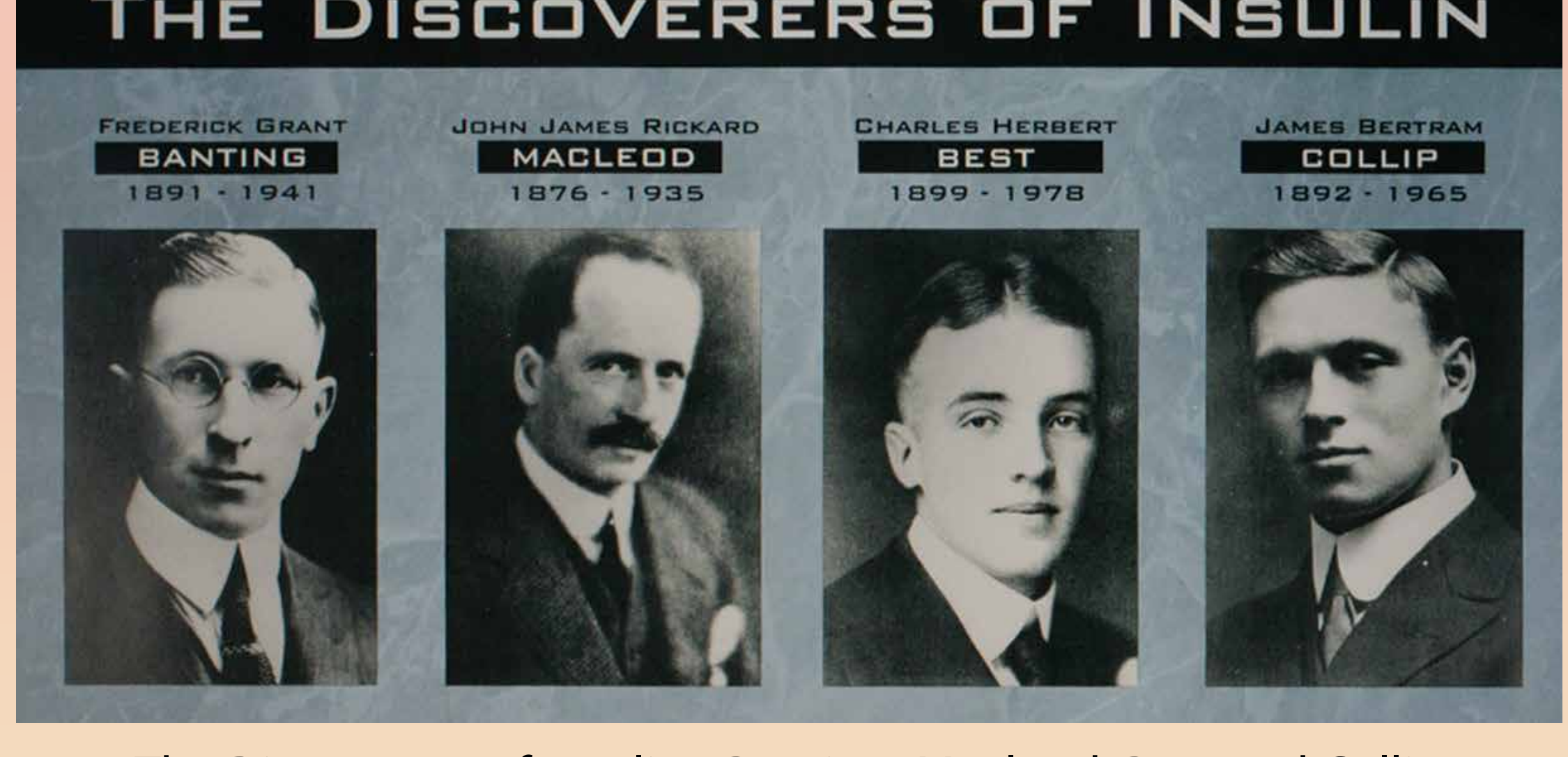


(Left to Right) Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen and; Hand with Rings: a print of one of the first of Wilhelm Röntgen's X-ray photographs. It shows the left hand of his wife, Anna Bertha Ludwig, and was presented to Professor Ludwig Zehnder of the Physik Institut, University of Freiburg, on 1 January 1896. Source: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

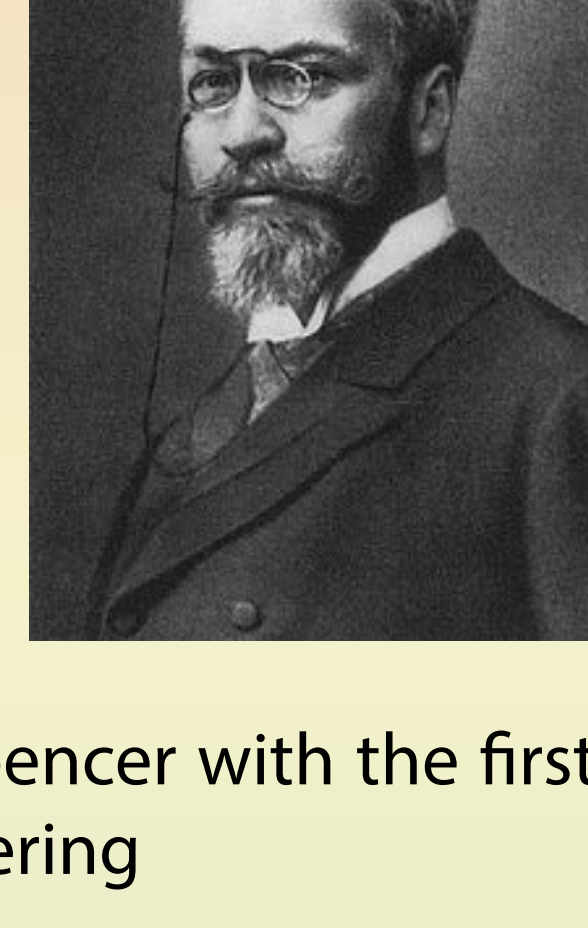
During World War 2, Percy Spencer an engineer working in microwave Radar Company observed that his chocolate kept in his pocket melted faster than the usual rate. After thinking about several possibilities he thought it must be the microwave radiation in the lab that melted it. Percy pointed microwave radiations towards the food items and as per his expectations, the food was getting cooked. He patented and invented the first microwave oven, "Radar-range" that was 6-feet tall and cost \$5000. A bit costly for just heating a slice of pizza, don't you think?

Scientists were trying to find out the biological mechanism of "pissing evil" i.e. diabetes. It was observed by some, that the patients who died due to diabetes had a pancreatic disorder. So, two scientists Oscar Minkowski and Josef von Mering removed the pancreas of a dog to observe its effect on digestion. They found that flies were feeding off it. When they tested dog's urine they found a very high level of sugar in it. Based on these observations many scientists performed similar experiments and tried to find the enzyme in pancreas. It was Banting and Best who successfully extracted the pancreatic secretion from the dog which they called insulin. It became widely popular and Noble prizes were given to Banting and Macleod.

In 1895 German Mechanical Engineer Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen was investigating cathode rays from a Crookes tube which he had wrapped in black cardboard so that the visible light from the tube would not interfere, using a fluorescent screen painted with barium platinocyanide. He noticed a faint green glow from the screen, about a meter away. Röntgen realized some invisible rays coming from the tube were passing through the cardboard to make the screen glow. He deduced that there was a new type of ray being emitted from the tube. This ray was capable of passing through the heavy paper covering. Roentgen also discovered that the ray could pass through the tissue of humans, but not bones and metal objects. He had discovered a new form of electromagnetic radiation - but because he did not know what it was, he simply called it "X", thus, the widely used X-Ray technique was discovered.



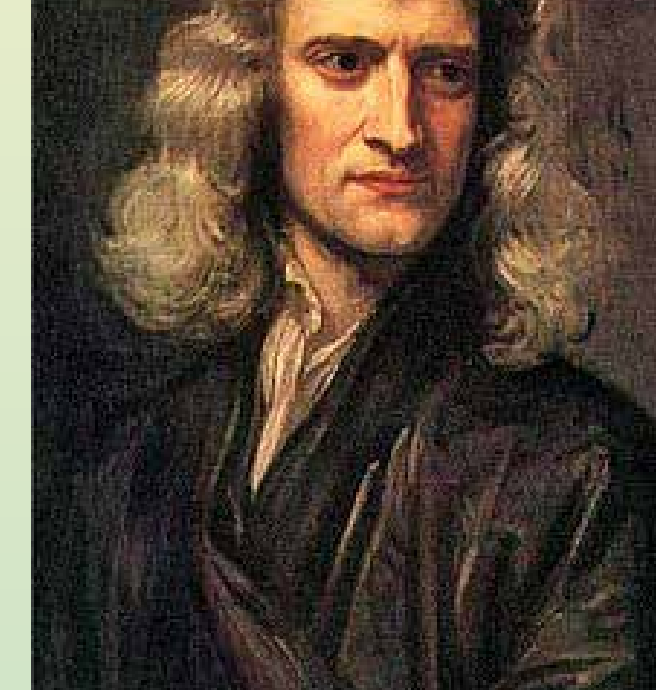
The Discoverers of Insulin - Banting, Macleod, Best and Collip



From Left to Right: Percy Spencer with the first Microwave oven, Oskar Minkowski and Josef von Mering

We all know the famous story of Newton and the falling apple when he saw the falling apple and wondered why the apple fell down the way it did. Well, the incident would not be shocking to any layman. But scientists are so curious that they start deducing the reason behind every small action. Newton found that the reason for the falling of apple is the force of attraction between Apple and the Earth. He further concluded that any two objects of any sizes attract each other. Newton published his study on motion of objects and the discovery of gravity in his book "Principia Mathematica". His discovery revolutionized the physics forever.

In a world full of unanswered questions, it's virtually impossible to find a satisfactory answer to each and every one of them. It often happens that answers to some questions give us insights to other. By deducing what exactly it means in the bigger picture, we can definitely satisfy our curiosity to some extent. Observe, deduce, and answer!



Isaac Newton

Pranav Nandkumar and Sushrut Mane

Anatomy of an Ultra-marathon Runner

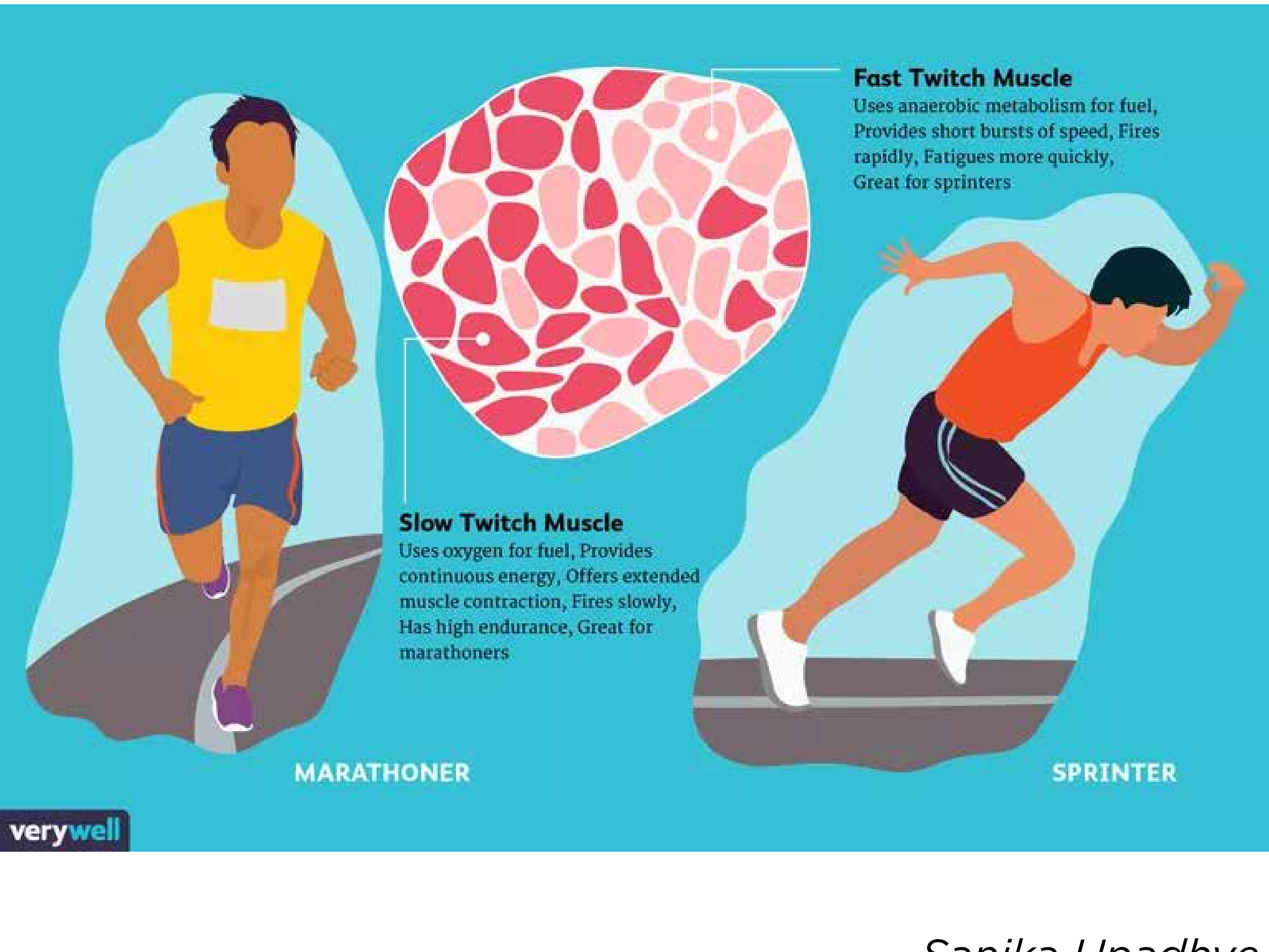
Although running is considered to be the simplest sport, little did we know that it is a symphony of bones, muscles, chemical reactions and cooling agents working together in a concert.

Muscles play an important role in running. There are two groups of muscles that are crucial for running in a marathon - Slow twitch muscle and fast twitch muscle. Slow twitch muscles are good for endurance events because of muscle fibers contract and relax slowly, hence runner must train his slow twitch muscles for a long-distance marathon. These muscles provide their own source of energy as they contain mitochondria in their cells, hence can sustain force for an extended period of time but they are not able to generate a significant amount of force. Slow twitch muscles are trained by doing different exercises to utilize more oxygen to produce more energy. Fast twitch muscles contract much faster which makes them ideal for speed events like sprinting that is short distance marathon. These muscles rely on ATP stored in the muscle cell, they don't generate their own energy. Fast twitch can generate more force but for short duration.

Bones, joints, muscles togetherly act as levers of your body. Levers help to create movement in the body. Achilles' tendons are a strong fibrous cord that connects muscles in the back calf of the heel bone. Achilles tendon helps to point downward and raise the toes and push off the foot.

It's interesting to know that after the training, the elite runners have higher maximum oxygen capacity, indicating a greater ability to deliver and uptake oxygen in the muscles than recreational runners.

As energy is required for running, this energy is provided by the process of glycolysis. Large numbers of enzymes are incorporated into this process. Metabolism rate is high during running and this causes heating of the body. Hence sweat glands activate to reduce the body temperature.



Sanika Upadhye

Eat The Rainbow

Have you ever come across this suggestion? As simple this catchphrase is, it hides science behind it. And in this issue, we'll know about different phytochemicals present in certain veggies and fruits. So let's go color wise.

Green
Examples: Broccoli, Kiwi, Leafy Greens

What it has: isothiocyanates that help prevent cancer by cleansing cancer-causing compounds from the body. These veggies are also high in folate, a vitamin needed to form healthy cells.



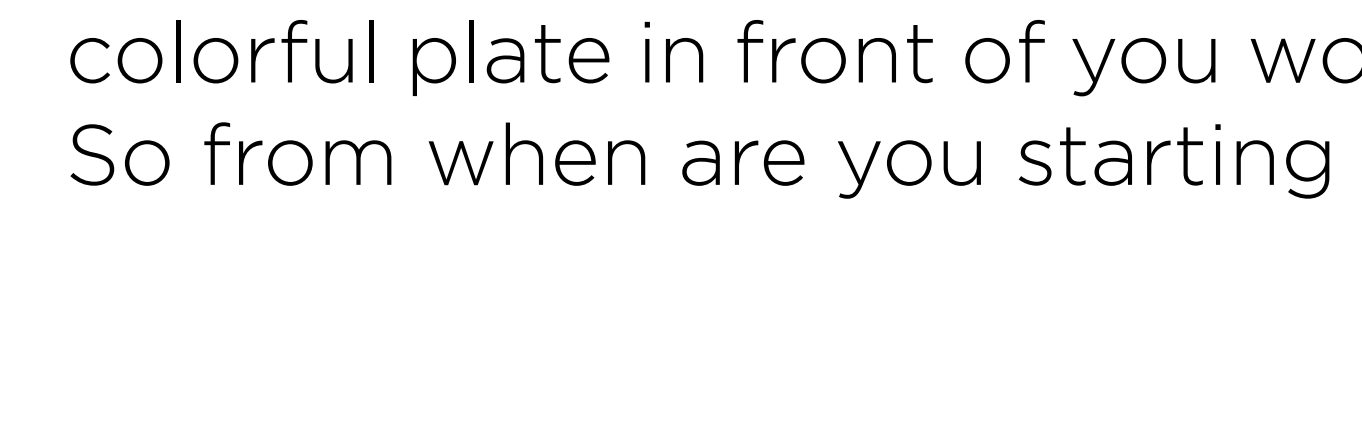
Blue/Purple
Examples: blueberries, eggplant (skin), red and black grapes, blackberries, black beans, plums

What it has: The anthocyanin, antioxidants present may combat inflammation.



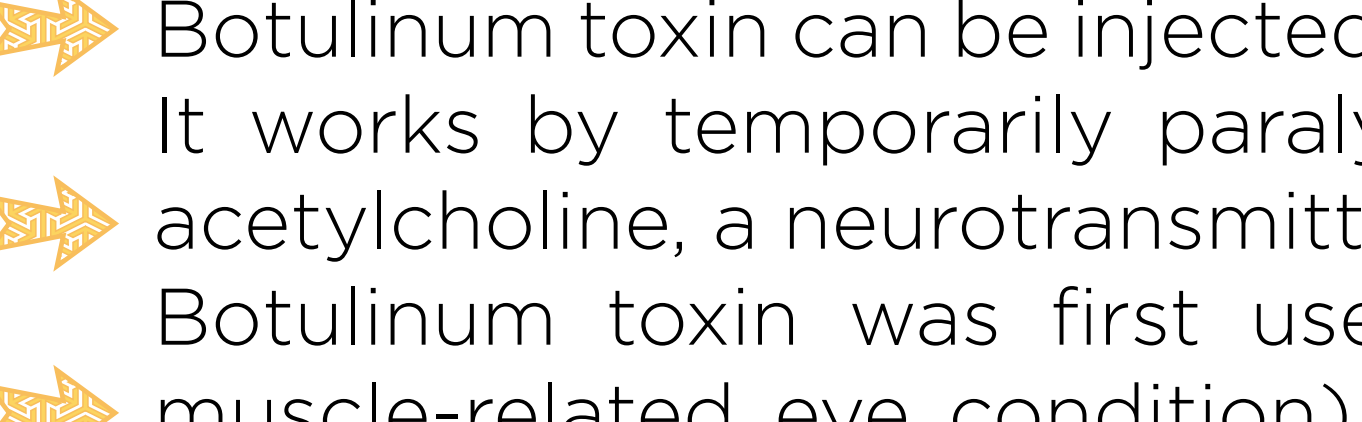
White
Examples: garlic, onions

What it has: Allium. The organ sulfur compounds in garlic may protect against heart disease, according to research.



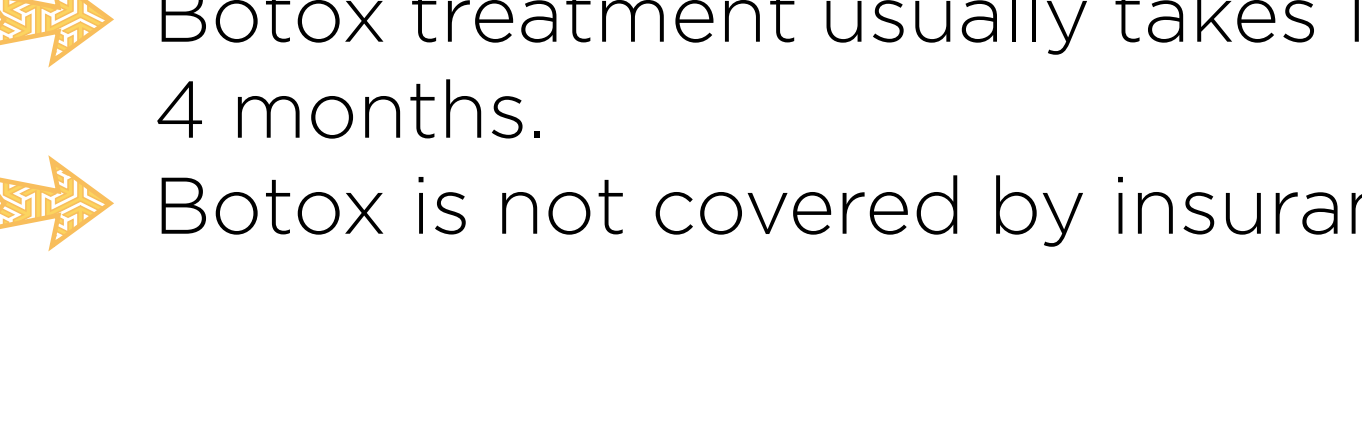
Yellow
Examples: avocados, yellow peppers, zucchini, corn

What it has: lutein and zeaxanthin, these are important to keep your eyes healthy — they help ward off or delay age-related macular degeneration.



Red
Examples: tomatoes, watermelon

What it has: Lycopene is what gives these fruits and vegetables their color. Lycopene is a carotenoid that may lower your risk of heart disease, offer some protection against prostate cancer and even keep your skin smoother.



Orange
Examples: carrots, sweet potatoes, oranges, pumpkin, etc.

What it has: Carotenoids, which turn into vitamin A in your body. Vitamin A is needed for cell growth, immune function, and healthy vision. Citrus fruits also fall into this category and are a rich source of immune-boosting vitamin C.

A preclinical study shows that a blend of common antioxidants and other nutrients may hold promising benefits for learning and retaining memory as we age. Also, a colorful plate in front of you would be more delightful than the normal routine plate. So from when are you starting your rainbow diet?

Neha Raut

Beauty with bacteria!

- Botulinum toxin or Botox is a neurotoxic protein produced by the bacterium Clostridium botulinum and neurospices.
- Botox Cosmetic is used to temporarily lessen the appearance of facial wrinkles.
- Botulinum toxin can be injected into humans in extremely small concentrations. It works by temporarily paralyzing the muscles as it blocks the activity of acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter.
- Botulinum toxin was first used as a medical treatment for strabismus (a muscle-related eye condition) in the 1970s and '80s. The cosmetic benefits came to light in the 1990s.
- Botox is also used to treat excessive sweating, migraines, muscular disorders, and some bladder and bowel disorders.
- The FDA has approved cosmetic Botox in 2002, only for four purposes in the dermatological world: in-between the eyebrows, the lines around the eyes, neck muscle disorders and sweating under the armpits.
- Botulism, an illness caused by botulinum toxin, can cause respiratory failure and prove deadly.
- Botox treatment usually takes 15 minutes or less and average treatment last for 4 months.
- Botox is not covered by insurance unless used for medical treatment!



BOTULINUM TOXIN

Prajakta Velankar

SAFARNAAMA

Is spiritual traveling still a thing?

“Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without a spiritual life”- Buddha

After typing out the title of this article, I stared at the screen, trying very hard to remember the last time I visited a place of worship with a spiritual intent. By spiritual intent, I mean, for praying or for a religious purpose. Though I am not an atheist, I cannot remember the last time I entered a temple to pray. I have entered temples (well, certain parts of it, at least) churches and gurudwaras with the intent of admiring architecture and curiosity more than an actual possession of faith. Though spirituality is an evolving subject with many youngsters finding solace in the idea of a transcendent reality, many of us reject the concept altogether and seek to find different truths. In a society, where atheism is a fad that people sport proudly, is there a growing lack of faith?

Having come across the copy of ‘Eat, Pray, Love’ I was instantly taken in by the idea of spending months in remote ashrams wherein you undertake a spiritual journey and engage in yoga and various chanting

practices. Not only did I find that I was fascinated by the idea but many people around me also took a keen interest. This not only shows that spirituality is not only limited to idolatry or a forced visit to the temple with your mummy but something that gives one a greater sense of purpose than placing a bunch of bananas on the feet of an idol made of stone. I see more and more people attracted to the idea of exploring off-beat spiritual destinations across the country. Gone are the days when ‘Char dham’ were the only religious places that one could visit in India. There are plethora of breathtaking places to choose from, as a quest for spiritualism grows, more of such sites are being discovered, be it Chausath Yogini Temple on the outskirts of Madhya Pradesh or Daitya Sudan Temple in Maharashtra.

In this fast-paced life, I could really appreciate some silence and a lot of slowing down. I have often found this in old, empty churches and beautiful gurudwaras. Though I do not go

there for the spiritual experience as such, I go there for peace and tranquillity. Last time, in a gurudwara I made a 14-year-old friend who explained to me how this place helps him clear his mind and how he loves the prasad they serve there. I realized that I don’t think I want anything more from a place that is a real treat for the eyes and also let me calm my nerves (I am not a calm person, I promise). I understand this may not be your idea of traveling, but if not for a religious experience go there for beautiful architectural pieces that narrate tales of a forgotten past. Go there for stories and human expression. Go there for an amalgamation of sound and smell. Just get out of your house and go there, you never know, you may also find delicious prasad, no? When the Oglala Sioux visionary Black Elk was ready to go on pilgrimage, even the animals spoke to him. “It is time! It is time!”, crows cried as they flew past him, bringing a message that could not be ignored. Perhaps it is time for you to leave for pilgrimage too?

“Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder.” – Plato

There are destinations in the world which are tagged ‘beautiful’, but the beauty of the world is not limited to those established tourist places. You can go anywhere in the world and make that place beautiful in a blink of an eye. All you have to do is erase the prejudice regarding that place from your mind and try to find something in that place that appeals to you. In this diverse planet of ours, all the places have something for everyone. All the regions are multi-dimensional and it isn’t fair to single out only a particular thing about a region that appeals to one person and sells it to the world while ignoring all other aspects that may have appealed to a few hundred shares a different point of view. So go to any place in the world yourself and find your own personal joy over there. How?

People everywhere in the world love to pamper their taste buds. So anywhere you go you will at least find

a food delicacy that gives you a sense of the region on a plate. We know that ‘Dil ka raasta pet se hokar nikalta hai’, so just the food can make your trip worthwhile.

Everyone, I believe, has a small shopaholic living inside them. If you feel stuck in a not so interesting place, then go hit the market! Buying stuff you will never find back home can become your material memories of the place. Markets can be really good places for you to take a piece of the place back home.

One other thing that will definitely make the place fascinating enough for you are socializing with the locals. Talk to them about their lives and ask them questions about how the place was a few years ago, make them tell you about the specialties of the place and about the fairs and festivals they all enjoy together. Note the sparkle in their eyes when they are talking about their homeland so affectionately that it will surely bring

a smile on your lips.

When you are out there regardless of where you are, remember to never be wary of going a little offbeat than the original plan. Who knows you may stumble upon ruins, and as Rumi said, “Where there is ruin, there is hope for a treasure.” These offbeat places may give you the peace and solitude you will fall in love with. These ignored places may wink the ignorance out of you. The lost culture, heritage, fauna, and flora may help you find yourself. This lively sphere we live on is a place where oasis in the form of hope is found in a desert, where wild poisonous looking berries have the sweetest taste and in fact no poison at all, where heart-warming genuine smiles are given by kids living in slums. So stop limiting yourself and reach beyond the ‘20 most beautiful places’ listed on google. Look around with a pinch of more optimism and you will find beauty in the most unusual of places.

What is Pilgrimage?

Perhaps, like Fats Waller’s definition of jazz, if you need to ask “you ain’t never gonna know.”

A journey to a sacred place in search of enlightenment? Sure. A journey in search of meaning in the face of obstacles and hardship? Why not? A journey in search of beauty? Indeed. In my family, since I was a child, we have this tradition of visiting at least one place in a year, together. And from those visits, quite a few have been to pilgrimages.

My parents never imposed religion on my sister and me. We both were left to think and make our own beliefs. My tours to these pilgrimages were never seen as a spiritual travel or some path to clear up my sins, instead, I always thought of them as one of the other places that we visit every year.

But when I used to share my experience there, with my friends,

their perception about it was way different, like there would be bells ringing everywhere, people singing bhajans with big red tika’s on their forehead, just prasad and sweets to eat and dormitories to sleep. They thought of it as a place where only oldies visit in their late sixties and ask for forgiveness for their sins and return home pure, once again. Let me tell you, it is way different. The places these temples are situated at are exotic. The carvings on the walls and pillars all around the temples have aesthetic beauty. These ancient and prosperous pilgrimages have been the repository and interpreter of the cultures; especially in its role in keeping alive traditions that have long vanished from India.

This unique quirk of history — and geography — has left a deep mark on the cultural traditions, the most

stunning of which is the art. More than a thousand years of exquisite sculptural aesthetic — has produced a living space where stunning works of art casually lie around at every turn.

Apart from the religious sentiments attached, what makes these pilgrimages so special is the kind of natural beauty a traveler comes across. I have always believed that traveling is so much more than just visiting places and yet another time it’s been proved that traveling is a source of knowledge and experiences.

Through this article, I want the youth to know that it is so awry to let religion or spirituality come in between their opportunities in discovering beautiful places.

Most of us want different things in life – some want money, a few aspire for fame, more than a few crave success. But one thing that everyone wants is to be happy – to be completely at peace with oneself. Different people try to achieve this in different ways. A few turn to meditation, a few go down the road of faith.

People go to holy sites in order to feel close to God. However, we find that a lot of people often go to pilgrimages in the hope that they can experience a connection to their

spiritual self.

Travelling can also turn into a spiritual journey if done right and by traveling; I refer to traveling to any place. It need not be a long, solo adventure. It need not be a trip to some remote corner of the world where you suddenly have an epiphany. It could be something as simple as your daily commute to college.

In a time and world where we micromanage our days to an inch of their lives, traveling can be a very scary experience. Travelling can be

an extremely unpredictable experience and this is the beauty of it. When your choice of decisions are taken off your hands, when you surrender to the fact that something’s are just not in your control, when you make peace with the inevitable, then you can shake hands with your elusive spiritual self - that part of you who doesn’t care about the number of zeroes in your bank account or how many friends you’ve on Facebook.

FICTIONALLY YOURS

INNOCENCE, PASSION, OBSESSION!

PART 1

She sat back looking at the wall – blank and spaced out. Maybe she should not have been so naïve and vivacious and bubbly. Maybe they were right; she had brought this upon herself. Who had told her to be the way she was? Why was she a prey to such an instance that set her life rolling in the wrong direction? All she could think of now was those six days that changed her life forever.

A summer camp is usually one of the most fun experiences for young kids and teens. Her sense of adventure was what led her and her best friend to be a part of this venture. All it took was the exchange of a few cuss words in the train to disturb the night's sleep for him to set his eyes on her and taint her heart. How could she not have noticed this; the subtle closeness he engaged her in, the way he took her photographs catching her unaware! They said that it was her chirpy and friendly attitude that did not let her regard this as a threat to her and her sanity. And the tragedy began once she got back home. His obsession grew and so did his creepy blank calls and stalking and then ...

the day. His craze developed to such an extent that he even got himself transferred to her school. Whenever she would walk out of her class to do her chores, he would grab her and make sure that she knew where she belonged – with him. He would always tell her, "In all the world, there is no heart for me like yours. In all the world, there is no love for me like yours."

Time passed and things soon got worse. He escalated from mere touches to forceful and painful grabs. Every morning, he would leave behind a small gift on her table and a letter scarred by the blood of his passion. And then came that day, the annual day of their school. She feared the outcome of this day as she was performing with another friend of hers (who happened to be a guy)! His possessiveness cost her all her friends but he cared not. The performances went on to be splendid as they had put their best foot forward to impress the jury and the audiences. Misfortune struck her on that very day; her parents could not make it due to the recent death in her family.

She woke up from her reverie and crashed on the ground weeping. She was the reason her best friend was in the hospital, she was responsible for what happened. SHE was the REASON he threatened her best friend, who was now lying on the hospital bed fighting for her life. Gone was the girl who was once innocent, chirpy and outgoing. All she would be now was stoic and lost in the pain of the past.

The red bulb outside the operation theatre was flickering. It seemed to her as if time was testing her breaking-point and she had no way out from here. She, her fourteen-year-old self, was now trapped with no place to hide. It was either this way or that way. If not her; her loved ones would bear the brunt of it and she could not let that happen, not again. She knew what she had to do now – confront the beast and end it. She looked at the crumpled letter in her hand that bore the message of ill-fate for her. It read – My sweet temptress,

Some say the world would be as beautiful as it seems if you have the right one by

your side. But with you by me, I have the whole world. My sweet little kitten, fret not for very soon you will be rightfully mine and my claim will possess you, with or without your will. You made a mistake that day, love. Going to the police, not that smart, eh? Your family is now going to face the wrath of the crime you have committed. Can't let you go unpunished for the crime you have committed, can we now? If you want others safe, meet me where I have always wanted to make you my bride. We can at least get engaged there.

Your psychotic beast,
You know who.

Gazing outside the window of the car as she departed towards the location, her thoughts took her back to the time he, physically and mentally, tormented her. At the age of 13 (or maybe thirteen and a half); puberty is challenging as it is. But his obsession seemed to be on a mission to make it more difficult and painstaking for her. He refused to let her live a peaceful life. He would stand outside her school waiting for her to get done with

No sooner did she get out of the changing room than an arm enveloped her waist and she fainted due to the chloroformed handkerchief that covered her mouth. As her vision blurred, she could only hear breathing, his breath on her neck. She woke up in a dark room. It screamed of agony and terror. In the background, mildly, played the song 'Animals' by Maroon 5. It sent shivers down her spine.

As she tried to wake up from the bed that she lay on, she realized that she was bound by shackles. Glancing around, she tried to figure out where she had been trapped. Fear seized her every vein. The walls were painted black splattered with blotchy red patches all over it. A few columns were adorned with carvings of erotic and murderous depictions of angels and the Satan. The room seemed well-furnished but lacked a sense of homeliness. It screamed 'DANGER'. She felt a pair of eyes upon her as she moved, she felt watched and not alone.....

SHRUTHI NARAYAN
(TYBA)

S E C R E T S

"Stand," they ordered gruffly. "It's your turn, scumbag."

I stood and did as they said, shooting the more heavily armored guard a jolly grin. After all, I knew that they were simply being obedient servants that once guided me into battle, now guiding me to death.

They yanked me forward. I didn't resist. Princes never lose their charm. Once a prince, always a prince.

The dungeons, as well as the corridors leading to them, were tiled by dark, cobbled stone. Many of them had cracks, which only served as home to insects. Each cell had a tiny window the size of a bureau, strings of steel pulled across the length of the square. That was – at least, to the other inmates who awaited death – the only form of light.

To me, the dungeons held my secrets. Not a soul would imagine a prince would be capable of the things I had done. Everyone would check the rooms, the halls, but no one thought of the dungeons

Even now, as old enemies watched with eyes hungry for revenge and wicked smiles, I noticed that no one knew the true secrets the dungeons held.

Armor and chainmail swayed in front of my eyes, clinking with each step.

Clink .

Clink .

I giggled to myself.

As the guard walked ahead, torch in hand. I couldn't wait for the moment – my people, watching me, watching the beautiful, shiny blade slice my neck into two.

Clink .

Clink .

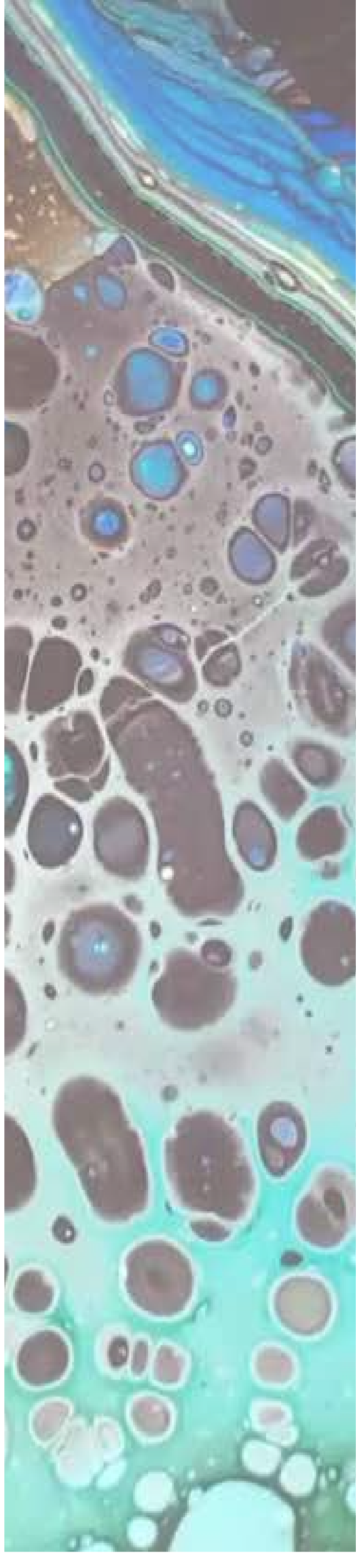
They didn't know. No one knew but I. The lunar eclipse on the night of the twenty-second. I counted the days on the walls of my cell.

I saw the souls swirl around me. _Your wish is granted,_ they whispered. _Your death cannot be prevented. You will die...and so will they.

Once a prince, always a prince. That's what I was told. Well-mannered and well-known. Be fierce and be bold. Help the spirits, free the souls. Even in these dull, cobblestones...

And so, I am. Even in death.

- RHEA PRABHU



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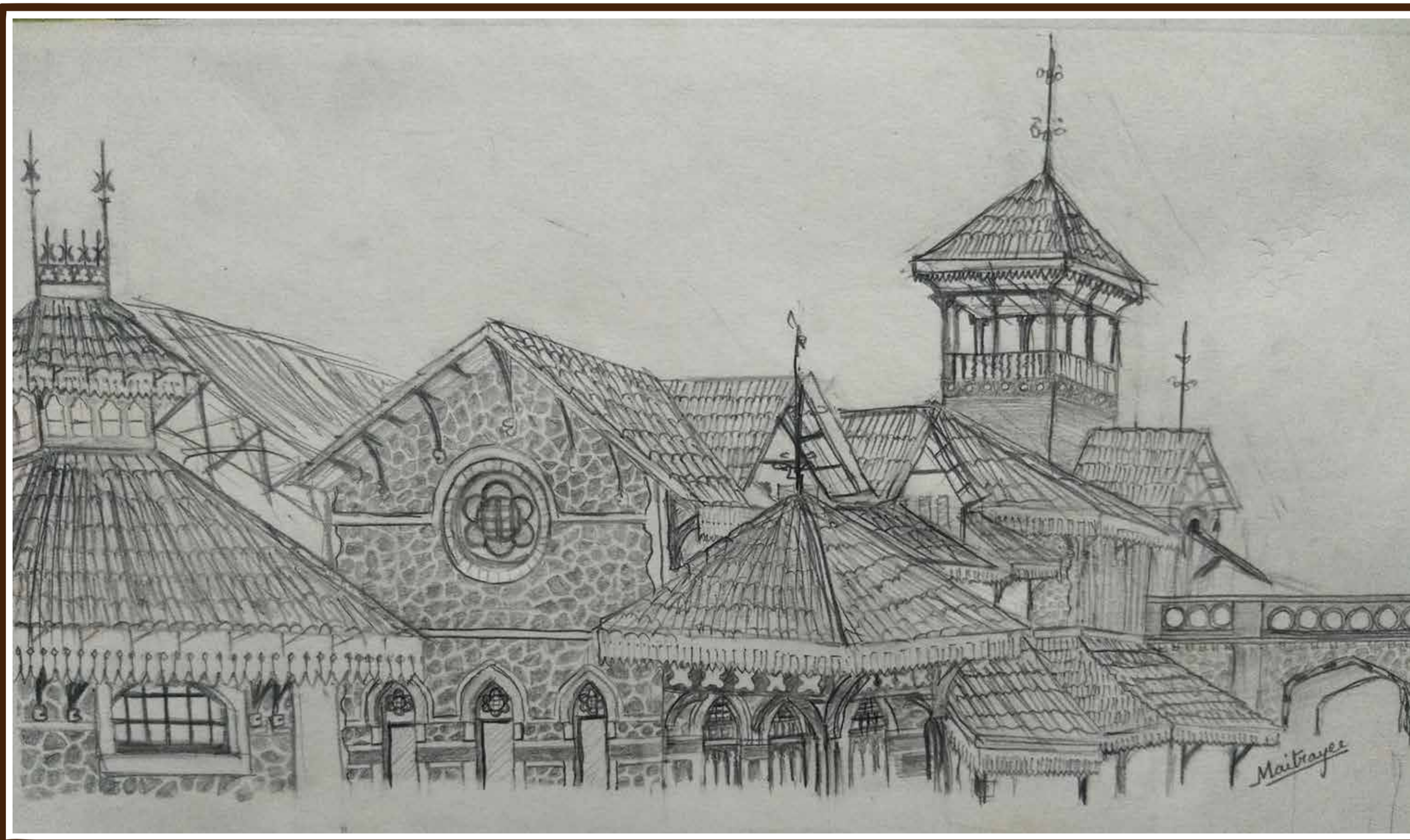
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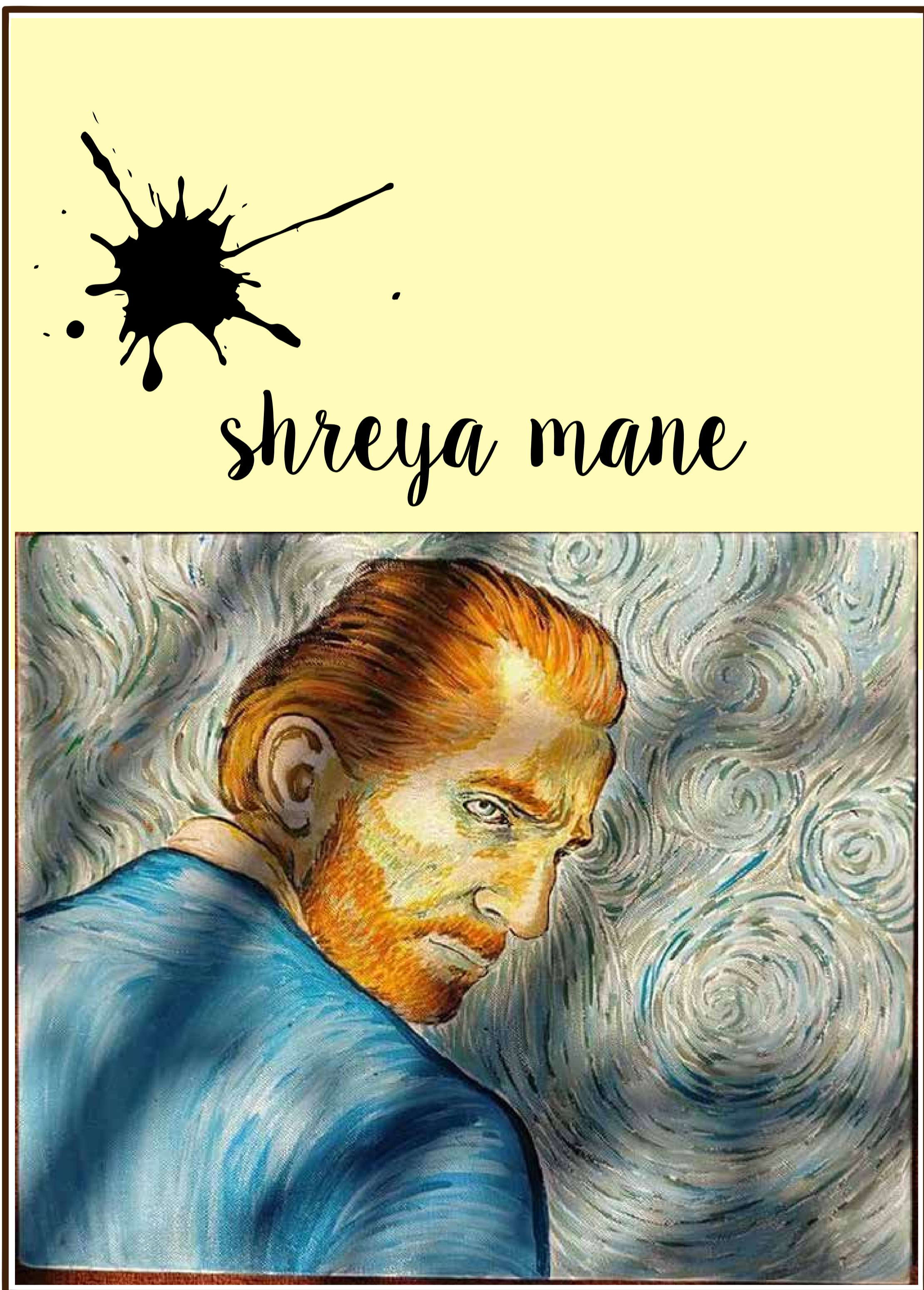
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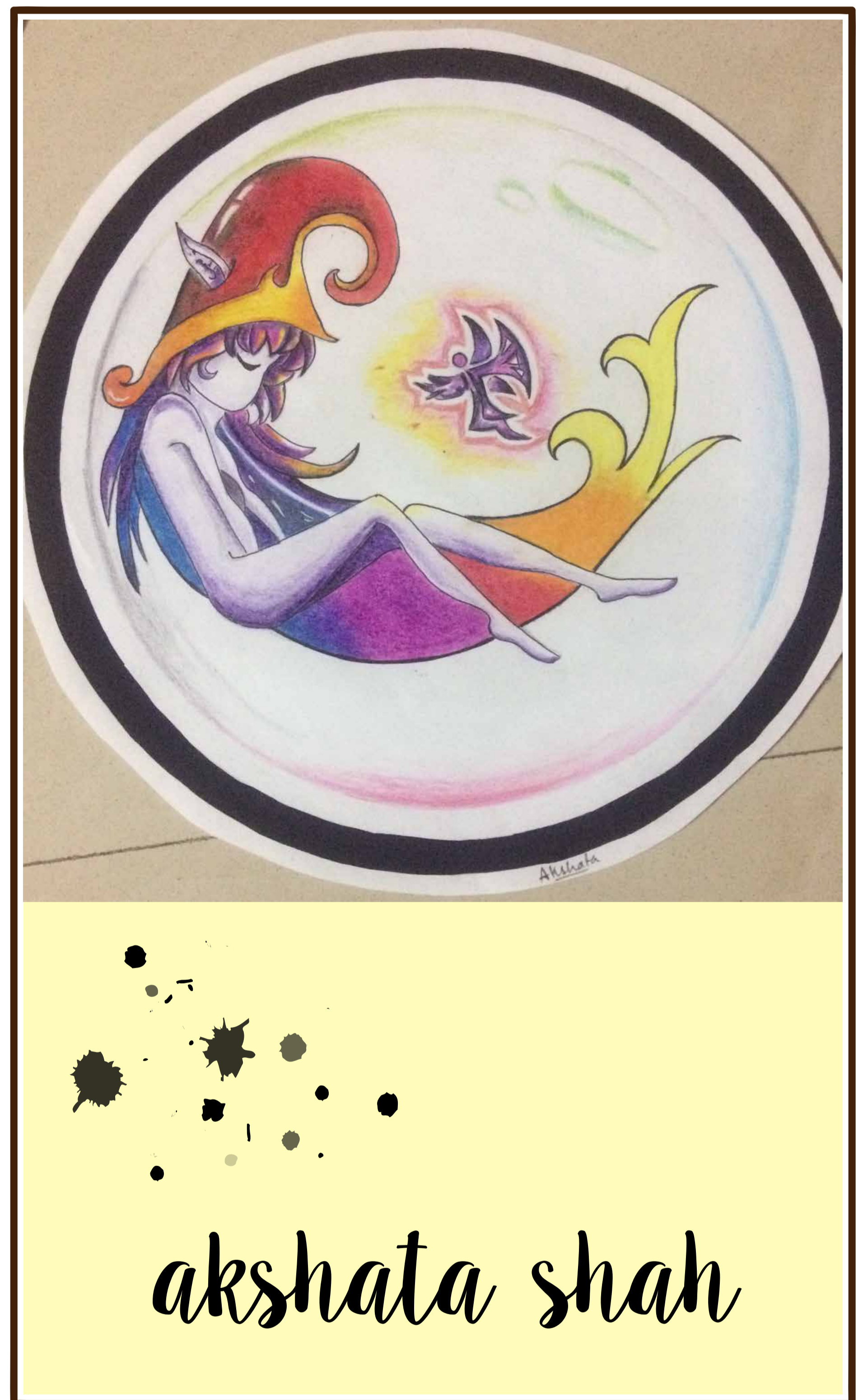
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maitreyee pan



shreya mane



akshata shah



jitendra rane

Student's Corner



The following digital artwork was created long ago by me. At that time I was obsessed with Samuel Taylor Coleridge's work, especially by his famous long narrative poem - 'The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner'. His lines 'And went down into the sea..' (the sun) were intriguing, and hence I spent hours making this. The artwork might be silly, as a child's work, but look not at its beauty, but at its brevity of meaning.

-Shrugal Borkar