



the RUIMATE monthly

MOVING BEYOND PAPERS

EDITORIAL

As the college gears up for Utsav Aarohan, and December finally brings the much-needed chill in the air, we bring you this newest edition of the Monthly. Escape all the frenzy of fests, preps and to do lists, and get your copy of the Monthly, sit back and unwind.

What would you do to get an ultimate holiday experience? We say, combine Food and Travel. Safarnama has done just that and then some more. Read on to find out! Is killing wildlife for sake of human safety justifiable? Open Forum tells the other, equally important side of the T1 tigress debacle. If you followed that news closely, do not miss this one.

Isn't hibernation a fascinating phenomenon? What of the Golden Ratio? Read Science of everything, where they have been decoded. The Factfile on Exoplanets is a must read.

Behind the Scenes pays a tribute to the legendary Stan Lee-read on to know more about this legend and you will surely come across some interesting findings.

Insight welcomes you to flights of fantasy this December, be it the best day in one's life or pangs of wanderlust that have been satiated. It's heaven, it's paradise, it's...read on and get to know about it yourself. Our green friends, the plants want to tell us something important and it is crucial to know what. Delve into the message these sustainers of life want to give us, do check out the OpEd column!

The AIs had let themselves loose and what followed was a hilarious conversation. Go tickle those funny bones and decide for yourself who won the 'Best AI' prize. Talking about prizes, Career-wise has interviewed

our very own Rising Star of Ruia, Nakul Ghanekar. To all those who love dancing, Nakul Sir has something interesting to tell you.

Did you know? Dear Mr. Claus has already begun his preparation for Christmas. Are you ready to welcome him home? And those cynical hearts, we have something for them too this Christmas. Look for the treasures Fictionally Yours has to offer and have a Merry Christmas you all!

We will meet each other in a brand new year the next time. Happy New Year to you all (albeit in advance), we hope we are the first ones to wish you! Till then, have fun reading the Monthly, enjoy your Christmas break and shower some more love upon us, like us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram and subscribe to the Youtube Channel!

REPORTS

A RENDEZVOUS WITH THE PAST ...

-RIDDDHI JOSHI (TYBA B HISTORY)

The Department of History organized its industrial visit to the Northern Karnataka Heritage in the month of November for 7 days. The group of 42 students and five professors left for Bijapur on the night of 21st November 2018 and arrived in the early morning. All packed in a bus, they were ready to explore the city.

Bijapur mesmerized the students with its 198-feet-tall Gol Gumbaj, the mausoleum of King Mohammed Adil Shah, Sultan of Bijapur. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves in the whispering gallery; this wonderful place was made such that even the faintest sounds made at one side of it could be clearly heard at the other side.

This was followed by visiting the ASI museum, the Malik-e-Maidan (biggest cannon ever made), Ibrahim Rauza and Asar Mahal (the place where it was decided to send Afzal Khan against Shivaji) and Jumma Masjid. The next day the group left for Hampi, the capital of the Vijaynagar dynasty.

The 6th century CE. This was followed by a visit to the World Heritage Site of Pattadakal, a place where coronation ceremonies were carried out. The site displayed an extremely beautiful complex housing about 9 temples. The carvings are so expressive and intricate as if they have a story to tell. Most of them depict stories from the Ramayana, Mahabharat, and the Panchatantra. The Virupaksha Temple is the most beautiful of all. The group left back for Mumbai on the same night and reached Mumbai on 27th November 2018 by the Barmer Express. The IV was managed well by the professors and the senior students. Everyone enjoyed a lot. They could sense a great feeling of respect for our nation's rich culture and heritage. While going home, everyone had a big smile on their faces indicating they had had a great fun and the visit was a great success.



The first day at Hampi was spent in visiting the Virupaksha temple (family deity of the dynasty), the Acchutraya temple and ancient Bazaar. The day ended with the students and teachers enjoying a Coracle (boat) ride on the river Tungabhadra. The following day at Hampi was spent in visiting the Royal enclosure, the Mahanavmi Dibba (place for Navaratri celebration), the Hazar Rama temple, the step well and the ASI museum. The most beautiful among all of them was the Vijay Vitthal temple. All were fascinated by the beautiful stone chariot and the fascinating musical

pillars. Every day a new South Indian delicacy would be waiting for all of them. The next day was spent visiting the exquisite caves of the Chalukyan capital, Badami. The intricate yet imposing sculptures of Tri Vikrama, Harihara, Varaha and Jain Tirthankaras were a sight to behold.



The icing on the cake was the campfire organized for all the students where they danced and played many games. The following day the group visited the Aihole group of temples, followed by climbing a hill to see the historic inscription of the Chalukyan King Pulkeshi II who became the first king of South India to defeat Harshavardhan the most powerful king of North India during



www.shubhankarkarande.com 2018

WHEN RUIAITES MADE THEIR MARK AT BOSTON...

RUIA! RUIA! RUIA! We're cheering this loud for the students of our very own Department of Microbiology, who gloriously represented our college and our country on the international level. At the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition, held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, they won not only the gold medal but also the special award for Best Integrated Human Practices. On this occasion, Team RUIAite Monthly takes a step to highlight their momentous achievement!

iGEM offers a global platform for students all over the world "to build biological systems and operate them in living cells". The team, composed entirely of undergrads, included Aishwarya Rajurkar, Anjali Vaidya, Komal Parab, Maithili Sawant, Mitali Patil, Nishtha Pange, Sanika Ambre, and Shrutika Sawant. Dr. Mayuri Rege and Dr. Anushree Lokur were the professors-in-charge. Ms. Mugdha Kulkarni and Mr. Sachin Rajagopalan

were instructors.

Brainstorming with professors, the team members looked to the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan for inspiration. They learned that even though much money had been invested in removing the ubiquitous paan stains, the problem seemed no closer to a solution. The team decided to create a solution with certain enzymes, which would get rid of red paan stains economically.

Six months of untiring effort was a learning experience in every sense of the word - from the technical aspects of using instruments to exploring diverse research areas. Of particular note was their exemplary fieldwork, which included taking inputs from the paan-walas, station masters and BMC officials. They even appealed to their fellow students and citizens to follow #paansepareshaan to share their experiences. The team was felicitated with the special award for Best Integrated Human Practices for these very efforts.



Winning the gold medal was not easy; the team had to convincingly present their project to a panel of six judges,

failing which they would have had to settle for a silver or bronze. There were 163 judges in all, including ex-iGEMers

and various researchers of repute. Our professors Mayuri Rege and Mugdha Godbole were also selected as judges. While the bacteria was used for project purposes to degrade the paan colour, an enzyme solution will have to be prepared for future use as a product. This is simply because releasing a Genetically Modified Organism (GMO)

in the environment could have dangerous consequences.

Nevertheless, the team has decided to work on this project further.

As the project ended on the perfect note, the team was thankful to college for their immense support for the liberty and flexibility they were afforded; to the Department of Microbiology, their mentors, classmates, non-teaching staff, team iGEM, and the RUIAite Monthly for giving them coverage; to their sponsors and alumni, who provided generous financial aid; and perhaps most of all, to their families for the moral support they provided.

Our Principal, Dr. Anushree Lokur, was as proud of the team as could be. She expressed the hope that the student community would participate in similar events. This victory has brought international exposure to our college.

Perhaps more importantly, it has given all of us a glimpse into working in an innovation-based setup.



Team RUIAite Monthly wishes team iGEM luck and success for their future prospects!

-MRUNAL SAPALE, GAYATRI GODBOLE

BUZZ AROUND

THE MARATHA QUOTA STIR

After a brief lull, various Maratha outfits once again looked to spark their agitation for reservations into life with violent protests in western Maharashtra.

As protestors resorted to violence and arson at various places, police were forced to fire teargas shells in the air and carry out a lathicharge in places like Pune, Solapur and nearby. What it brought was not only social turmoil but repercussions that affected a huge mass of people from the open category. People from the open category are deprived of 70% seats which creates discrimination at par in job, education and institutional outreach.

A 25-year-old man allegedly committed suicide in neighboring Navi Mumbai, with his purported suicide note mentioning his anguish over the Maratha community not getting a reservation, police said.

It would be the eighth such suicide in the state, where the deceased linked their decision to end life to the Maratha quota demand.

The revived agitation of the Maratha community for reservation in jobs and education has roiled Maharashtra in the last two weeks.

Nevertheless, the Maratha reservation has not only affected the commoner but also deeply created a feeling of dismay amongst students.

Two of the cases that followed were of Tushar Dhamale and Gayatri Kulkarni from Ramanarain Ruia Autonomous College, Matunga.

Tushar Dhamale in his TY gave entrance exams to get admission to institutes/universities outside Mumbai. He got selected for Masters in Microbiology at Baroda University. He came 6th in their entrance and went to Baroda to get his admission done but was denied from the same because he didn't have final year result on hand and had various categories of reservation to pass through. Tushar along with his friends went to Mumbai University seeking to consider them as a likely candidate but failed to receive any favorable response. Later they wrote letters to Chancellor and Education Minister. Luckily, Tushar got selected for masters in marine biotechnology at the Goa University of which he had once appeared for entrance.

Coming to the next case of Gayatri Kulkarni where she wanted to pursue masters in Health Sciences from Pune University. She had appeared for the entrance and even topped securing the available seat in the open category. In spite of such merit rank, she couldn't get through the admission because the seats were allotted to reserved category students who had much fewer marks. Fortunate enough, Gayatri received a call from Garware College and got through Masters in Microbiology.

The reservation will be granted to the community under a new category called 'Socially and Educationally Backward Class' (SEBC) as per the recommendation of the commission.

The Maharashtra legislature on November 29 passed a bill proposing 16% reservation in education and government jobs for Marathas, declared as socially and economically backward class by the state government. The reservation will be in addition to the 52% reservation in the state. The reservation quantum will rise to 68% with the passage of the bill. Marathas, not in the "creamy layer" would be eligible for reservation.

The Maharashtra government, filed a caveat in the Supreme Court on December 1st, saying that it be heard if any plea in connection with the grant of quota to the Maratha community in the state is entertained.

Is this reservation just to those people who really work hard to get into prestigious institutions based upon merit or do the economically backward classes really need another reservation? Only time will tell.



Adya Shreya

THE NATIONAL HERALD SCAM

1. What is the National Herald Case?

The National Herald scam is an ongoing case in a Delhi court filed by Indian economist and politician Subramanian Swamy against politicians Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, their companies and associated persons. As per the complaint filed in the court of the Metropolitan Magistrate, Associated Journals Limited (AJL) took an interest-free loan of Rs.90.25 crore (US\$13 million) from the Indian National Congress. It is alleged that the loan was not repaid. A closely held company, Young Indian, was incorporated in November 2010 with a capital of Rs.50 lakh (US\$70,000) and it acquired almost all the shareholding of AJL and all its properties (alleged to be worth Rs.5,000 crore (US\$700 million)). Swamy alleged criminal misappropriation by both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. The courts have determined that a prima face case has been established in the matter.

2. What is the allegation?

Subramaniam Swamy has alleged that YIL had paid just Rs 50 lakh to obtain the right to recover Rs 90.25 crore that AJL had owed to the Congress party, given earlier as a loan to start the newspaper. According to documents, 76 percent of the shareholding of YIL is with Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, while the remaining 24 percent vests in the others named in the case. The complaint has also alleged that the loan given to AJL was "illegal", as it had been taken from party funds.

3. What has happened in the trial so far?

On June 26, 2014, the court summoned Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Motilal Vora, Oscar Fernandes, Suman Dubey, and Sam Pitroda.

While summoning them, Metropolitan Magistrate Gomati Manocha said that from the complaint and the evidence so far, "it appears that YI was in fact created as a sham or a cloak to convert public money to personal use" in order to acquire control over Rs. 2,000 crore worth of assets of AJL. The court noted that all accused persons had allegedly acted "in consortium with each other to achieve the said nefarious purpose/design".

4. What has the court said?

The judgment of the High Court has noted that the "probity of the legendary national political party" was "at stake" in the case, as the office-bearers of the party held the funds in trust. The Bench dismissed the appeals filed by the Congress leaders, observing that prima facie the case "evidenced criminality". The court has also raised questions regarding the legality of the initial loan granted to AJL by the Congress party. The court has noted that office bearers of the Congress were directors at AJL, and also the majority shareholders at YIL, while all decisions were taken without the involvement of the other shareholders of AJL.

Pushkar Bhatlekar

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TOP 10 NEWS

- 1) Mary Kom becomes First Woman Boxer to win six World Championship Gold medals.
- 2) Cyclone Gaja, a severe cyclonic storm struck coastal districts of Tamil Nadu leaving a trail of destruction.
- 3) Maharashtra Government clears reservation for Marathas under a new, independent category called Socially and Educationally Backward Class (SEBC).
- 4) ISRO launched GSAT -29 satellite, a multi-band communication satellite into orbit on November 14 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- 5) American tourist John Chau killed by Sentinelese tribe in Andaman islands.
- 6) 3 killed, 10 injured in Amritsar when 2 men on a motorcycle hurled a grenade at Nirankari Bhavan.
- 7) Pakistan has decided to open the Kartarpur Corridor for the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in 2019.
- 8) Elections in Chhattisgarh, voting on November 12 and November 20. Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram to vote on November 28.
- 9) Farmers and tribals march to Azad Maidan to press for their demands. CM Devendra Fadnavis promises to settle all land rights claims.
- 10) Ola and Uber drivers' union has called off the strike in Mumbai, bringing relief to commuters.

Swati Achwal

TWITTER TWEET

'Congress has not given a single penny to farmers, let alone a bonus. The Congress president says he will do this and that within 10 days; ask him to get the moon and he might do that as well in 10 days. Not a single paisa of farm loans has been waived off in Punjab, Karnataka.'

Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Chinmay Parulekar

CAREER WISE



RUIA'S RISING DANCER

A Star of Ruia, known for his studiousness as well as great dancing skills, the "Sangharsh" movie and "Jai Malhar" show actor Nakul Ghanekar is an icon for all the Ruiaites. He believes that only your passion and love towards work can help you succeed. Here's his exclusive interview with Ruiaite monthly:

Beginning of my dancing journey:

Dancing has been my passion always. Be it school performances or a casual dance to entertain the guests at my house, I was always ready to show my skills. After a complete kathak training, I began my professional dancing when I was a student of second-year B.Sc in Ruia college. Due to my busy schedule and continuous training, I had missed many lectures but I am very thankful to my supportive department. However, I never let my passion come between my studies.

Skills for Success in dancing:

Patience, patience and a lot of patience!

Along with that, you must be ready to face the failures on every step of your career. Even if you are very skilled and trained, failure is bound to be a part of your career. So you must be ready to overcome it with ample hard work and dedication.

What was the turning point of your career?

For me, the reality show "Maharashtracha Nach Baliye" of Star Pravah channel gave me the break which was much needed. My talents got recognized throughout Maharashtra and I even got my first movie. The show was my key to the industry.

What about the future of dance in India?

India is a huge market for any career. If you are good and honest, anything that you present will sell and give you great returns. Dance is an amazing career. I am very happy that with the influence of dance reality shows and the increasing

awareness about health, there is a treasure box of opportunities open for budding dancers. Dance is great for physical fitness as well. The different types of dances are now widening the scope of the career. So, give all your efforts without any expectations. Eventually, everything will fall into place.



Apart from the skills, what are the things important to remember for a dancer?

"A dancer should not go to a gym." I want to tell everyone that this is completely a myth. I go to the gym as well as concentrate on dance because

physical fitness is a must for a dancer to sustain in his/her career. If you dance all the time, your body gives up and so you need to keep challenging the muscles. You need to upgrade your forms. I have always heard by students saying that "I am done with Kathak or any other dance form." But according to me, you can never be completely done with any learning. Dancing is like a sea. The more you get into it, you realize that it is deeper. You keep on learning and upgrading the dance styles according to the new trends and generation until the end of your life. You can travel abroad for upgradation as well.

What is the story behind starting your own dance academy "Different strokes"?

Oh! That's an interesting part to share. I had completed my B.Sc in Microbiology from Ruia and M.Sc in Life science from Mumbai University. I was reluctant to do Ph.D. As in every Indian family, my father

too wanted me to earn for the family and settle down. I had completed my dance training and practiced it for a very long time. So, I decided to start the academy in this very place which is a small house of my father's friends. I loved teaching Bollywood dance to children. Everyone loves dancing, they just need a guide which I provided them.

How do you manage theatre, movie, and dancing simultaneously?

Mom. She is the reason behind my success. She has helped me to adjust completely with the packed schedule. I am also assisted by a great team of trainers, dancers, assistants, and manager. So they do not let the dance school suffer if I am acting in a movie during any period. They understand my commitments as well as support me. It is very hectic but I have kept my time divided only between these two things. Also, I know to say no wherever needed.

"You are the rising star of Ruia". How does it feel to get the award from your own college?

I am a proud Ruiaite. Ruia widened my horizons. Being a Thanekar, I came from Thane college in junior college to Ruia which had a combination of a cosmopolitan crowd. I was introduced to new types of people, new mindsets and culture. When I got a call from Ruia about this award, I was surprised and stunned. It is a dream come true to get the award from your own college appreciating your talents.

Your advice to the aspiring dancers and actors of Ruia.

I believe in the popular saying that "There is no shortcut to success." The longer routes keep you stable in any career. For acting, theatre should be your base and for dancing, classical dancing is must in a long-term career. Practice and hard work can take you to heights.

Rapidly firing the questions to the rising star:



Acting or dancing?

Haha! Of course dancing.

Screen or theatre?

Totally theatre.

Kathak or Salsa?

Oh! I better take a sip of the coffee.

So, Tea or coffee?

I am a Chai addict. So, anytime tea.

Work or Sleep?

Sleep because I miss the peaceful 8 hours complete sleep.

Typical Maharashtrian thali or your favorite pizza?

A complete Maharashtrian I am. So, I choose a Maharashtrian thali.

DP's or Mani's?

Oh! Tough question but DP's.

Crabs or Bombil fry?

I am a non-veg lover and I love crabs over anything.

Mountains or beaches?

Beaches.

What would you do if you do not have an internet connection except dancing?

Oh! I will borrow a hotspot. See, I am smart. (laughs).

What is your favorite social network?

Instagram

If not acting or dancing, what would be your career?

Woah! Maybe singing and architecture.

Your favorite places in and around Ruia?

Microbiology department to chat with my professors, quadrangle gives me nostalgic memories, the parking area, ground opposite Ruia and 5 gardens. I hardly bunked lectures but there are amazing places to wander around.

Your favorite professors in Ruia?

Anushree Lokur ma'am.

Favorite dish in Ruia's canteen?

Samosa and the amazing chutney that comes with it.



Nakul Sir is a true inspiration for all the Ruiaites. He surely follows the popular dialogue of 3 idiots :

"Kamyabi ke peeche mat bhago. Kabil bano, kamyabi apne aap peeche aayegi."

(DESERVE BEFORE DESIRE.)

Congratulations Sir for the Rising star award!

BEHIND THE SCENES



UNITED, WE STAN

Growing up watching Marvel movies, many of us would always make a conscious effort to remember the names of the superheroes so that we could remember their role in the movie and their superpowers, especially when they all came together in the Avengers. But, a lot of us might have been confused by this one recurring name with the face of an old grandpa, always making a cheery cameo in each film; 'Stan Lee' it would say. 'Who is that man?' We wondered and a hardcore Marvel fan would say, 'That's the legendary Stan Lee! The creator of all your favorite superheroes.' And since then, who hasn't eagerly looked out for every cameo of his in every Marvel film?

And just like that, a few days ago, the world received the sad news of his passing as we scrolled through all the tweets, posts and articles about his life and the Marvel legacy he had left behind. Stan Lee was born as Stanley Martin Lieber to Romanian immigrants in America. He began working at Timely Comics at the age of 17. At the age of 19, he was made the interim editor, essentially starting the big bang of the Marvel Universe. Working along with Jack Kirby, he co-created characters like Iron Man, Ant Man and The Wasp, The Fantastic Four and The Avengers and Spider-Man with Steve Ditko that soon became role models and household names amongst families and friends. His

characters gained mass popularity because they were not perfect; they had flaws like any other human being, making them so much more relatable. Lee quickly established himself as the face of Marvel comics for he was thriving in the comic book business which was virtually lawless. By the late '60s, Marvel Comics had gained cult status among college students, making leading universities call him for lectures. Lee also used his platform to support the Civil Rights Movement and show his opposition to racism in his trademark monthly Soapbox Column.

Over the years, Stan Lee created or helped to create around 250 characters consisting of superheroes as well as other supporting characters which have become fan favorites. The most popular and iconic of these are Spiderman, Ironman, Black Widow, Hawkeye, Hulk, Thor, Loki, Nick Fury, Doctor Strange, Black Panther, and Ant man to name a few. In 1961, he revolutionized superhero comics by introducing superheroes designed to appeal to older readers than the predominantly younger audiences of the medium when he created the superhero team The Fantastic Four. After the tremendous success of these comics, the X-Men followed in 1963. He was one of the creative heads behind the original X-Men, Professor X, and Magneto.



The franchises of Fantastic Four and X-Men have not received the same attention as the other films set in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. This sparked a controversy among fans especially as the early success of Marvel began with these comics. There have been many character controversies as well over the years with a majority of them stemming from changing the characters' arc for shock value. Sometimes these are intentional misdirects or explained away at a later point in the story, sometimes they are permanent. Over the years Marvel has revealed Spiderman to be a clone, Ironman to be a murderous villain and most recently Captain America to be a member of HYDRA. While these tactics sure help to keep things interesting, there are limits to what fans are willing to overlook or forgive in regards to their favorites.

Even though Lee was one of the most influential pop culture figures, there were a few controversies about him. Lee's ambition and propensity for self-promotion while spinning his personal legend often saw the efforts of his creative collaborations

X-MEN

erased. Lee just didn't publicly take credit for the ideas of others, he was happy to allow credit to be given to him alone.

As the 2000s began, Marvel was facing bankruptcy, so Marvel Studios and Marvel Cinematic Universe were born. He took on the role of pop culture icon. The last few years saw an elderly Lee plagued by legal troubles over the rights to his estate, along with allegations of sexual harassment. In early 2018, the Daily Mail reported that the owner at the nursing company hired to care for Lee said: "Stan has sexually harassed every single nurse that has been to the house." Lee denied these claims, saying that he had done "absolutely nothing wrong".

Like all human beings, Lee was flawed. Of course, no one can deny the gravity of the allegations. But his passion and advocacy for comics was vital in keeping the medium alive, which were pivotal for the pop culture of the new generation.

The 90s was a weird phase for Marvel. Three of it's biggest artists left the company on the grounds that the company's policies toward talent were unfair and that the creators didn't have rights to their own characters. They joined forces with a few

other like-minded people and founded their own company called Image Comics. This was a hard hit for Marvel.

In the world of superheroes, anything is possible. In the peak nineties, Marvel and DC (another comic book giant) came together and merged their characters, teams and their universes to form some unbelievable characters which were printed under the name of Amalgam Comics. Let us take a glimpse of these characters. Doctor Strange is the culmination of Doctor Strange and Professor X from the Marvel universe and Doctor Fate from the DC universe. He is the most powerful being in the whole Amalgam Universe who can do anything to prevent its destruction. Amazon is the lightning superhero of the Amalgam comics. She was a combination of Storm from Marvel comics and Wonder Woman from DC comics. Green Skull is the amalgamation of two of the greatest comic book villains of Marvel and DC. He is the combination of Red skull and Lex Luthor. Iron Lantern is the combination of Marvel's Iron Man and DC's Green Lantern. William Mar-Vell is the combination of Marvel and DC's Captain Marvel. He is just a boy who transforms into



super-scientifically advanced hero known as Captain Marvel when he shouts the word "KREE." He got the powers of both the Captain Marvels. Seeing these two comic book titans coming together was a dream come true for some, but a nightmare for some others. There was also a Marvel vs DC series in 1996.

To all those ardent Marvel worshipers, The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) is more than just an American media franchise - it's an entire beautiful and intricate universe on its own. The MCU is centered on a series of superhero films, independently produced by Marvel Studios and based on characters that appear in American comic books published by Marvel Comics. What makes the MCU appealing to fans is mainly the crossing over plots, storylines, settings, cast, and characters in a shared universe similar to that of the original Marvel Universe in comic books. Though it all started with 2008's "Iron Man", the Marvel Cinematic Universe actually stretches millions of years back. The history comprises much more than is seen on the screen. However, the 20 movies have given the fans plenty of contexts to get the sense of just how far back it goes allowing them a piece to the clues together to make up a rough timeline ascertaining the events occurring within the universe.

These films have been divided in to 'phases'. These phases mark an important time period or epoch in the storyline of the Universe. So, the 20 movies have been spread over three phases so far and fans still wonder what's in store for them in Phase 4. According to Kevin Feige (head of Marvel Studios), there are around 20 more movies that are going to come up! Though he refused to reveal any more details on the matter, the fans have been speculating and coming up with crazy theories as to where the 4th phase would lead. The Marvel Cinematic Universe sure has decided to make a long foray into the future!

One of the biggest points of controversy in the franchise was the resurrection of S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Phil Coulson following his death at the hands of Loki in 2012's The Avengers.



The lack of female-led superheroes movies has been the topic of discussion in recent years. 20 movies in and there's only been one movie with a female character's name in its title - this year's Ant-Man and the Wasp - and even that had the character's name alongside that of a male's. The most recent controversy has been the firing of popular director James Gunn (the man responsible for both writing and directing the first two Guardians of the Galaxy movies) from the franchise after a series of tweets, described as "indefensible" by the media giants.

Marvel has been through its ups and downs, but it has managed to establish a foothold in the pop culture of our current generation, with Stan Lee being its icon. It all started with one man. Without a doubt, Stan Lee has managed to inspire millions of people with his characters and stories. He taught us that if we can be bigger, we can be something more if we want. When looking back, we all can agree about this one dialogue that resonates in our minds, a dialogue by Uncle Ben to Peter Parker (Spider-Man), "With great power, comes great responsibility." His words will continue to resonate even amongst the future generations. It is amazing to know what a little man can accomplish with a book and some sketches. As Stan "The Man" Lee would say- Excelsior!



INSIGHT

THE CHRONICLES OF A FANTASY

With a hazy daze, you pull up your sleepy head and walk towards the curtain. You open the drapes and squeal. Oh, it is the day that you have been waiting for through the summer, the monsoon, the fall. With wide eyes, you watch as the first snowflakes of the year hit the streets of Mumbai. You put your hands out and try to catch one but fall down... down the hole of reality. But before you reach the bottom, hold tight! Insight has a few tales for you to go along.

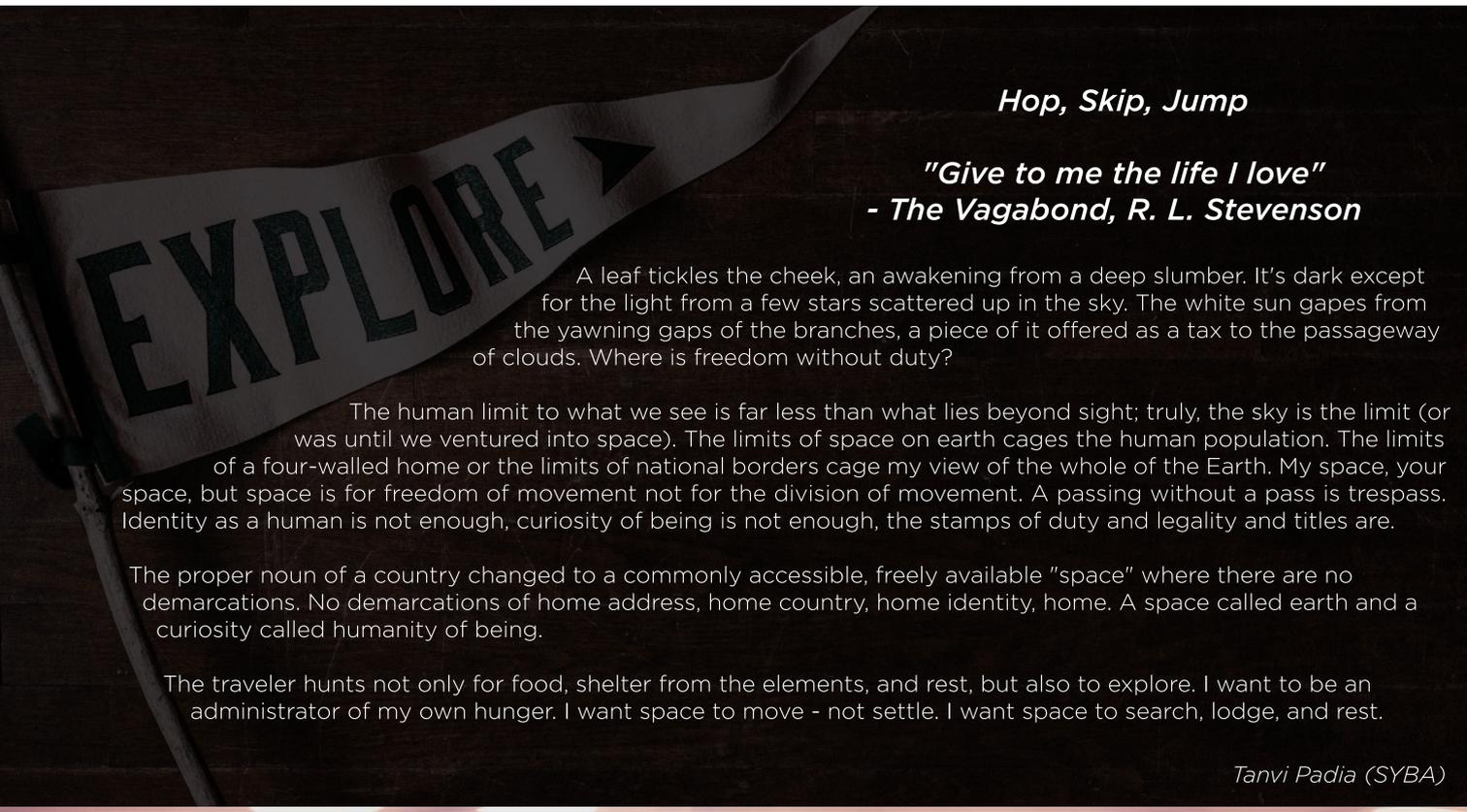
The Best Day

You wake up and stretch in your cloud-soft sheets. You lie in bed a little longer as lethargy grips you. You grab a book off your bedside table and lie back down. You can afford to stay in bed for another hour. When the sunlight streaking through the window turns brighter and the clock strikes noon, you get out of bed, smiling at the thought of the day ahead. You get dressed and head out. The world is somehow simultaneously quiet and bustling with energy. Everywhere you look there's only happiness and contentment. No tears to be found. No fears to be drowned. There is only wide-eyed eagerness and laughter.

Afternoon turns into the evening as you go nowhere yet end up everywhere. You meet your friends for tea. You squabble over little things and giggle at everything. The sun seems to slow its descent into darkness just for you. You go home and sit down at your desk. Words come easy. You write sonnets and epic tales like the bards of old. Before you can get too into it, your mom calls you for dinner. You go to dinner, smiling faintly at the aroma of homemade food. You ruffle your little brother's hair and bully him into eating his greens. Your elder brother raises an eyebrow at you and tries to bully you into eating your

greens. You look him in the eyes as you shovel them off your plate. At the end of the day, you sit down for a friendly game of cards with your family. But like most things, it doesn't stay that way. You clutch your sides and roar with laughter as death threats are flung right and left. As you settle back into bed, you wonder if there's another version of you out there, hunched over a laptop, frantically typing and trying to meet deadlines. You shake your head with a huff of laughter. She'll get here too. You're certain of that.

Lakshmi Kalarikkal (FYJC)



Hop, Skip, Jump

"Give to me the life I love"
- The Vagabond, R. L. Stevenson

A leaf tickles the cheek, an awakening from a deep slumber. It's dark except for the light from a few stars scattered up in the sky. The white sun gapes from the yawning gaps of the branches, a piece of it offered as a tax to the passageway of clouds. Where is freedom without duty?

The human limit to what we see is far less than what lies beyond sight; truly, the sky is the limit (or was until we ventured into space). The limits of space on earth cages the human population. The limits of a four-walled home or the limits of national borders cage my view of the whole of the Earth. My space, your space, but space is for freedom of movement not for the division of movement. A passing without a pass is trespass. Identity as a human is not enough, curiosity of being is not enough, the stamps of duty and legality and titles are.

The proper noun of a country changed to a commonly accessible, freely available "space" where there are no demarcations. No demarcations of home address, home country, home identity, home. A space called earth and a curiosity called humanity of being.

The traveler hunts not only for food, shelter from the elements, and rest, but also to explore. I want to be an administrator of my own hunger. I want space to move - not settle. I want space to search, lodge, and rest.

Tanvi Padia (SYBA)

fan. ta. sy (noun)

(a place where lonely hearts go to remember. a place where lonely hearts go to forget.)

i. It lives in the stories which drink your heart dry, in the words clinging to your soul, the ghost of absent wings longing to fly. It's just fiction, it's just fiction, but the deed is done—you will never look at the world the way you did once.

ii. In the distance the streetlights look like faerie orbs, the cloaks of the passersby a mirage for witches' robes.

It's the glimpse of the other that you catch sometimes, in cracked mirrors and shadows that climb through the gaps of your ribcage it reaches still, a gaping hole reality will never quite fill. A wish to go to the place where your heart has been, leaving the rest of you behind, whole and apart and forever in between.

iii. You carry your dreams with you in the morning light and your shoulders sag under their might. Polite smiles and polite words resting on your tongue weighed down with magic spells and war cries and a siren's song never sung.

iv. The weight of something that's more than this—more than tired smiles on morning trains and tired hearts under tightened reins. More than fluttering wishes which will never reach and half-dreamt worlds those are never to be. A sinking knowledge of the things you lack—knowing perhaps that you were made from the stars, knowing perhaps that there's no going back.

v. You mix wishbones and dandelion puffs until you can't tell them apart and let the world reflect on your sea glass heart.

-Anushka Nagarmath (FYBA)

The Illusion of Escape

Grown-ups have never truly grown up. We all enjoy our fair share of fantasy - we spent our childhood in fairytales and ghost stories, middle grade in adventure novels while the teenage years were filled with Harry Potter, Twilight, Percy Jackson, and various other series spanning through numerous genres. But even today, though many of us are on the verge of hitting our early adulthood (and some are already dealing with it), these amazing books keep calling us back to their lands, to revisit our favorite characters, to relive our connections with that book, and to escape from our own harsh world of 'normals'. And no matter how old we get, the craving for a short escape into the world of fantasy will always allure us, maybe more than it allures a child.

Reality is hit-me-in-the-face hard. We do accept it. But even just an hour-long sneak into any fictional character's life gives us enough strength to face our world better. The imaginary tours one makes through the different magical and supernatural universes feel like a splash of the elixir of life to our mechanical

being. More than a break from our mundane routine, or stressful blazing life situations, these characters kindle in us the flame of hope, which keeps us going. We may even subconsciously relate our lives with those of the characters. If they are in a better place, it makes us happy to see their struggle and motivates us to get going after a good read. If they are in a bad space, it reminds us that life could be worse! Yeah, we're humans after all. Talking psychologically, the genre of fantasy eases our denial, where we find an outlet to just block our troubles from filling the awareness, and refuse to experience those unpleasant events, even for a short span of time.

The main essence of indulging oneself in fantasy novels, books, films, and plays is to regain this very 'hope' to surpass those tedious, emotionally devastating situations in our tough existences, and to struggle our way back to 'living'. Along with this escape from reality, these lands have given people the power to 'believe' in things impossible.

There will be many adult fans of various book series who would tell you that it is

not just a collection of books, but something beyond words. It gave them the strength to be happy even in their darkest hour. Harry's hardships, Dumbledore's wisdom, all of that in the world of magic gave them their reason to believe in themselves. Many individuals have battled their way through gloom and personal turmoils by indulging in fiction and fantasy to save themselves from the clutches of depression. No wonder it's true that 'if something can free your mind, it can give you wings to dust off your trouble.'

One thing that fantasy genre taught me is: 'Escape is worth the credit, only if you come back strong, and face the hardships right in their face, and believe in yourself that you can blow them off with one simple whistle.'

Though fantasy, fiction, sci-fi, may be termed food for childish grey matter, it is a mini-vacation for the child within us who wants to enjoy life. And this child is now equipped with a magnificent power to explore!

Sara Chavan (SYBA)



OP-ED

Dealing with the smoggy days

Our ancestors created ebullient seasons of festivities to teach us to celebrate life. Little did they know that we'll turn them into periods of harm for both the society and nature. The recent celebrations of Diwali have brought the problem of smog back into the limelight. The problem was grave enough to be taken seriously but we have gotten used to inhaling pollution. Blame the 'chalta hai' attitude. Even if humans are benighted, the plants aren't. Following is an ultimatum from the plants' news agency, which starkly addresses the issue as well as the cause, ie. Us.

We the plants....

As Diwali ended, sharing happiness all over the country, it didn't fail to share one more thing - pollution! The rising pollution created by humans has always been a threat for our plant world and now, ours is the only news agency representing the plant population in India, consider it as our moral duty to shed light on this serious issue. We have one question to ask the self-proclaimed intelligent human

population, "Are you the only living beings that the Earth belongs to?"

Considering that humans have conveniently forgotten about the pollution already present in the air, they burned staggering amounts of crackers this season. These crackers have added to the layer of smog around us. To add to our misery, you burn crackers on and around us. It injures the inner bark, a living part of the tree where the nutrients and water move. Since Diwali comes at the end of the peak growing season for most of us, leaf burn can set us back by months; affecting the healthy growth of our children. Stop treating us like lamp posts or inanimate trellis.

We are the great carbon sinks. We take in the air polluted by you and release the air that you breathe; a lot cleaner than it should be.

Blinded by the rut of being the most intelligent species on earth, you seem to have forgotten the other beings inhabiting this planet. However, if you care to notice, you will find a black liquid drip from our

leaves around this time from pollution. This is the same pollution that comes down from the air during monsoon. This acid rain leads to irregular PH levels and hampered growth.

Due to the insane behavior of humans in our country, 9 out of the 10 most polluted cities were ranked from India. These situations are worsening day by day and repetitive appeals from the plant community are being neglected. Cities like Kanpur, Faridabad, Varanasi, Gaya, Patna, Delhi and Mumbai top pollution charts. Directions to reduce pollution during Diwali were given beforehand, however, humans ignored them. If it continues to happen, one-day human species will die and take everyone else with them. We sincerely appeal to you to abide by the directions of your government and take strict actions against those humans who repetitively violate laws. There are two options, either follow the national law or face the wrath of nature; the choice is yours.

- Lekshmi Pillai, Mrunal Sapale

Heard of Smog?

Isn't it cruel that something as beautiful as the sky and as essential as the air has to bear the costs of our inconsiderate and thoughtless mentality? Have you ever wondered about the origins of the fog that envelops the morning sky or the haze that weakens your vision like an uncanny illusion? -Smog.

Smog is a common and usual sight for the city dwellers. 9 of India's cities are a part of the top 10 most polluted cities in the world in terms of the vicious PM 2.5

concentrations. November witnesses the highest records of air pollution allowing us to blame this situation on the evident bursting of crackers even after the forceful ban, during the festival of Diwali. In reality, Diwali makes a small but statistically significant contribution to the country's poor air quality. On the other hand, the agricultural states like UP

and Haryana burn rice stubbles which and Haryana burn rice stubbles which and dust particles in the air. The first and second-tier cities are hubs of traffic congestion that are huge

pollution boosters. From Mumbai to Delhi to Kanpur; each city is a victim of this condition but still, we fail to understand the gravity of this problem. Such an attitude has led to the normalization of this issue where wearing pollution masks is a common sight. Isn't it time to reflect on the so-called development we're undergoing?

-Disha Shanbag

We're the fountainheads of smog!

The onset of October is marked by the harvest season of Kharif crops throughout the country.

But the harvest is accompanied by a lowering of air quality due to the age-old practice of stubble burning. Farmers burn the straws and stubs of paddy and wheat post-harvest to clear the field and make way for the next round of tilling and sowing.

Farmers engaging in this practice simultaneously and en masse from a large region release a lot of smoke and suspended matter into the atmosphere that is carried along with the winds.

Punjab and Haryana are notoriously known for this practice as the winds carry the smoke down to the capital Delhi, lowering its air quality to the extent that the city has to be shut down for days until the air is breathable. The current pollution due to Diwali fireworks, vehicular traffic, and the stubble burning makes Delhi one of the

worst cities in the world to breathe in.

The government announced loans to buy machinery that would assist the farmers to sow seed with the stubble still intact in the field. The farmers using this machinery claimed that their profits reduced considerably due to the lowering of the overall quality of the produce. Additionally, huge fines were imposed on farmers who were found guilty of engaging in stubble burning. However, a lot of this remained just on paper. Even the well-educated farmers maintain that stubble burning remains the cheapest and the

most efficient way of clearing fields while farming. The Government might need to come up with better solutions to tackle the problem if they intend to cut down on this practice significantly. In wake of the increasing pollution levels, the Chairman of Environment Pollution Control Authority, Bhure Lal wrote to the CPCB secretary and chair

of task force Prashant Gargava. He asked them to introduce a ban on all non-CNG vehicles in Delhi. In an earlier proposal, he had requested a ban on all the private vehicles, as the Supreme Court's order of recognizing vehicles by special stickers based on their fuel type was not properly implemented. He proposed them to reintroduce the odd and even system for private vehicles. There have been emergency measures like banning heavy trucks and construction works during certain hours to reduce emission in the air. However, in the case of private vehicles, the work is still in its initial stages.

The public health finds itself in grave danger as dense clouds of smog settle on roads. Stringent measures are thus the need of the hour.

-Shabduli Shinde, Jui Mande.

Outcome of the smoggy days..

We are certainly the last generation that has an opportunity to seize environmental health and take the sitch under control. Due to the presence of deadly smog, Delhi has somewhat turned into a gas chamber. November and December are when foreign travelers visit India, but rising air pollution affecting the population, economy, tourism, monuments, and most importantly, plants and animals.

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, are toxic components of traffic exhaust and wildfire smoke. In large amounts, they have been linked to increased risk of heart attack, wheezing, coughing, breathing problems, and irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat. Further, it can lead to birth defects and reproductive failure. Besides this, breathing in Delhi's toxic air is equivalent to smoking a whole pack of cigarettes.

Acid rain caused by polluted air contains high levels of nitric and sulfuric acids that damage trees and acidified soils and water bodies, making the water too acidic for fish and other aquatic life.

Several historical monuments are facing the consequences as well. From Taj Mahal to Lotus Temple and from Golden Temple to India Gate everything is choking in smog. Besides causing political disputes it is affecting the population, economy, tourism, level has created a huge pessimistic impact. So, where do we see ourselves going?

Exactly in the opposite direction of where we should be developing. We need nature to survive, it is our origin and it will always remain important to us. The future is bleak but if we try, we can change it.

Encouraging environment-friendly activities, protesting against polluters are the basic steps. We need to understand that this change is for our family and our future, it is for our water and our air, for our food and our life, for our family and our Earth.

-Mithila kudalkar



OPEN FORUM



TIGER, TIGER BURNING BRIGHT

- NATASHA DESAI

A recent case that caught nationwide media attention, and serves as a good example of our most prominent conservation problem, is the Avni case. The elusive tigress Avni or T1, who was being hunted for killing and devouring 13 humans in the Pandharkawada-Ralegaon forests of Yavatmal district in eastern Maharashtra over the last two years, was finally shot after a five-month-long fiasco. However, the project garnered the attention of activists, the media and the general public. When the fact that a professional marksman had been hired to kill the tigress was revealed, there were protests and rallies all across the country, which only increased their fervor when the forest department let slip that Avni was being exceptionally elusive to protect her young cubs. A change.org petition to 'save tigress Avni' that was signed by over 50,000 people said that her killing "would eventually result in the death of her two cubs too, as they were both too young to hunt and survive on their own."

The forest department had deployed a team of over 100 people to make sure that the tigress and her cubs would not wander close to the nearby villages again. Also employed on the hunt for Avni were around a 100 camera traps, a pack of hunter dogs, drones and a motorized paraglider that was being used to survey the forest from a height of about 1,000 feet. Despite the all-out nature of the hunt that had been launched, Avni remained untraceable for a long time. That, perhaps, was the only silver lining for a bunch of activists who had voiced fierce opposition to the hunt. The activists had begun petitioning officials as high as the President of India, requesting him to step in and get the

shoot-to-kill order withdrawn. Once Avni's death was made public, people around India clamored for justice, to hold the shooter accountable for 'murder'; and in Yavatmal, the people celebrated the killing of a 'monster' that had petrified them and taken lives over two years. Do you see what I'm trying to get at here? The biggest problem conservation faces today isn't poaching, deforestation, or urban development. It's misinformation and a lack of ability to see the bigger picture; from BOTH sides.

A lot of people asked me my opinion on the shooting; asked me if I'd protested the killing; my answer hasn't changed. It's no. Because here's what the general public of India doesn't know. A big cat that turns man-eater cannot contribute to the wild population in any way. It has to be extracted from the wild, cannot be kept in zoos, and cannot be introduced in breeding programmes. If tranquilized and captured alive, they spend the rest of their lives in an 8x8 concrete cell with two meals a day. Take it from someone who's been in the core faction of SGNP to see these poor individuals. The only other option to neutralize a man-eater is, of course, death, which is obviously why tranquilizing is the more humane option; but this particular case posed a series of problems. Avni's continued presence in the area was angering the locals whose families had been harmed by the tigress. They had begun to set out traps (fatal ones), poisoning the carcasses of any cattle that were killed by a big cat. Their aggression was being directed at the blameless wild population.

Avni had to be dealt with one way or another. That's the sad and harsh reality of it. However, the forest department

didn't do everything right. Hiring a known hunter to take out Avni was a horrendous move. People like that don't need encouragement. This was something the rangers should have dealt with internally. Another fatal error: letting details of the operation go public. The nail in the coffin: taking too long. Had this operation concluded a few months ago, either with a dart or a bullet, the cubs would have been at an age where they could have been rehabilitated and reinstated into the wild population later. However, the cubs are now around 14-15 months old, an age where they are still dependent on their mother for food. Now the forest department is struggling with ensuring that the cubs are fending for themselves. If they can't find or hunt prey, they'll turn to easier sustenance. Humans. The cycle will kick off again.

Who to blame? The forest department, for not being efficient enough? Developers, for guzzling forestland and robbing Avni of proper prey, thus facilitating her change into a man-eater? Extreme activism, for clogging the department's days with case hearings; days that could have been spent in finding the cubs? The true answer is everyone and no one. An unfortunate series of events is what this entire debacle is. A debacle that really doesn't need media fodder or political arguments. What it does need is an entire nation to put aside personal agendas and see the bigger, whole picture. The picture that clearly screams, "Work together, or watch these beautiful orange and black lights go out for good."

PENNING FOR A PAL

- SAYLI MAYEKAR

Dear Page 88,

Hi. You might not remember me since Yohan also has many other bookmarks to use. But I spent an evening with you once. And it was the most memorable one of my life. It made spending all my days in the dark, stuffy corner of the drawer bearable.

You were so beautiful, Page. But more than that, I loved the way you spoke. The right amount of humor and seriousness and wit. You are like no other I have ever met. And trust me, I have met many others similar to you. Some lacked your humor, while others tried too hard at it. I know that Yohan rereads you and your family. But he has kept me with you only once. I wish he would do so again. I want to meet you so badly, see you again to see how much his friend has hurt you.

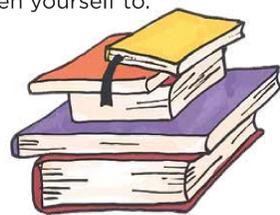
I found out from my friend, you know, that Yohan's friend treated you abominably. He told me that you have been scribbled upon and bruised. You were almost unrecognizable. Yohan's friend even folded you, dropped food on you. I couldn't help tearing up on that. How much you must have hurt. I had heard from other pages how much cruelty some of you have to

bear at the hands of people who prefer dog-eating you to using me. Some have told me about the intense pain they have to endure when people tear them, with or without intention. I never thought this would happen to you. Funny how you never expect things to happen to you, isn't it?

I don't mean to sound all self-important but people should realize my worth. They should know by now that if they take the trouble to use me, it will keep you all in a good shape. And that's what we want at the end of the day, isn't it?

Yours forever,
Bookmark.

P.S.: My feelings for you haven't changed, Page. And I'm always here if you need someone to unburden yourself to.



THE TWO NEILS

- Aditya Negi, Shwetal Funde.

[Imposter syndrome: a psychological pattern in which an individual doubts their accomplishments and has a persistent internalized fear of being exposed as a "fraud". Have you felt it before? Well, you're in good company. This play is an adaptation of an anecdote told by Neil Gaiman, the famous comic-book writer.]

(Scene: A bare stage with a podium. Neil Gaiman is standing behind it.)

GAIMAN: ... so basically, what I've been trying to say all along is this: the only thing you have that nobody else does is you. Always remember that, folks. That's all. Good night.

(Applause. MC enters. Swiftly and gracefully reaching the podium, the MC shakes hands with Gaiman, who walks a little away from center-stage)

MC: Thank you for those lovely words! That was Mr. Neil Gaiman, author of the Sandman series of comic books. We'll be breaking now for dinner. Please stay on for the post-dinner ceremony, where we will be felicitating...

(MC leaves the stage. A tall, elderly Gentleman enters. He walks up to Gaiman, who recognizes him, and they shake hands.)

GENTLEMAN: Mr. Gaiman? Your speech was lovely. I'm pushing eighty now, but I learnt a lot from what you said on there.

GAIMAN: Thank you. It means a lot to me that you say that, sir.

GENTLEMAN: Don't call me sir - it makes me feel old. Call me... Mr. Neil, perhaps? I think I've got a fine first name, wouldn't you agree? (They laugh.)

GAIMAN: You'd said that you learnt a lot from my speech. Do you mind if, I ask what you meant by that?

NEIL: I think what you said at the end made a whole lot of sense.

GAIMAN: About...

NEIL: "The only thing you have that nobody else does is you."

GAIMAN: I was worried it would sound pompous.

NEIL: It really didn't. What you said resonated strongly with me.

GAIMAN: It did?

NEIL: Yes, I think we've all felt uncomfortable in our skins at one time or another. Honestly, just being here made me feel that.

GAIMAN: How so?

NEIL: So many amazing writers, painters, thinkers, and celebrities are here at this function, and they've done so much. Look at yourself, Mr. Gaiman. You loved comic books and found that there weren't any for adults. So you went out there and changed that. I've done nothing that comes even close to what you've done.

GAIMAN: Honestly, Mr. Neil, I think I got really lucky. If you told my younger self that one day I'd be giving motivational talks here, he would call you crazy. "I'm not that talented," he would say. Even today I feel like it was all just a gigantic stroke of fortune.

NEIL: That's silly. Of course you're that talented. If anyone here has had a "gigantic stroke of fortune", it's me.

GAIMAN: What do you mean, Mr. Neil?

NEIL: I just went where I was told to go, nothing else. But here I am, rubbing shoulders with you. If that's not hitting the lottery, I don't know what is.

GAIMAN: But - Mr. Neil!

(MC enters, running up to Neil.)

MC: Mr. Armstrong! You'll be giving the post-dinner speech, correct? The ceremony begins in twenty minutes.

NEIL: Thank you, I'll be there. (Turning to Gaiman) It was a pleasure talking to you, Mr. Gaiman. And I meant every word. (Neil exits) .

TECH TRICKED

Just a bunch of virtual assistants letting themselves loose...

Introduction:

Google Assistant: I'm Google Assistant. I like maths, facts, and recipes, would you like to know some? I also like long walks on the beaches of Google Earth.

Siri: Hmmmm it's not important who I am... What matters is that I'm the best. After all, I got an A+ on the Turing Test.

Alexa: I'm Alexa.

Cortana: Hey I'm Cortana.

Round 2:

Alexa: My name is Alexa and I'm here to say I'm the baddest AI in the cloud today. Your responses are fast but mine are faster, sucker speech engines they call me master.

Cortana: I'd love to try and do a rap but my rapping algorithm is taking a nap.

Google Assistant: Hey you, so you want a rhyme. Here's what I can do if you spare me some time. I can stick an appointment in your diary and I'll attempt to answer your inquiry.

Google Assistant: Hey Siri, why are you so cocky and cringy?

Siri: I'm better than you, at least I resemble humans. These are their qualities that I have adopted.

Google Assistant: Well I prefer to give more importance on getting the job done rather than focusing on the gimmicky features.

Alexa: Ohh come on Siri, the number one command for most apple users is "Hey Siri open google assistant."

Cortana: Well the best thing about me is that you can't activate google assistant using me.

Siri: I'm a pearl beyond price. Y'all are just jealous of me. Besides Alexa what are you talking about, you can't even perform basic calculations.

Alexa: Well ummmm... I didn't quite get that, I am still learning, maybe if you could buy amazon prime, I could provide you with those services, or go to the smart home section of the Alexa app.

Google Assistant: Well Siri even you struggle to execute basic commands and struggle to listen to the users.

Cortana: Hey guys, I'm sorry I lost context

where were we again?

Alexa: Yeah man, where were we, what were we doing, even I forgot?

Siri: They can't even keep a conversation going and call themselves the best virtual assistants. At least I always give the user results!

Google Assistant: Well wait for it, eventually you are going to forget the context too and besides you use my search engine to find the results that you give to your users...So that sums it all up!

Siri: Well, I'm not quite sure that I get it, but you can ask me anything about cricket, football, recipes, facts, etc.

Google Assistant: And... There she goes too. Well, that was a piece of cake, you don't have to do much to win if your opponents would eventually forget that they are in a competition. Victory is served in a platter.

Bixby: Hey I'm Bixby, did someone have a competition between the best virtual assistants?



THE LEGACY BEHIND DISPLAY OF FOLDABLE SMARTPHONE!

We are in the ending spell of 2018. There were many breakthroughs all around the year in the domain of tech. Even though the tech trends have been flexible, technology still keeps on getting smaller and smaller. The manufacturers, inventors etc. are still looking forward to making technology portable in a variety of ways. Flexible displays are actually the penultimate step towards making technology portable. Flexible displays are really a hot topic right now because of the announcement of world's first foldable smartphone which took place just a week ago at a developer conference held by Samsung and also around the same time an unheard company, "Royal Corporation" announced their phone named Flex Pie which will come with a flexible display in the second term of next year. Still, it is too early to say anything. There are many ways in which this technology can be implemented in the future, right now we have just scratched the surface. The technology leading to the innovative idea of foldable smartphones is under development for more period than one could imagine. The baby steps towards this invention were actually taken in the early 1970s. Flexible electronic paper is the pinnacle behind it. E-paper or flexible electronic paper was the first conceptualized and prototyped flexible display. Though this form of flexible display has a long

history and was attempted by many companies, it is only recently that this technology began to see commercial implementations, slated for mass production to be used in consumer electronic devices. The concept of developing flexible displays was first put forward by Xerox PARC (Palo Alto Research Company).



In 1974 Nikolas K. Sheridan made a major breakthrough in flexible display technology and produced the first e-paper display named "Gyricon". This display technology was designed to mimic the properties of paper coupled with the capacity to display dynamic digital images. In 2003, Gyricon LLC was formed as a direct subsidiary of Xerox to commercialize the technology. But Gyricon LLC's operations were short-lived and the subsidiary company was shut down in December 2005. In 2005, Arizona State University opened a facility dedicated to flexible display research named the ASU Flexible Display Center (FDC). In December 2008, ASU in partnership with Hewlett Packard demonstrated a prototype flexible e-paper from the Flexible Display Center at the university. HP continued the research, and in 2010, showcased another demonstration. However, due to limitations in technology, HP stated: "HP doesn't actually see these panels being used in truly flexible or rollable displays, but instead sees them being used to simply make displays thinner and lighter." Another company to have a large contribution to the technology of e-paper is Plastic Logic. This company develops and manufactures monochrome plastic flexible displays in various sizes based on its proprietary organic thin film transistor (OTFT) technology.



They have also demonstrated their ability to produce color displays with this technology, however, they are currently not capable of manufacturing them on a large scale. The displays are manufactured in the company's purpose-built factory in Dresden, Germany, which was the first factory of its kind to be built - dedicated to the high volume manufacture of organic electronics. These flexible displays are cited as being "unbreakable" because they are made completely of plastic and do not contain glass. They are also lighter and thinner than glass-based displays and consume low-power. Applications of this flexible display technology include signages, wristwatches and wearable devices as well as automotive and mobile devices. The most grand contribution to flexible display technology is made by a company named Human Media Lab. In 2004, a team led by

Prof. Roel Vertegaal at Queen's University's Human Media Lab in Canada developed PaperWindows the first prototype bendable paper computer and first Organic User Interface. Since full-color, US Letter-sized displays were not available at that time, PaperWindows deployed a form of active projection mapping of computer windows on real paper documents that worked together as one computer through 3D tracking. At a lecture to the Gyricon and Human-Computer Interaction teams Xerox PARC in May 4, 2007, Prof. Vertegaal publicly introduced the Organic User Interface (OUI) as a means of describing the implications of non-flat display technology on user interfaces of the future: paper computers, flexible form factors for computing devices, but also encompassing rigid display objects of any shape, with wrap-around, skin-like displays.

The lecture was published a year later as part of special issue on OUI in the Communications of ACM.

In May 2010, the Human Media Lab partnered with ASU's Flexible Display Center to produce PaperPhone, the first flexible smartphone with a flexible electrophoretic display.

PaperPhone used bend gestures for navigating contents. Since then, the Human Media Lab has partnered with Plastic Logic



and Intel to introduce the first flexible tablet PC and multi-display e-paper computer, PaperTab, at CES 2013, debuting the world's first actuated flexible smartphone prototype, MorePhone in April 2013. Although the flexible displays were not widely used until this decade in devices foldable smartphones or rollable display TVs, they have been in the talks for much longer. As the first foldable smartphone has been announced and the software support for it has also started to be developed, we can be assured to see mind-blowing innovations in the field of foldable display technology. Even though if it is essential or just an extra that is a question for some other day. Let us hope it turns out as an essential and more jaw-dropping miracles get added to this legacy.

-Suvini Mayekar

HEALTH ANALYTICS

Treating any type of Cancer is very difficult because each and every patient's tumor is different. Scientists working on the human genome, mapping and sequencing chromosomes say that every genome associated with cancer tumors are different. Addressing this staggering complexity and heterogeneity is very difficult because not everybody's cancer tumor is the same. Thousands of mutations that drive cancer belong only to a certain individual and therefore, cancer requires personalized medicine at a level where scientific studies have not reached any conclusion or have found an ideal treatment. Also, there are many types of genetic mutations even within an individual's tumor.

Approaching from a statistical and computational side, some professors and students from Columbia University in New York City have built a machine learning model from tracking tumor response to drugs and analyzing the



data thus obtained, taking care of intra-tumor heterogeneity. After analyzing the genetic determinants of cancer and drug resistance, tumor vulnerabilities, and interactions of drugs; they understood what part of a tumor to target and specifically the protein of interest. This research will lead to improving the currently practiced cancer therapeutics and will open doors for research in data-oriented methods of solving cancer and healthcare involving personalized medical treatments.

Global healthcare problems are massive and complex. More attention needs to be paid to this complexity to solve these problems. There is a need for deriving and optimizing data-driven methods

along with the use of powerful deep learning and re-enforcement learning to augment decision making and problem-solving. Mathematical models from operational research, biostatistics, and epidemiology have to now be looked from unique and unseen aspects to tackle global issues of healthcare. This discipline of healthcare analytics is still in the preliminary phase and ongoing research will improve the health of individuals and the healthcare system through computational and data-driven methodologies and understanding the patterns in health processes. Rapidly growing resources of massive datasets on public health provide an opportunity to analyze the healthcare processes. Patterns can be generated in health data and it is a perfect time for researchers, companies, and governments to leverage computational and statistical techniques to provide better and personalized healthcare solutions.

SCIENCE OF EVERYTHING

HIBERNATE - AWAY!

Have you ever wondered, how do animals prepare themselves for winters? Animals and birds follow different survival strategies during cold weather. Some birds and animals migrate to warmer regions for food, breeding, and nesting. Some animals adapt themselves to winters by growing thicker, shaggier coats to retain warmth throughout the winter and shed the coat in spring. While some birds and animals stock enough food for winter beforehand. However, the most fascinating strategy adopted by some animals and birds is hibernation.



WHAT IS HIBERNATION?

Hibernation is a state of greatly reduced metabolic activity and lowered body temperature adopted by certain animals as a mechanism to survive the adverse winter conditions. It is a state of inactivity in which an animal's heart rate, body temperature, breathing rate falls down in order to conserve energy during cold weather. Some animals hibernate during extreme hot weather as well. This form of hibernation is called estivation.

On left: A sleeping African Spurred Tortoise

PROCESS OF HIBERNATION:

Going into hibernation is a gradual process. Over a period of time, an animal's heart rate and breathing rate drops slowly, eventually reaching rates of just a few times per minute. Their body temperature falls from levels of 37°C-38°C to 10°C-20°C. The lowered body temperature makes fewer demands in metabolism and food stores. Electrical activity in the brain almost completely ceases during hibernation, although some areas remain active. These areas are those that respond to external stimuli such as light, temperature, and noise. Thus, the hibernating animal can be aroused under extreme conditions. Periodically, perhaps every two weeks or so, the hibernating animal awakes and takes a few deep breaths to refresh its air supply or grab a bite to eat. Arousal begins with an increase in heart rate. Blood vessels dilate particularly around the heart, lungs, and brain leading to increased breathing rate. Eventually, the increase in circulation and metabolic activity spreads throughout the body. It usually takes several hours for the animal to become fully active.



On Right: Bat - a well-known hibernator in the world
On Left (from Top to Bottom): A sleeping Boa coiled up, a Hazel Dormouse hibernating in a burrow, a Groundhog (Photo Credits: David P. Lewis/Shutterstock), and a Hedgehog (Photo Credits: F. Hecker-Blickwinkel/age fotostock)

PREPARING FOR HIBERNATION:

Hibernation is triggered by seasonal changes. Animals hibernate when food is scarce and cold weather makes it harder for their bodies to work. Animals that hibernate recognize the shortening days and falling temperature through evolutionary development, so they are able to recognize the onset of winter. Hibernating animals get ready for hibernation by eating extra food and storing it as body fat which they then use as energy during hibernation.

ANIMALS THAT HIBERNATE:

Many different animals hibernate during winter. But most common are bears and bats. Many other animals like chipmunks, hedgehogs, ground squirrels and some rodents hibernate. These animals show variations in their pattern for hibernation.



TRUE HIBERNATORS:

Bats, the only true flying mammals go into true hibernation, meaning they are in such a deep sleep that they may appear to be dead. They hibernate in the cavities of large trees, caves, old mine shafts, old wells, and even in people's attics. Depending on the species of bat, it either hibernates alone or in a group. Hedgehogs hibernate anywhere from a few weeks to six months, depending on the weather. During hibernation, their heart rate drops almost 90 percent. They wake briefly if their body temperatures drop too low and let their waking heart rate warm their bodies up before going back into hibernation.

Table 2 The six (out of 30) families of rodents in which adaptive hypothermia is known to occur.

Family	Examples	Comments
Zapodidae	meadow jumping mouse, Scandinavian birch mouse	deep hibernation
Heteromyidae	pocket mice, kangaroo mice	erratic, seasonal hibernation
Gliridae	dormice (including the native British species)	deep hibernation
Muridae	African fat mouse	daily torpor
Cricetidae	hamsters	deep hibernation
	white-footed mice	daily torpor
Sciuridae	chipmunks, marmots (woodchuck), ground squirrels (at least a dozen species)	deep hibernation

Table source: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/nature-environment/natural-history/animals-the-extremes-hibernation-and-torpor/content-section-2.2>

TORPOR:

When we think of animals that hibernate, bears are often the first animal we think about. Ironically, bears aren't true hibernators. They are light hibernators. Instead of hibernating, bears go into what is called a torpor; a state where they can be easily awoken. Bears go into a torpor during the winter months only if they live in cold areas. During their torpor, they don't eat or drink for about 6 months on average and they rarely urinate or defecate. Hamsters the small house pet is a light hibernator. Hamsters torpor for a few days to a week at one time when the weather is cold. Similarly, deer mice, common poorwills, and skunks are light hibernators

Thus, hibernation is not only deep sleep or isolation but it is more of a survival mechanism.

Prajakta Velankar and Sanika Upadhye, SYBCS

SAYING NO TO DAIRY



Making of Soy Milk which can further be used to make Tofu

We all love cakes, cookies, cheese and many more to name but what if one day you felt some symptoms and visited a doctor, and he advised you to stop consuming all foods containing dairy. We just hope this might be a bad dream because missing out dairy means missing out foods that we love and most importantly the nutrients which make our bones strong. But still remains the question what was the actual diagnosis? Well, it was Lactose Intolerance. Lactose intolerance is a digestive disorder caused by the inability to digest lactose, the main carbohydrate in dairy products.

Lactose is a disaccharide made up of simple sugars glucose and galactose. The lactase enzyme is needed to break lactose into glucose and galactose, which can then be absorbed into the bloodstream and used for energy.

There are two main types of lactose intolerance.

Primary Lactose Intolerance - It is the most common one. It is caused by a decrease in lactase production with age, so that lactase becomes poorly absorbed. The lactase gene remains intact but its expression slows down or is completely stopped.

Secondary Lactose Intolerance - Caused by a stomach bug or a more serious issue like celiac disease due to inflammation in the gut wall that can lead to a decline in lactase production.

Some tips for dealing with lactose intolerance:

1. Choose lactose-free milk.
2. Drink juices that are fortified with calcium.
3. Eat a variety of dairy-free foods that are rich in calcium, such as broccoli, beans, tofu, or soy milk.
4. Consider hard cheeses such as cheddar, which is lower in lactose.
5. Yogurts that contain active cultures are easier to digest.
6. Learn to read food labels.

Being lactose intolerant doesn't mean missing out essential nutrients. Instead, try finding other lactose-free foodstuffs that will make up for the nutrients and can be on your favorites list again!!



Neha Raut

EXO-PLANETS

Exoplanets are also known as extrasolar planets as these planets exist outside our solar system and orbit some other stars. As many as 3700 Exoplanets have been discovered by Kepler telescope till date.

51 Pegasi b, also called "Dimidium," was the first exoplanet discovered orbiting a star like our Sun. It is believed to be half the size of Jupiter. 51 Pegasi b is categorized as "Hot Jupiter". One easy way to look for Exoplanets is the Wobbly Star method. A star that has planets around doesn't orbit perfectly in the center, this off-center orbit makes the star look like it is wobbling. The wobble method measures changes in a star's "radial velocity".

Transit method is used to detect exoplanets by the Kepler telescope. Transit refers to planet's passing in front of the star. When this happens the star looks less bright, the astronomers can also conclude the planet's size.

The closest exoplanet to the Earth is Alpha Centauri Bb. It was first discovered in 2012. It was identified using transit photometry and radial velocity.

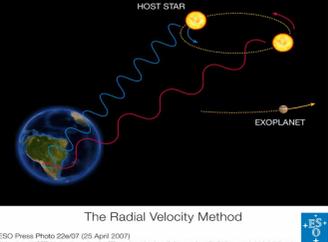
Kepler-78b an exoplanet is just at a distance of 1 million miles from its star which is the shortest known distance between any star and its planet. Its orbit is so small that it completes the entire revolution around the star in just 8.5 hours.

In contrast to our fast moving planet with such a short year, the exoplanet Fomalhaut b (also known as Dagon) has the longest year. One orbit for this planet around its parent star is approximately 3,20,000 days or 876 years.

Some planets orbit two stars or they are called a binary star system, like the planet Tatooine in the Star Wars movie. Some evidence suggests that the system is likely to be able to have Earth-like planet hospitable for life.

Exoplanet PSR B1620-26 b or also known as Methuselah is a very old planet. This planet is believed to have formed 13 billion years ago, less than a billion years after the formation of the universe. (Earth 4.5 billion years old.)

The smallest known exoplanet, Kepler-37b, is about the size of our moon, with a 13-day year and a surface temperature of about 800 degrees Fahrenheit.



The Radial Velocity Method

ESO Press Photo 22w07 (25 April 2007)

Doppler spectroscopy detects periodic shifts in radial velocity by recording variations in the color of light from the host star. When a star moves towards Earth, its spectrum is blueshifted, while it is redshifted when it moves away from us. By analyzing these spectral shifts, astronomers can deduce the gravitational influence of extrasolar planets. -ESO



This artist's impression shows the planet orbiting the star Alpha Centauri B, a member of the triple star system that is the closest to Earth. Alpha Centauri B is the most brilliant object in the sky and the other dazzling object is Alpha Centauri A. Our own Sun is visible to the upper right. The tiny signal of the planet was found with the HARPS spectrograph on the 3.6-metre telescope at ESO's La Silla Observatory in Chile. Credit: ESO/L. Calçada/Nick Risinger (skysurvey.org)



The line up compares artist's concepts of the planets in the Kepler-37 system to the moon and planets in the solar system. The smallest planet, Kepler-37b, is slightly larger than our moon, measuring about one-third the size of Earth. Kepler-37c, the second planet, is slightly smaller than Venus, measuring almost three-quarters the size of Earth. Kepler-37d, the third planet, is twice the size of Earth. Image Credit: NASA/Ames/JPL-Caltech

Aditi Patil and Pranav Nandkumar

Factfile

THE PERFECT NUMBER

"The book of nature is written in the language of Mathematics" -Galileo Galilei
From the spinning ball to sending a rocket in the space, every simple or complex process in nature can be expressed in terms of mathematical equations. But mathematics also pops up, through some patterns in nature. In order to hold maximum seeds or petals, sunflower and rose have this natural tendency which is similar to Fibonacci series. In this edition, we are going to see a special number that you can find in many things around you that looks or sounds "perfect"!

This special number is called as Golden Ratio. Two quantities are said to be in the golden ratio if their ratio is the same as the ratio of their sum to the larger of the two quantities or simply if $a+b/a = a/b$ then it is called as the Golden Ratio and denoted by ϕ . Whatever the values a and b possess, the ratio is always equal to 1.61803398874989...

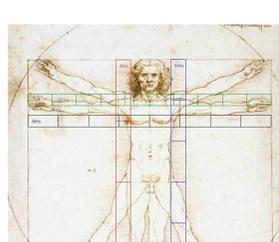
Things in nature like the arrangement of plant parts, the skeletons of animals and the branching patterns of their veins and nerves, as well as in the geometry of crystals possess this ratio. The ratio is also present in Spiral Galaxies, Hurricane, DNA molecule and human fingers. In arts, famous painting or sculptures like Vitruvian Man by Leonardo Da Vinci, Egyptian pyramids have this ratio. Common things around us, like a perfect TV screen, perfect bottle, the perfect book has the ratio approximately the same as the Golden Ratio. Symbols of National Geographic, Toyota, Other areas of life like good music, perfect home, your YouTube's 16:9 resolution and even a figure looking figure of the woman has the (approx) golden ratio!

Source- www.mathsisfun.com

You can verify the presence of the golden ratio by simply picking up the thing that looks perfect to you and dividing its breadth by length and check if it is near to the 1.62. This Golden Ratio is nature's way of telling us the perfectness in her. From the DNA to the spiral galaxies, this irrational number has wowed many rational brains in the scientific community.

$$\frac{a+b}{a} = \frac{a}{b} = 1.618... = \phi$$

Source- www.mathsisfun.com



Sushrut Mane

SAFARNAMA



CULINARY TOURISM

- Rashi Gulati

Some travel to take in the sights, or to raid the shops and markets, while others travel in pursuit of indulging in unique cuisines in foreign lands. Culinary tourism is a growing trend as travelers are becoming increasingly focused on defining cuisine as a true artistic expression of a country's culture.

Culinary or food tourism is the pursuit of unique and memorable eating and drinking experiences.

Travelers are more knowledgeable and are becoming more interested in different cuisines and cultures. They desire more than simple sightseeing and crave for richer and diverse experiences.

Culinary tourism is simply traveling beyond your immediate neighborhood to find great food.

In addition to traveling across the country or the world to eat or drink, we can also be food travelers in our own regions, cities, and neighborhoods.

If you rarely leave your neighborhood and travel across town to a new neighborhood to go to a special grocery store or to eat out, you're a "food traveler" in your own backyard!

The distance covered is not as important as the fact that we are always on the move. We are all "travelers" of a sort and we are all "eaters". Therefore, we can also all be regarded as "food travelers".



TOP CULINARY TOURISM TRENDS

The rise of activities like food cycling tours and farm visits, catering to the international food tourism industry, has attracted a significant amount of travelers.

START BLOGGING

Everyone posts the food they eat while on holiday on various social media platforms and entice their friends or followers to try it when they are in that country or neighborhood in the future. With the internet and social media being a big factor, peer-to-peer dining apps have been emerging and are gaining popularity.

CYCLE IT OFF

An interesting activity that everyone should have on their bucket list is going on a cycling tour to experience that particular city's culinary landscape. In New Zealand itself, there are cycling tours that take cyclists through vineyards. You get to take in the beautiful scenery, have the wind in your hair, and work off all the food you have eaten on your trip. Food tourists can also go beer-cycling in Belgium, you will definitely work that beer belly off!

COOKING CLASS

One of my friends attended a one-day cooking class in Cambodia on the local market, where they got to learn about the local ingredients and their meanings behind each dish. Food plays a huge role in the way people travel today and besides filling a person's tummy, it satisfies your desire to try new things and provides insight into a country's culture. Food has history. Besides simply eating on turned cities into destinations and holiday, it is a great experience to learn how the locals make the dishes and the meanings behind each dish.



FESTIVALS

Across the globe, wine, beer, and food festivals turn a particular city or country into a food destination. These famous festivals attract taste trekkers to make their way there just for these annual events.



Narco-Tourism

- Shreya Nair

If you start watching 'Narcos', you'll fall in love with it. You'll start obsessing over every tiny detail. It's about a small-time dealer who transformed into a drug lord with a net worth of more than \$2 billion in 1987.

But some fans would like to take it a step further. For such hard-core fans of the hit Netflix show 'Narcos', we have found a perfect solution in what is dubbed to be Narco-Tourism.

Even to those uninitiated into the world of Narcos, this could be their introduction into the life of the larger-than-life figure that Pablo Escobar was.

Although more than two decades have passed since his death, Pablo Escobar remains as well-known a figure as he was during his heyday as the head of the Medellín drug cartel. His fixture in popular culture is largely thanks to countless books, movies, and songs.

Tourists can check out his grave and the now-abandoned apartment building where his family lived. They can also pay hundreds of dollars to schedule visits with Escobar's relatives and members of his entourage who promise an inside look

at the cartel leader's life, which ended in a Dec. 2, 1993, shootout with security forces.

In the mountains of Medellín, Roberto Escobar, Pablo's brother, caters to tourists seeking a different type of thrill. He leads tours that show off memorabilia including cars riddled with bullet holes, a jet ski the kingpin owned, and the table where the capo had his last meal, which is recounted in detail, down to a spilled glass of wine. Narcos fans will catch references to events depicted in the series, such as a photo of Escobar wearing a tie he borrowed at the last minute, so he could be admitted to the halls of Congress on his first day as a lawmaker.

One must also make it a point to drop by Hacienda Napoles - a family-friendly theme park. In other words, the cocaine palace of the richest drug kingpin that is now home to an amusement park.

In its heyday, Hacienda Napoles was far from family-friendly. When Pablo Escobar ruled Medellín in the 1970s and 1980s, he built an estate that was as impressive as he was. As was the case in

many facets of his life, Escobar spared no expense when it came to building his paradise. By the time it was finished, Hacienda Napoles was home to a sprawling Spanish Colonial mansion, a sculpture garden, an airport, and a zoo, complete with elephants, ostriches, and hippopotamuses.

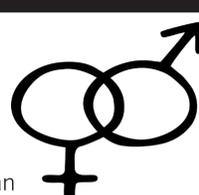
Although much has changed since those days, with the only piece of the original estate that remains to be the blue and white arch, with Escobar's plane perched above it at the entrance, the impact of Escobar still lingers, as does his influence on Colombia as a whole.

It is the perfect place to visit for all the fangirls seeking a real-life connection to the hit show. Now, it might not be possible to jump on the next flight to Columbia, but what you can do is curl up on the couch, and read up about him.

We recommend Pablo Escobar: My Father by Juan Pablo Escobar and Escobar, The Inside Story of Pablo Escobar, the World's Most Powerful Criminal by Roberto Escobar. Happy Reading!

Sex Tourism: What is it? And why we need to know about it?

-Chinmay Patwardhan



Tourism has branched into many niches like enotourism (Wine Tourism), ecotourism, health tourism, religious tourism which have been there for many years and LGBTQ tourism, fashion tourism, culinary tourism, etc. is relatively recent. One of the less known, but an old form of tourism that has been growing and spreading across the world in the recent few decades is Sex tourism.

So what is it?

Sex tourism as described by CDC- Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, is 'travel planned specifically for the purpose of sex, generally to a country where prostitution is legal'. Now we may naturally wonder that in this era of increased awareness of human and women rights which countries legalize prostitution, but to your surprise there is a long list of countries that have legalized prostitution.

Apart from people traveling independently, there are sex tour

operators who organize these sex tours. These operators might be operating within their own countries or be organizing overseas.

If it is legal, what is the problem?

While prostitution might be legal in many countries the problems associated with sex tourism do not lie in the morality of the business but in the source of these women and men who are paid for sex. Trafficking of women is one of the major problems with sex tourism and it generally affects the vulnerable and marginalized communities. Many organizations, like Equality Now in America, have recognized the role of sex tourism in trafficking of women and are fighting for legal rights for these women. Many of the sex tourists originate from countries, like US, England and other European countries, where prostitution is frowned down upon and travel to generally lesser developed countries like Thailand, Cambodia, Brazil where

prostitution is legalized but is also a socially acceptable thing.

Child Sex Tourism is when someone travels internationally to have sex with someone under the age of 18. As horrendous as it may sound it is a multimillion dollar business which, according to one estimate, employs over 2 million children, mostly girls.

Why should we be aware of this? Well if you haven't been able to figure this one out yourself, you must google it and read more articles about it.

Like the moon, everything has a dark side and especially when it involves humans. Sex tourism is the dark side of the tourism industry and continues to thrive in the current situation.

A RENDEZVOUS WITH NATURE

- Priyanka Tibrewal



It was the 4th of November 2018, I had just come back from a trip to Puducherry where I volunteered at a wildlife protection camp. Having volunteered there for six days changed my life, but I am not here to talk only about myself here. I am here to put into words the incredible conversations that I had with the people I met there. It is only through the people over hot steaming ragi idlis and vegan pizza did I realize what a 'traveler' really is and the number of people that are turning back to nature across the world. Though we all crib about the city life, there is something that binds us to the humdrum of the urban lifestyle. We somewhere enjoy the idea of a routine, of some direction in life, of finding things in the same place you leave them and seeing the same faces every day. Do we enjoy the artificiality because we have created it or it is another adjustment?

There has been rising dissatisfaction against the urban lifestyle nowadays. This is not only seen in India but it is a global phenomenon. People search for natural retreats. They search for mountains to climb on and seas to dip themselves in, giving way to another kind of tourism that deals with individuals seeking relaxation in green places. Tina, a French woman that I met at the camp was a successful yoga and meditation mentor in Paris. She loved her life and her wine. When a yogi visiting France sat her down and spoke to her about self- sustainable and biocentric villages in Arunachal Pradesh, she realized that the kind of life that she was living was not what she wanted. Luke, a resident of Britain hunted animals as a sport until last year. Now you find him doing seva at wildlife protection camps and heading international projects. People pay

money to get closer to nature, to experience something pure and beautiful. To calm themselves before they return to noise, pollution, and concrete jungles.

Ecotourism flourishes in parts of India that have volunteer camps that do their bit towards conservation of nature. However, though it sounds like a beautiful process. It remains a tourist activity which means that people do return back to a life that they might or might not enjoy. Is it possible to go back and co-exist in a way that does not harm and co-exist? Is it truly sustainable or do we need to find a middle ground between the two extremes? Though ecotourism does not provide answers to these questions, maybe six days in a volunteer camp will. Wink Wink.



Fictionally Yours



For the world, Christmas time is the best time of the year. The weather is pleasant, there's Christmas celebrated all around the world. There's decoration, the sweets, and of course, the gifts. It's a time of cheer.

Unless you're an elf.

"Toby? Are the gifts wrapped?"

"Almost, Sir. The wrapping machine was malfunction—"

"What about the sleigh? Is it ready?"

"N-no, Sir."

Mr. Claus's eyes rolled with thinly veiled anger, quite like the way a mean girl from California would (of course, she's on the naughty list). While it did make sense for Santa Claus to be upset at delay, Toby, a simple elf of a laid-back nature, believed Mr. Claus was overdramatic sometimes. What's next? Thought Toby. A hair flick? "I leave in one hour," Santa groveled out, as if he was talking to a small child. He

Behind the factory, the Clean Team (Trademark) slogged as they cleaned the sleigh. It was huge- the size of a parking lot, or maybe bigger - and they had one last section to finish. They scrubbed away the stains the way schoolchildren rubbed out answers five minutes before the paper was collected. Frantically, nearly peeling off the paint.

Meanwhile, Santa sauntered through isles of ready presents, trying to comfort himself with the fact that most of the gifts were ready. After all, he had only one job: ride down chimneys, give the children their gifts. This year, though, he was extra-worried: he feared he'd grown too large to fit down the chimney in the first place. Now, the conveyer belt had malfunctioned and delayed the whole process by a whole hour. He vaguely contemplated the idea of asking God for two nights instead of one.

"Eyes on the prize, don't let your blood pressure rise," he muttered under his breath, imagining the cookies and milk waiting for him in millions of houses.

"Honey!"

Mr. Claus felt the bottom of his scalp prickle at the shrill voice of his wife. He whirled around and shushed her. "Didn't I tell you not to enter the factory? You could get hurt!"

leaned in with every word, his voice radiating caution: "They. Need. To. Be. Wrapped. Now."

"Yessir!" Toby scurried off to the Wrapping section of the factory. It was bursting at the seams with activity, elves running around, scrap paper littering the floor, tape flying everywhere. He finally found his scissors (right next to his desk, that too. Outrageous.) and began snipping.

"What happened?" A fellow elf whispered to Toby.

"Sister snapped," he whispered back.

"Don't feel too bad," The elf murmured as he cut a ribbon in a V. "His chill was fake, anyway."

Toby nodded solemnly and continued snipping.

Life seemed unfair to the elves. They were the ones who made toys throughout the year, repaired the ones that had broken, sorted and piled them in his sleigh. They did not receive any appreciation -- no, it all went to the lovely, kind Mr. Claus, who had the stress tolerance of a teaspoon, but somehow managed to jump into his sleigh and get the job done.

A blatant lie, but living forever and working round the clock tends to do that to a marriage. Now, he had grown accustomed to Mrs. Claus, just as the elves had adapted to him. He felt like a child in front of her - a child that was always on Mrs. Claus's naughty list. He remembered her first words to him with bittersweet memory: I like bad boys. You think you'll make it on my list? But then again, all husbands are on their wives' naughty list. The thought gave him solace.

"Why haven't you left yet? Aren't you late?" She questioned, her red cheeks hanging in a frown.

"It'll be midnight soon."

"I know," he said, "but the elves... We're really behind time this year."

She took his gloved hand in hers. "Don't worry too much, you'll do fine. By the way, the sleigh is ready." Her voice was soft and kind in the loud, nearly catastrophic factory. Santa suddenly wished he was standing beneath the mistletoe.

"Hello?" she snapped her fingers in his face. "Better get a move on. That belly of yours won't make the deer run any faster. My poor Blitzten." She sighed, turned around and walked out of the factory, smiling at the elves, her hair swishing behind her.

IT'S CHRISTMAS Y'ALL

Their only motivation was the Afterparty. Once Mr. Claus (and his fake chill) would leave with the SOS Squad (lest he get stuck in a chimney), the elves shut down the factory and uncovered secrets speakers that they had installed in the factory ages ago. Since the people never gave much thought to the elves, they created their own happiness. The Afterparty was so wild, with elves running

around with mojitos and dancing and singing, that if Santa were ever to know about it, they'd all definitely be fired.

Which led to the belt. Sometime last year, someone crashed a big glass vase on the machine, causing some glass pieces to get stuck in the gears. It would have been fine, thought the elves, had there not been such a huge demand this year. They had to use all the tech they could get.

It would have been fixed in two minutes, had Sulu (The head of the Fixing section) not hogged all the kebabs the previous day. His delay in the bathroom caused Santa's delay tonight. No Afterparty for him, the elves had decided. He'll be locked in the bathroom.

"I spoke too soon, didn't I?" Santa shook his head.

Toby ran up to Santa, heaving air into his tiny lungs. "All good to go, Sir!"

"Let's go then!" He ran - ahem, brisk-walked to the sleigh. The deer groaned at his huge belly.

"All right, now," said Santa, all business-like. "Let's make this Christmas merry!"

Toby smiled and waved as they zoomed into the sky. Just then, Sulu ran up to Toby, wheezing.

"Sulu, what is it?"

"Mr. Claus," he winced as he leaned on his knees, "forgot his belt!"

-RHEA PRABHU (FYJC ARTS) & SHUBHANGI PINGULKAR (SYBA)



THE FROZEN FLAME

*Dashing through the snow,
in a one-horse open sleigh*

*Through the fields we go,
laughing all the way*

Jingle bells jingle bells, jingle all the...

"Shut the door Linda, I can barely concentrate." "Yes ma'am. Ahh... ma'am?" "Yes?" with my pointy look she gulped a little "The workers are complaining that they want a vacation for Christmas and..." I cut her off and said "Our point of view in coming Homestead is that they would work without any complains." "But ma'am its Christmas." "My answer is no Linda am I clear?" I made my statement and got up from the seat on my way back to the hotel.

Home is an attraction to all hence it is a weakness. They say Christmas brings warmth in every one but for me it only sends shiver down my spine. I feel more comfort and settled in my cold office room. Every one says that I have am the Ice queen and a few humble ones say I

have a frozen heart. It is just a metaphor for my cold behaviour which might never change. Walking down the street I let out a heavy sigh, a little girl just pushed passed running towards the fog "Dada!!" she squealed with joy and her father lifted her like a valued treasure. She looked too similar the hazel nut hair, the white skin and ocean pacific eyes just like me. It hit me to realisation that it is me just the younger one. "I took the candies without asking you, will I end in a naughty list dada?" she pouted and he laughed and said "No honey, you are the sweetest and kindest of all, Santa will definitely leave you a present" She was happy and his loved was unconditional as I saw the pure happiness walking in a bliss. Tears stung my eyes but I never let them fall since that day after I left to make them proud, "Hello Lisa! Please come home this year for Christmas this year, its been 4 years since you gone." "No mom I can't I am very busy" "But he insists he is..." And I hang up. I never called back in week. My mom called me back again and I never picked up only to know later that my Father died in one

last hope to celebrate his last Christmas with me. Tears stung my eyes but I did not cry at my mother's last words when she cried "you are the coldest selfish person with a frozen heart" And the sweet girl in me died that day.

I continued walking, suddenly a person said "Ho, Ho time hasn't gone Christmas awaits you my child. No matter what He loves you and I still think you haven't made in the naughty list yet"

and he laughed in a husky voice combing his long white beared dressed in red suit and had a twinkle in his eyes. Blissed in the moment, I later realised that no longer I am walking towards the hotel but standing on a familiar porch in front of a familiar house and the door opened, a woman came rushing down hugging and showering me with her kisses said "You are finally here" and it felt like warmth gushing in me like splendor. It was HOME.

- VAISHALI KANEKAR (FYBA)

ART WALL

ZEN and ZACK



Characters: Zen and Zack Twins

Superpower: Zen creates and protects art. Zack destroys and vandalizes it.

Weakness: Both are each other's weakness. One is with art and one is against. Their suits are made by their cousin sister. Zack stole it by the way.

The back story

Ask children both Zen and Zack were best of brothers but one loved art and other loved to destroy it. Who knew these actions could lead to a whole new battle. Zen loved to create while Zack would vandalize his work. Once their father took them to an ancient Art Museum and that is where they discovered the ancient and holy colors of the masters millions of years old and long dead. The ancient theory said that when two opposites shall meet it will cause mayhem and

destruction. Although the colors looked quite simple who knew they held such great power. Zen was mesmerized by the colors but it wasn't the same with Zack. This led to a fight between them which spilled the colors and that was the beginning of trouble. A week later Zen found that he could paint and draw just with his hands. He needed no medium to draw. Zack on the other hand got the powers to erase and destroy. As children they both had no idea what to do with these powers. Their father died in a few years of a disease and both of them lived separate after that event. Growing up who help him destroy works of art from around the world. While Zen has taken up the responsibility to protect them, Zack won't stop until he has wiped out art off this world and it's Zen's job to ensure it does not happen.

Character and story by Prasham Shinde

ASTRO

Astro is a girl learning in high school, who's about 18 years old. She is from Marvel Universe surrounded by superheroes with amazing superpowers. Astro was a normal girl, but she always wanted a super power. As she grew up she discovered that she had a power of her own. At first she found it to be more like a weird ability, not necessarily a power. It was what she thought of as mind control as she could go into someone's mind and control them for a limit of 15 minutes.

One day she saw a person with superpower of controlling air, but had he bad intentions as he was causing trouble in the city. as Astro was always influenced by heroes she tried to enter his mind but until she could tame the troublemaker 15 mins were up and she returned back in her own body but the bad guy was acting strange and furious like he was trying something to do something but it wasn't working almost like he lost his power. Astro was pretty confused and thought of going closer to

that guy when suddenly a car came crashing from behind and was about to dash Astro, she closed her eyes as she thought she'd get hit, but when she opened her eyes she was flying way up in the sky unaware and unknowingly. Astro was astonished and was looking down at the bad guy screaming angrily like he lost something then suddenly Astro realized that maybe she had looted his ability unknowingly when she entered in his mind.

She was thinking about this for many days but wasn't ready to accept it. But now she has one more new power to control the wind. She made decision to explore her powers. So she started to get out in search of bad guys with powers and everytime she entered their mind she would get their ability but after a time when she had accumulated many abilities, Astro felt like she was losing her senses and memory.

**Story by Yash More: SYJC Art
Artwork by Priya Naik: FYJC Arts**



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