the RUIAITE monthly

MOVING BEYOND PAPERS

THE EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,
We are sure that you missed the monthly in May, but the wait is finally over! Here we are after a short break, to welcome you in this new academic year with our new team. It gives us sheer joy to share the first ever edition of The Ruiaite Monthly of this academic year with you.
The month of June comes with hope of leaving behind the scorching sunlight and with the joy of first rain. So while you get excited for the weather, we present you the procrastination of completing (or not) the summer bucket lists at Insight. Career Wise talks about the professions in the field of environmental science. Take a stroll around Mumbai with Safarnama. Do the words on the quill come true? Learn more about it in the finale of The Princess of Kaikey. Op-ed discusses Blood Donor's day. Tech tricked is introducing the world of quantum computing while Open forum tells us about the hidden gems in sci-fi shows and movies. Behind the Scenes unfolds the stories of genius behind the crazy. Do take a halt at the Buzz Around to know all about the Karnataka election.
We hope you enjoy the wide spread of articles as you scroll down your screen and we would like to wish you a glorious academic year.
Happy Reading!

BUZZ AROUND

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Karnataka Elections: The Game Changer

By- Chinmay Parulekar

12th May 2018. Though both of the major parties of India channelized all of their attention and resources on these elections it all had come down to the day of polling. The election saw a voter turnout of 72.13%, which was highest since 1952.

The Indian National Congress was looking to regain their powers whereas BJP was trying to increase its powers in southern India. Both the parties knew that the Janata Dal (Secular) was strong in some parts and was going to play a major role in forming the government. After some fierce battles of words in the bitterly fought campaign, polling took place smoothly and peacefully.

On 15th May, the results were announced. As it stands, BJP made a huge improvement compared to last polls by securing 104 seats out of 222. Congress won the popular vote with 78 seats and JD(S) winning in 37 constituencies. The Congress got lesser seats than the BJP though it's vote share was nearly 2% higher than that garnered by the saffron party in the bitterly fought assembly polls. The BJP party was upbeat in the initial hours of counting when it appeared to be heading into a comfortable majority, but it turned a little somber when its final tally fell short of a majority and its rivals- the Congress and the JDS- joined hands to stake claim to form the government. Many top BJP leaders believed that the people mandate had rejected the divisive, toxic and negative politics of the Congress and the Congress-mukt Bharat slogan was turning out to be true. But the real drama was yet to begin.

Because of being a hung assembly, it was necessary to reach the halfway mark of 111. On the same day, BJP claimed the majority whereas Congress supported the JD(S). As political movements gathered pace to form the government, JDS, the party at the epicenter of the political game, issues a whip to its elected MLA's to congregate in Bengaluru. The resort politics started in full swing making history repeat itself and giving us glimpses of the Gujarat elections. Shangrila, Eagleton- you name it and the Congress, JD (S) MLA herd was there. It was the responsibility of MR D.K. Shivakumar of the JD(S) to keep the flock together which at the end of the day he was successful at. However the state governor Vajubhai Vala invited BJP to form the government. He gave the party a period of 15 days to prove majority.

The opposition strongly criticized the decision and claimed that the period was given for 'Horse Trading'. Amid all this, there were some allegations of poaching on BJP in which 6 audio recordings were released by the Congress as a proof.

Congress and JD(S) approached the Supreme Court for a midnight hearing to stop the swearing-in ceremony. At 2 AM, a three-judge bench heard a petition, which allowed the swearing-in ceremony but reduced the period for proving the majority from 15 days to 24 hours. This decision turned the tables. Unable to garner the required support, Mr. Yeddyurappa resigned before facing the confidence motion by giving an emotional speech. On 23rd May, H. D. Kumaraswamy took oath as Chief Minister of Karnataka. One of the highlights of the swearing-in ceremony was the display of unity by the opposition leaders ahead of 2019 general elections.

Simply Put

By- Pushkar Bhatlekar

What is Ramadan cease-fire?
A ceasefire (or truce) is a temporary stoppage of a war in which each side agrees with the other to suspend aggressive actions. Ceasefires may be declared as part of a formal treaty, but they have also been called as part of an informal understanding between opposing forces. India calls a ceasefire in Kashmir for the holy month of Ramadan.The move, which comes after months of intense fighting in the disputed Himalayan region, will "help peace-loving Muslims observe Ramzan [Ramadan] in a peaceful environment".

What is the government's say on Ramadan ceasefire?
Announcing conditional ceasefire, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) asked the security forces not to launch an operation against terrorists during the holy month.
The Home Ministry said that the decision has been taken to help the "peace-loving Muslims observe Ramzan in a peaceful environment". The ministry issued a statement saying, "It is important to isolate the forces that bring a bad name to Islam by resorting to mindless violence and terror...Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, too, has been informed of the decision by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh."

What are the conditions for this ceasefire?
The Centre clarified that the security forces "reserve the right to retaliate if attacked or if essential to protect the lives of innocent people".

What are the advantages of this ceasefire?
A big fraction of Jammu and Kashmir's population is peace loving. They face a life of hardship and feel alienated because of the actions of a small group of people. Also, if someone interrupts peace he will be dealt with strictly. It's just that infiltration is stopped for short time. This is not a sign of appeasing but of respecting someone's beliefs.

Top 10 News

- Adya

1. Same story, different day: Petrol, diesel prices hiked for the 12th day in a row. Since the 14th of may, petrol prices in Delhi have been hiked by Rs 3.2 and diesel by Rs 2.61.
2. Jallikattu vs Sterlite protests: 13 people have been killed in police firing during protests in Tuticorin, a port city in Tamil Nadu.
3. Fear that Nipah Virus has crossed the border from Kerala to Karnataka:
Nipah is a rare virus spread by fruit bats, which can cause flu-like symptoms and brain damage.
4. Karnataka CM Kumaraswamy to face floor test today: BJP fields nominee for speaker's post
5. IPL 2018: Momentum and current form give KKR edge over SRH in Qualifier 2 clash at Eden Gardens
6. Yawning deficits in world-beating growth punctuate Modi's rule.
7. World Cup 2018: Fabian Delph faces possible dilemma should England reach knockout stages.
8. An ingestible bacterial-electronic system to monitor gastrointestinal health.
9. Apple awarded $539m in US patent case against Samsung.
10. 4 killed in a week as child-lifting rumors go viral

TWITTER TWEET

Rahul Gandhi's fuel challenge:
"Dear PM,
Here a challenge for me:
Reduce fuel prices or the Congress will do a nationwide agitation and force you to do so."

CAREER-WISE

"Environment and economy are the two sides of the same coin. If we cannot sustain the environment, we cannot sustain ourselves".

MARINE BIOLOGIST

Do you love the ocean? Does it entrance you? Marine biologists study life in the oceans, and sometimes the oceans themselves. Marine biologists may study anything from the largest whale down to tiny planktons, microbes, and even the seawater itself. The sea and its denizens are facing the challenges of coexisting with commercial shipping, recreational boating, plastic waste, chemicals, and other issues associated with human activities. Marine biologists study how these activities affect marine life and suggest alternatives to minimize or prevent them. Many marine biologists work under job titles such as wildlife biologist, zoologist, fish and wildlife biologist, fisheries biologist, aquatic biologist, conservation biologist, and biological technician.

Travel is really dependant on what type of marine life you are going to study. If you work in a lab then travel will be less whereas if you are involved in research, then there will be a lot of travel.

Job Description: Marine biologist's research typically involves collecting species inventories, testing and monitoring sea creatures exposed to pollutants, collecting and testing ocean samples, preserving specimens and samples of unknown species and diseases, and mapping the distribution, ranges, or movements of marine populations.

Educational Requirement: A bachelor's or master's degree is typically required for entry-level marine biology research jobs, such as those at private research organizations and biotechnology companies. Doctoral degrees are usually required for faculty positions and other jobs that allow you to follow your own research interests. While several schools offer programs in marine biology, many students graduate with bachelor's degrees in biology, zoology, fisheries, ecology, or other animal sciences. Classes in chemistry, physics, mathematics, and statistics are also important. Classes on public policy and communications also play a big role in the field.

OCEANOGRAPHER

Oceanography is the study of the physical and biological aspects of the ocean. Jobs in Oceanography include working as a biological oceanographer, physical oceanographer, or chemical oceanographer; all of which have different job descriptions and work environments. These workers conduct researches and study water, sea life, weather and climates of the ocean.

Career in Oceanography:

The demand of oceanographers is increasing day after day. The oceanographers study the ocean waters and their effects on sealife, the weather and many others. The oceanographers can work in the fields ranging from conservation to the oil industry. Oceanographers study water, sea life, weather and climates, which helps preserve the natural resource of oceans and coastal waters, as well as contributes to other professionals' ability to predict weather patterns, determine plate tectonics shifting and care for wildlife

Courses & Eligibility:

Oceanographers start with a bachelor's degree and then look into pursuing internship programs or entry-level positions. More advanced training may be required for higher-level jobs. In India, many institutions/universities offer postgraduate education in this field. Most of the oceanographers hold master and doctoral degree in oceanography. Oceanography is basically the research field. Licensure & Certification, State licensure certification is available which can increase hiring potential; Field and lab experience is also required. Top courses offered in this field are listed below:

Master Courses:

Master of Science (M.Sc) in Oceanography, Master of Science in Marine Biology, M.Tech in Ocean Engineering, and M.Tech in Ocean Technology.

Doctoral Courses:

M.Phil in Marine Biology, M.Phil in Chemical Oceanography, PhD in Oceanography.

GEOLOGIST

Geology is an earth science concerned with the solid Earth, the rocks of which it is composed of and the processes by which they change over time. Geology can also refer to the study of the solid features of any terrestrial planet or natural satellite.

What Does a Geologist Do?

Geologists work in one of the most important (and oldest) Earth Sciences. They study rock formations and how they are created, what leads to rocks being created and the natural processes that shape our world. They may examine how natural processes affect rocks such as river formation. They study the materials of the Earth and the wild processes upon it. Geologists may be experts on mudslides and other ground-based natural disasters and what cause them. The majority of geologists work in industry. Their understanding of geological processes means they make great petrochemical prospectors. They will also work planning mining for coal, precious metals and every-day ores.

Educational Qualification:

Geology is one of the core STEM subjects and a bachelor's degree will be required at the very minimum for most jobs. In some states and for some jobs (especially where safety issues are concerned - such as in mines) certification may be required to practice. Students should take minors in math and physics or other Earth science options, and IT related subjects. GIS is one example of requiring IT skill in geology.

Ability to perform work or having experience in various industries, such as mining, environmental assessments, land development, and land remediation, Ability to be done outdoors in the field in a variety of environmental conditions or in the office to complete reports and paperwork , Extensive travel may be required depending on employment conditions and projects.

A Master's degree or Ph.D. in geology or closely related field of study, and experience in the field of work can give a candidate higher positions.

Doctorates are useful for those wishing to pursue a career in academia: teaching, research or both.

WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICER

In a country like India, waste management officers have high demand. They are the ones who organize waste disposal, collection and their recycling. They also have to devise operations for waste treatment and environment sustainability. They consult the residents, community groups about waste management issues and take actions to resolve the crisis. They also provide guidance to companies about the waste disposal issues. The educational qualifications for a career in this field are: a degree in Waste management, Environmental science, Environmental engineering, Chemistry or Civil Engineering. To get a slight edge over other candidates, one may get a post graduate degree in Waste Management. One can also gain a lot of experience through volunteering programs which will play a crucial role in improving the opportunities. The skills required for a successful career in the field are excellent communication skills, an interest in environment, ability to understand the problems and grab complex legislations, shrewd attitude and capacity to make quick decisions. One should also be able to connect with the local people so as to understand the issues more clearly. There are ample opportunities in the market for those desiring a career in Solid Waste Management. There are jobs in private as well as government firms, industrial organizations, consultancies, environmental agencies as well as non-profit conservation projects. With experience one can even become a head of waste management or area manager. The Starting salary package in this profession ranges between 1 lakh to 2 lakhs per annum.

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ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYER

Environmental law is a broad area of law that encompasses a range of issues surrounding the environment including water and air quality, hazardous waste, species protection, agriculture, wetlands, biodiversity, waste management, green initiatives, sustainability strategies and alternative energy sources. The purpose of an Environmental Lawyer is to work with environmental case law and legislation to represent various environmental interests. As sustainability becomes a global priority, lawyers who can advise clients on green standards and sustainability issues are in demand.

Employment Opportunities:

Employment for Environmental Lawyers is growing at a high rate because of the increasing importance of environmental legislation and the ongoing requirement for legal representation.

Where do environmental lawyers work?

There are a number of places environmental lawyers can find employment. They include: Federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal governments, Private law firms Colleges, universities, and research institutes. Large firms in other industries, for example oil and gas, mining, and manufacturing, Insurance companies Not-for-profit, non-governmental, and international organizations

Qualifications needed:

To practice as an Environmental Lawyer you will need to obtain a law degree commonly known as a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) or a Juries Doctor (JD). The JD is a postgraduate qualification; the bachelor is an undergraduate qualification. Further qualification is also available including a Masters of Law (LLM), Masters of Environmental Law, or a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). These further options are good for lawyers seeking more promotions or a higher pay grade. Along with the academic qualifications, one needs to gain experience too in the field so as to get higher roles. A successful environmental lawyer should be able to communicate effectively. The ability to persuade others to a specific point of view helps to win court cases, but the attorney also must be able to prepare and consolidate an abundance of details into an effective case.

Behind The Scenes

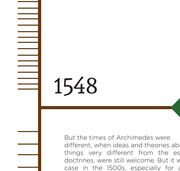
The Wisdom in Madness

"No Great Genius has ever existed without a touch of madness" – Aristotle
Everyone has wondered at some point what it would be like to enter the mind of a genius, to see what makes them so different. It might be a sense of awe, astonishment, maybe even jealousy, which makes us call them 'crazy'. Surely, the path to revolution and genius must fare through a whole lot of madness. And madness is exactly what many of our geniuses have suffered throughout history. Whether it was madness born from within or what the world made of them, they surely embraced it and used it, to change the world as we see it. But they had to suffer nonetheless, either because of an internal turmoil or because of a lack of acceptance by the society. We will be looking at the life of 4 such geniuses, whom the world called crazy.

287 BC

Archimedes

Bottom Image: explaining Archimedes' Principle the buoyant force is equal to the weight of the displaced water



Archimedes was born in ancient Greece during the year 287 BC. He was a great scientist and an inventor who made significant contributions in the fields of mathematics, physics, astronomy, engineering, and weapon designing. He was the first person to use mathematical concepts in physics and to apply rules of physics to pure mathematics.

He was a genius far ahead of his time who became famous for his brilliant mind. The most widely known story about Archimedes is about how he discovered what is now known as the **Archimedes Principle** while having a bath and noticed that the water displaced by his body must be equal to his body's volume. That the next part about how he ran out of the bathroom without any clothes on, shouting 'Eureka!' might be a myth, is a pity.

A lesser-known story about Archimedes is that of the invention of the 'Beast Number'. Archimedes believed that the number of grains of sand on the beach could be counted while everyone else thought this to be impossible. The problem was that the biggest number that existed for the Greeks was 10,000, also called a myriad. The solution according to Archimedes was to invent a big enough number. He was the first person to use exponents to write numbers bigger than ever written before. Soon he had a number big enough for not only the grains of sand on the beach but also for the grains of sand in the entire universe. **The Beast Number- {(10^8) ^ (10^8) ^ (10^8)}** – came into existence from his desire to write even bigger numbers just because he could. While completely impractical- one followed by 80 quadrillion zeroes-, this numbers dwarfs all other known big numbers like the volume of the known universe in cubic centimeter or the number of bacteria that have ever lived on the earth.

1548

Giordano Bruno

But the times of Archimedes were different, when ideas and theories about things very different from the established doctrines, were still welcome. But it wasn't the case in the 1500s, especially for an Italian philosopher: Giordano Bruno. Born in 1548 he was raised and tutored to become a priest, hammered with the teachings of the Bible, everyone around him had tried to cultivate the image of God in his mind, one which agreed with the then established Christian ideology. People believed the earth to be at the center of the universe and mankind at its peak. But Giordano thought, "Why would my infinite God create such a small universe and just for us?" Giordano envisioned the universe to be infinite. The planets didn't revolve around the earth, but in fact, they all revolved around the sun. He called our sun, just another star, and the stars were all far away suns, with their own watery earth and creatures roaming around on their surface. For him, the universe had no end. There was no up, no down and certainly, no center. His god was the master of an infinite universe. He thought that people would welcome his idea of their god being infinite. But the Church, whose authority and teachings being questioned by Giordano, imprisoned him. His peers called him crazy and protested against his teachings. The Church tried to make him confess for 9 years, but he didn't cave in. Tried for heresy and found guilty, he was burnt at the stake in the year 1600. This was an era when there were no telescopes. But there was a man, who dared to dream beyond the limits the world put on him, in spite of being rebuked and called crazy. And now we all know who ended up being correct.

Bottom Image: The trial of Giordano Bruno by the Roman Inquisition. Bronze relief by Ettore Ferrari (1845-1929), at Campo de' Fiori, Rome.

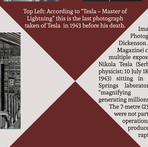
1853

Top, Left and Bottom Image: a self portrait of Van Gogh, his first masterpiece called 'The Potato Eaters' and his masterpiece called 'A Starry Night', that he made in an asylum

"If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint', then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced."
This is a famous quote by one of the revolutionary thinkers and artists of the world, Vincent Willem Van Gogh, a Dutch post-impressionist painter who is counted among the most famous and influential figures in the history of Western Art. His paintings include landscapes, still lives, portraits and self-portraits and are characterized by bold colors and dramatic, impulsive and expressive brushwork that contributed to the foundations of modern art.
Even though he is famous now, this legendary genius was actually a struggling artist, who had been painting without an audience for a decade. He started at 27, his only support being his younger brother. He suffered from depression when he moved to London. His mentor kicked him out, unimpressed by his oil paintings. Living in poverty, in most of his letters to his brother, he would tell him how hungry he was. And during this time, he created his first masterpiece: **The Potato Eaters.** But sadly, all of his work i.e. 2,100 artworks including 860 oil paintings were treated as mediocre by the people of his time. He was born in an era where being an artist who transformed the plain instrumented life into ecstatic beauty was not well recognized. Throughout his entire life, he could sell only one painting, for 1000 dollars.
In the last two years of his life, he was gripped by mental illness. Van Gogh, an autotelic, spent his time painting as much as he could, despite people calling him a 'madman' and a 'failure'. His masterpiece called '**A Starry Night**', was made in an asylum. At the age of 37, a tired Van Gogh committed suicide.

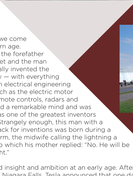
1856

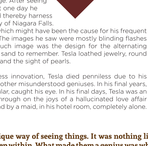
Nikola Tesla



Top Left: According to "Tesla – Master of Lightning" this is the last photograph taken of Tesla in 1943 before his death

Image on Left: Photographer Dickenson Alley (Century Magazine) created this multiple exposure in 1899 of Nikola Tesla (Serbian-American physicist; 10 July 1856 – 7 January 1943) sitting in his Colorado Springs laboratory with his "magnifying transmitter" generating millions of volts. The 3 meter (21 ft) long arcs were not part of the normal operation, but only produced for effect by rapidly cycling the power switch.





Statue of Nikola Tesla at Niagara Falls

And at last, we come to the modern age. Nikola Tesla, the forefather of the internet and the man who essentially invented the 20th century — with everything from modern electrical engineering advances such as the electric motor to X-rays, remote controls, radars and the radio; had a remarkable mind and was recognized as one of the greatest inventors of his time. Strangely enough, this man with a lightning knack for inventions was born during a lightning storm, the midwife calling the lightning a bad omen, to which his mother replied: "No. He will be a child of light."

Tesla showed insight and ambition at an early age. After seeing a drawing of Niagara Falls, Tesla announced that one day he would place a gigantic wheel under the falls and thereby harness it. Years later, Tesla, in fact, harnessed the energy of Niagara Falls.
His sleep cycle consisted only of 2 hours a day, which might have been the cause for his frequent hallucinations, which only got worse with time. The images he saw were mostly blinding flashes of light, accompanied by other images. One such image was the design for the alternating current motor, which he quickly sketched in the sand to remember. Tesla loathed jewelry, round objects and wouldn't touch hair. He could not stand the sight of pearls.

Despite his brilliant mind and seemingly limitless innovation, Tesla died penniless due to his humanist view of the world; and alone like many other misunderstood geniuses. In his final years, Tesla spent time feeding pigeons. One, in particular, caught his eye. In his final days, Tesla was an old madman, love-starved and alone, getting through on the joys of a hallucinated love affair with a pigeon. He died shortly after and was found by a maid, in his hotel room, completely alone.

What each of our heroes had in common was a unique way of seeing things. It was nothing like what they were taught by the world. It came from deep within. What made them a genius was what they did for the world, which only came to be recognized later. But what made them crazy, was how the people perceived them. We tend to be afraid of change, even if it's a good one. And when anyone rebels, fights against the flow, we disregard them as a madman, without hearing them out. For progress to happen, a change is required. A change can only happen by a change in the way of thinking. And throughout history, we have been blessed with individuals who brought about such changes which made us adopt a new perspective on life, a new way of seeing things. A way which people used to call 'crazy'.

LEISURE AND PROCRASTINATION

We wait. We wait our entire lives for that right moment to do that right thing. We wait for governments to change or start being responsible. We wait for that perfect idea to pop into our heads. We wait for the seasons to change. And they do. The chill of the winters gives way to the raging heat of the summers and in a blink of an eye the wet showers of monsoon take over. Whoosh! The holidays get over; we too turn old - with our unfulfilled desires. But, why so? Here's Insight giving you a pinch of the reality and a better way to deal with the desires and deadlines, the delays and denial.

The Last Minute That Never Comes

We, humans, differ on endless grounds of geographic boundaries, religious affiliations, ideological conflicts, social orientations, etc, but one thing is common to all- we PROCRASTINATE. It's always easier to find excuses for delaying things, rather than just getting ourselves into the seat to start clearing the pile off!
Our current workspaces have conditioned us to be 'deadline-centric'. It's just not easy to get working until the deadline is overhead. We stay up all night and somehow struggle our way out of the situation to save our neck at the moment. But it doesn't ever miss our minds that, if we had started a bit earlier, things would have been in a better shape

Now, all this has to do with our college routine- homework, assignments, tests, projects, semester exams etc., the time when we have a lot on the plate, and are craving for the vacations so that we can finish off that huge reading list, or binge on that series we wanted to during exam time, or just complete that pending German course. But, here comes the catch. Vacations come and go, yet the book list stays unexploited, that series is still snoozing on your pen drive because you were too lazy to even transfer it and suddenly it seems that German can wait until college resumes. And so, while you are still wondering how you wasted your vacation, the Drama Queen makes a grand entry- Guilt.

Well, we 'utilize' first few weeks of our vacation planning how we will enjoy it. Then we waste the next couple of weeks saying ' I'll definitely start it from the next week!' And finally, we mess the last few weeks sulking, 'Why did I waste all this time!!!'
Indeed, it's not just Mark Twain's heavy, hated frogs that we keep delaying, but also the things we love to do.
One important debate still continues- 'Whether procrastination is about lack of time management, or is it about lack of motivation?' Simply put, procrastination is all about the lack of motivation to utilize our time by managing it. Well, it's not that we don't try to manage time, we do make schedules and plans for long, but all of it stays only on paper or in our heads.

So, the question remains, 'Why do we procrastinate even about the things we love? Here are some possible reasons:

1) When we plan our vacation routine, we either overestimate or underestimate our time and goals. We unconsciously exhaust our frontal cortex into thinking hard and thus the desire to call it a day arises.

2) The reward doesn't outweigh the efforts.

3) The absence of an adrenaline kick. Being accustomed to stressful deadlines has made it near impossible to get moving in their absence.

4) The activity involves learning something new and we lack the desire to put in extra efforts during our 'chilling' period.

5) The absence of passion.

There is a very thin line between 'liking' and 'passion'. You may really like doing a particular activity but if that isn't a passionate pull, you may surely lose interest in it. Thus increasing your tendency to procrastinate.

Let's put it this way- college routine is like walking in a desert, where you look forward to the refreshing vacation. But it's only a mirage. All those dreams and anticipations of enjoying the cool breeze are what your procrastination is all about because you will enjoy it 'only after' you reach the oasis! All said and done, until you stop keeping all of it in your head and start getting it in action, you will always be fooled by the mirage.

-Sara Chavan, SYBA

Don't we all have elongated and accumulated over the years to-do, to-watch, to-read lists for vacations which always end up staying on paper, never seeing the light of the day, completely discarded, disregarded and forgotten? Only to be lengthened.

A bucket list is a wish list, not a mere fantasy. Straying from a list, finding it outdated, discovering a new attraction, something more fascinating than past, is present.

How about we make a diverted bucket list, of Don'ts, which will track us from going astray instead of leading us to it?
A list to remain forever with you, which can never be ticked off because it is what makes us tick.

Wake Up

Don't Wake Up with a Start,
Only from Dared Leaps in Dreams,
Forever Forgotten and Tucked Away,
In a Dream of Stolen Moments from Reality.

Don't Wake Up to Catch Up,
With Netflix, Seasons in Summer,
With Snap Streaks, Live Updates of waking up
Just Wake Up.

Don't Wake Up only to Watch,
Read of Happenings Far from You,
To Regretted Days of Future,
Awaited in Nightmares and Dreads.

Wake Up after a Required Sleep,
When you have Worked to Wake Up,
From Physical Exhaustion,
And not Mental Fatigue,
Risen from idleness worked towards sleep.

Go ahead and add a few more mistakes
and let the victory over it count each moment,
each day, every year for yesteryears and later ones.

-Tapvi Padia, SYBA

Bucket List (n);

The list of experiences and achievements one desires to fulfill before reaching a certain age or dying.
Now, this list can contain something as crazy as walking on a building or something as simple as dancing in the rains.
We, at insight, went around asking people one question-
What are the 'Top 3' wishes of your bucket list and why are they 'The priority'?
Enjoy the awaited adventurous answers!

1. Travel
Because nothing will give me more happiness than covering as much ground as I can in my lifetime. The world is huge and it's maddening to realize that I have spent two decades in one minuscule city

2. Write a book
Of what I'm still not sure. I don't even have stories ready or even poems worth putting into a book and publishing. But I somehow just want a book out there that will make a difference. In some small way.

3. Build a school/a chain of schools
A school for kids that focuses on a lot more than english, mathematics, and science. A school that kids actually enjoy going to every single day and equips them with lessons more in tune with reality.

-Saee Patkar

1. Learn to wiggle eyebrows and raise one.
This can get you out of ANY embarrassing situation. Also, your mother's anger. And it is kind of badass.

2. Build your own house.
I've lots of designs planned out for a dream home most of them are libraries and swimming pools, but also an amazing retro-style room. And I'm doing all of them, by myself.

3. Become a pilot.
It's a childhood dream. Also, I would fly!

-Mayura Mulay, SYBA

1. Work hard enough to be worthy so that I can sleep peacefully every night.
2. Save as many animals as I can.
3. Send my parents on a world tour with the money I've earned.

They're all priorities because they play a great role in motivating me, keeping me sane and satisfied with what I am doing.

-Pallari Gajaria, SYBA

1. Driving a sports car, because it's my dream since childhood.
2. Skydiving, for the Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara feels.
3. To make a new dish (a food recipe), because I'm a bit fond of cooking.

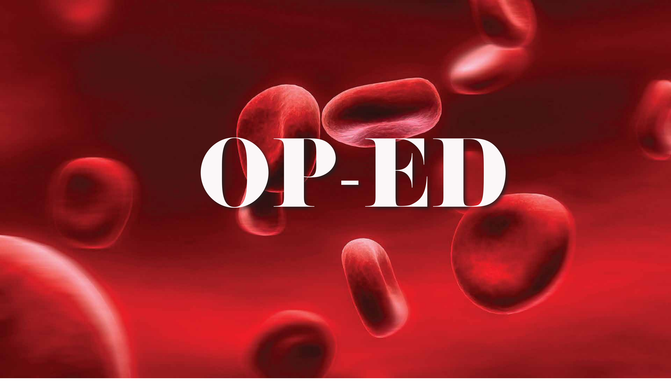
-Sharvil Bhurke, SYBA

1. World Tour
2. Skydiving
3. Cycling from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Maharashtra to Kolkata.

And why are they the priorities? Well, they are not my priorities as such but my wishes and I guess we live our lives on our wishes and dreams which ultimately gives us happiness and definitely happiness is our priority. So indirectly My Bucket List is my priority! Which will make me climb, jump, run to achieve it.

-Hrishikesh Ghatkar, SYBA

As Adele says, 'We were born and raised in a summer haze'.
So give up on the wait. Now is all we have. Now is all we have.



OP-ED

Hello, Ruiaites! We hope you had an awesome vacation and are on your best health at the start of this new academic year. June is here and the 14th day of this month is marked as Blood Donor's Day. This makes it even more important for us to stay healthy. We're the future of this country and donating blood is one of the most important deeds we can do to save lives. Let's read about some of the important aspects of blood donation in general, the beliefs and facts.

Blood donation: ideas, beliefs, and facts.

Our world is a beautifully diversified place. There are very few things which are similar in two parts of this same world, but they do exist. One such thing is humanity. What can be considered as a greater attribute of humanity than a donation?

Blood donation is the best among all donations. This is because one can earn money, prepare food and manufacture clothes. But blood, it can only be produced in our body. That's what makes it so precious and that's why blood donation is important.

Blood donation is giving someone another birthday, another anniversary, another night under the stars, another talk with a friend, another laugh, another cry, another hug and another chance at life.

Blood donation camps are conducted by several organizations and hospitals in India, for example, Rotary Blood Bank, Indian Red Cross Society etc. Donors can also visit blood banks in hospitals to donate blood. Even the NSS at Ruia college conducts blood donation camps. Despite the shortage of donated blood, efforts by the government and various organizations have succeeded in reducing the demand and supply gap over the years.

Benefits:

While the most impressive benefit of blood donation remains the gift of life that you give to the person receiving your blood, there are a few benefits to your own body that occur due to blood donation.

1. Prevents Hemochromatosis

Hemochromatosis is a health condition that arises due to excess absorption of iron by the body. This may be inherited or may be caused due to alcoholism, anemia or other disorders. Donating blood at regular intervals prevents this condition.

2. Anti-cancer benefits

Blood donation helps in lowering the risk of cancer. By donating blood the iron stores in the body are maintained at healthy levels. A reduction in the iron level in the body is linked with low cancer risk.

3. Maintains Healthy Heart & Liver

Blood donation is beneficial in reducing the risk of heart and liver ailments like liver failure, damage to the pancreas, and heart abnormalities like irregular heart rhythms which are caused by elevated iron levels.

4. Weight loss

Regular blood donation reduces the weight of the donors. This is helpful for those who are obese and are at a higher risk of cardiovascular diseases and other health disorders. However, blood donation should not be very frequent and you may consult your doctor before donating blood to avoid any health issues.

5. Stimulates Blood Cell Production

After donating blood, the body works to replenish the blood loss. This stimulates the production of new blood cells and, in turn, helps in maintaining good health.

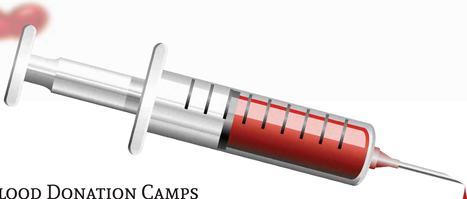
Who can donate blood?
Donor's age must be between 18-60 years and their weight should be more than 45 kgs to be able to donate blood. You shouldn't be on any medication or have had any piercing or tattoo in the recent past. During your donation, you will complete a brief health questionnaire to make sure blood donation is safe for you and the recipient of your blood.

How often can you donate blood?
Any healthy person can donate blood after the required gap of 56 days. This wait time helps replenish the blood levels in the donor's body. One must avoid donating blood if they're suffering from any disorders and consult their doctor before doing it.

How much blood can you donate?
You can donate one unit or 350 ml of blood every 8 weeks. Some organizations conduct donation camps where one can participate and donate blood. You can also donate blood at any hospital.

How long does blood donation take?
The entire process of blood donation takes approximately 30 minutes in addition to the primary checkup that takes around 20 minutes.

Now that we know that blood donation isn't a very big deal like Agni Pariksha, there's a good opportunity for all 18-year-olds or more to come forward and donate blood. Who knows, maybe one of us will benefit from one such donor in the future. So let's help someone if we expect someone to help us.



The NSS Blood Donation Camps

As Ruiaites the thing we most commonly associate with the blood donation are the drives conducted in our college by the Ruia NSS. And why not, because they are the ones who organize drives and are very enthusiastic about what they do too.

The NSS is a platform for the students who want to bring about a change in the society for its betterment. For this very reason, they organize various activities apart from blood donation drives.

While organizing these blood donation drives is a task that demands responsibility, the NSS volunteers have a great time doing it. They also get to interact with a lot of people which is very enriching. Along with organizing the drives, they also publicise them by performing street plays that help to spread the word.

Over the years the NSS has received an excellent response from the students when it comes to donating blood. In fact, it has been observed that the regular donors often encourage their friends to donate blood if they are first-timers. While a majority of students aren't hesitant to donate blood there are in fact some people who are a little or sometimes more than a little unsure about whether they want to donate blood or not. The NSS volunteers make sure that they clear all misconceptions, even if they are silly.

The NSS has undoubtedly done a great job at increasing people's participation in blood donation drives. Their enthusiasm at organizing these drives translates into the success of these events. Publicising these social causes is just as noble as participating in these causes. So let's just give a hand to our lovely NSS for doing such an amazing job at creating awareness about social issues! And when they organize another blood donation drive we'll make it a point to participate in it! Let's do something which counts as our contribution to the welfare of this society.

One pint (unit) of blood can save up to three lives.

The deep-rooted caste system causes people to ask if the donated blood comes from a lower caste person before the operation.

Every year, India requires around five crore units of blood. However, hardly half of this amount is donated

Humans are the only creatures gifted with the ability to smile. A smile makes one look beautiful. But when our good deed is the reason behind someone's smile, it feels even better. Blood Donor's Day, 14th June is one such opportunity to perform a good deed. Let's ditch the LED bulbs and instead welcome the million dollar smiles, for the sake of society. Because they're worth it!

OPEN FORUM

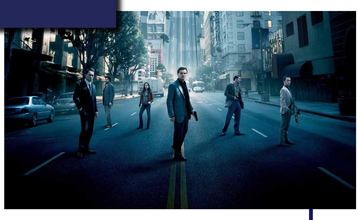
THROUGH INFINITY AND BEYOND

- Natasha Desai and Ishita Nirbhavane

"It's been said that science fiction and fantasy are two different things: science fiction the improbable made possible; fantasy, the impossible made probable..." — Rod Serling, The Twilight Zone (1959)

Did Serling ever imagine that the 'improbable' would come to have the massive culture and fan following that it does today? Either way, science fiction is one of the largest and most evolving genres of today's creative world. Be it movies, shows, books or games, the immersive worlds that content creators have made are filled to the brim with futuristic technology, otherworldly beings and spectacular storylines. Science fiction depends on asking "what if?s" Or as an obscure 1930's sci-fi musical asked, "Just imagine..." However, sci-fi is as much a genre as a setting. Often, the technology is a means to explore concepts, and the stories embody these ideas. The plot could be an investigative one, focusing on how advanced technology affects crime and policing, or an exploratory one, breaking the defined barriers of space and dimensions. Here are some of our favorite sci-fi concepts and subtypes, brought to comprehensible forms by authors and actors alike.

INCEPTION



This is the story of a skilled thief, Dom Cobb, practicing the risky art of extraction and stealing valuable secrets from deep within the subconscious while sending them in a dream state (a time when their mind is extremely vulnerable). His abilities make him extremely powerful but it ends up costing him everything he has ever loved. Throughout the film, he gets a shot at redemption but for it, he has to make the impossible happen. He arranges the Dream Team to carry out the task of not stealing but planting an idea in someone's subconscious mind. He has to make the most of his chance while dealing with his own emotional issues. This critically acclaimed movie, even eight whole years after its release continues to garner adulation from spectators. It is not just all thanks to the wonder that is Leonardo Di Caprio but also the mastermind director, Christopher Nolan who has achieved many peaks in the genre of Sci-Fi. Inception is in fact, the perfect movie to introduce anyone to the world of sci-fi cinema.

JESSICA JONES

Jessica Jones, another gift to the world from Marvel Comics, is a private detective with supernatural abilities. She may not be Marvel's first female superhero, but she's certainly one of the best ones. In the Netflix Original, we come across her complexity as she deals with PTSD. In the first few episodes, she starts working on a case and realizes that she may end up in another encounter with her past tormentor, Kilgrave. There is a certain intrigue that leads up with each episode as she proves herself to be a messed up, yet brave and badass heroine. The show received excessive admiration from viewers as well as critics. Unlike most superheroes in any universe, Jessica is flawed and broken and yet manages to keep her superhero status because of the way she deals with every problem that arises in her more than adventurous life. Jessica Jones ultimately provides the perfect blend of reality and science fiction.

WELCOME TO NIGHTVALE

Welcome to Night Vale is a podcast that depicts life in the desert town of Night Vale, a fictional community where the paranormal is a fact of everyday life that the citizens have to deal with in addition to the mundane details of living in a small, isolated town. Done in a community radio style, the show reports on the various stories around town and the community events happening that week. The show treads a fine line between hilarious absurdity and genuine creepiness. Within a flexible format, each broadcast features not only reports on the town but also radio host Cecil's personal thoughts and experiences. At the show's core is Night Vale's community, including intern Dana, who enters the dog park and survives; old woman Josie, surrounded by beings who are not angels who're all named Erika; Megan, a schoolgirl whose entire body consists of an adult man's severed hand; and Carlos, Cecil's love interest and the town's new science hero. The story is very detailed and intricate, and small seeds planted throughout the episodes tend to unfold into important plot elements months or even years later. The podcast builds on the concept of the supernatural and alternate dimensions and is a great listen during road trips, sleepless nights or even just long afternoons.

MUSINGS OF A CHAI GLASS

Ouch! A little careful there, please. I'm made of glass, and hence am more susceptible to injuries than others. I tell you, people just don't bother being careful with things they don't own. But, oh hey, hello there! I am usually not this grumpy, but then again, today isn't a usual day. The skies have graced us with the first rains of the season. And with that, everyone else has too.

But I suppose I can't really blame all these people. I mean, when the skies bare their soul and the breeze blows lightly as if trying to soothe, who wouldn't like a hot, pick-me-up drink? And since it is Mumbai, you can't do better than a cutting chai. Half the usual height of a chai and infused with more flavors since it is brewed for a longer time, a cutting chai packs a punch which no other drink can. Or maybe I'm prejudiced. But you can't blame me. You are served this cutting, refreshing drink in me; I bear this hot drink for you. So, a bias doesn't hurt.

Mornings are the best. The folks who come here in the wee hours don't feel the need to talk; they are content to enjoy this time of solitude after their exhausting jog or before they step into the confines of their office. In the afternoons, it is sometimes those same people who step out of their work to have a quick shot of refreshment. But in the evenings, and this one is a personal favorite, it is the time for those couples in love. Sometimes sharing one chai, other times loving it too much to share, these lovebirds are a cheerful sight for an old glass like me. Also, the morning drinkers, mostly the health-freaks, don't usually accompany the chai with another favorite of the Mumbaikars, the Vada Pav. But come evenings and these inhibitions are chased away.

Snacking at a tapri and following it a with a cutting chai while it is raining cats and dogs, all the while gossiping with your best friend, enjoying your me time, or looking lovingly into your partner's eyes- no other feeling surpasses this. And the best part: I get to hear you all talk your hearts out!

So, when are you stepping out for that piping hot glass of cutting chai and providing me with the latest happenings in your life?

-Sayli Mayekar

THE FINAL WORDICT

Leaving A Mark

The apostrophe (' or ') character is a punctuation mark, and sometimes a diacritical mark. In English, it is used for several purposes like the marking of the omission of one or more letters, the marking of the possessive case of nouns, or to mark plurals of individual characters. A lot of authors use apostrophes in names, particularly in science fiction and fantasy. It makes the characters look exotic and different from the rest. So, where did this all begin?

Apostrophes in science fiction and fantasy names are often attributed to Anne McCaffrey, whose popular Dragonriders of Pern series included character names such as F'lar. Even though McCaffrey wasn't the first author to use apostrophes to give her characters an exotic feel, she is attributed to have made it known to the public as her books gained a lot of popularity. Star Trek aired an episode with women named T'Pau and T'Pring in the 1960's. Dune, which was published in 1965, included the name Muad'Dib, which applies to both a creature and a constellation; and in 1955, Detective Comics had a character whose first and last name had an apostrophe: J'onn J'onnz, who was also known as Martian Manhunter and was a member of the fictional Justice League of America.

Apart from these characters, regular names have apostrophes too. The Irish have their O'Briens and the Italians have their D'Angelos. The apostrophe in Irish names, however, is an Anglicization of what was originally an O with an acute accent over it: Ó. Some Scottish and Irish surnames use an apostrophe after an M, for example, M'Gregor, that may be seen as marking a contraction where the prefix Mc or Mac would normally appear. When Arabic words are written in English, they also often include apostrophes to mark a glottal stop or a diacritic mark we don't have in English. It is used to separate letters or syllables that otherwise would likely be interpreted incorrectly for example in the Arabic word mus'haf, the syllables are as in mus•haf, not mu•shaf.

More obvious uses of apostrophes in fictional names have included Christopher Paolini's Inheritance Cycle, The Last Dragon Chronicles, the Discworld books and many other series set in a fantasy or historical setting. They serve an important purpose in the aesthetic of a story and can often make a newly created language appear more authentic and unique, and keep readers enthralled with the allure and mystery of their newly found world.

- Riddhi Jadye

Tech Tricked

The world of Quantum Computing

The term "computer", in use from the early 17th century, meant "one who computes". From that era of human computers who used to do every calculation required to tackle complex problems, we have come a long way as you read this article on your phone which is also capable of doing a lot of simple day to day calculations. And now, to solve a lot more complex questions we are in need of quantum computers.

What is quantum computing?

Quantum computing is the area of study focused on developing computer technology based on the principles of quantum theory, which explains the nature and behavior of energy and matter on the subatomic level. Quantum computing takes advantage of the strange ability of subatomic particles like electrons or photons to exist in more than one state at any time. Due to the way these particles behave, operations can be done much more quickly and use less energy than classical computers.

Classical Computers vs Quantum Computers

In today's world, Data is the new oil; it's only useful when it's refined! The only difference is data is only increasing unlike the sources of oil. As we enter 'The big data' world, we need to store and then process a huge amount of data. Classical computers have their own limits, while quantum computers are revolutionary for the computing world. Classic computers are capable of doing one function at a time. When the number of functions increases, time and energy required to solve the problem also increases. As the problems get more and more complex it becomes unsolvable for classical computers. These are the problems that quantum computers are expected to solve.
Classical computers, as we know encode information in bits. A bit is the smallest unit of data in a computer. A bit has a single binary value, either 0 or 1. These 1s and 0s are like on and off switch that ultimately drives computer function. Quantum computers, on the other hand, are based on qubits (Quantum bits), the quantum analog of a classic binary bit. To understand the difference between a bit and a qubit, imagine a sphere. A bit can be at either of the two poles of the sphere, but a qubit can exist at any point on the sphere. So, this means that a computer using qubits can store an enormous amount of information.
Qubits operate according to two key principles of quantum physics: superposition and entanglement. Superposition means that each qubit can represent both 1 and 0 at the same time. Entanglement means that qubits in a superposition can be correlated with each other, that is, the state of one (whether it is 0 or 1) can depend on the state of another. Using these two principles, qubits have more advanced switches, enabling quantum computers to function in ways that allow them to solve difficult problems that are intractable using today's computer.

What can quantum computers do?

Quantum computers operate on completely different principles compared to existing computers, which makes them really efficient for solving particular mathematical problems, like finding very large prime numbers which are important in cryptography (the art of coding). Researchers are also excited about the prospect of using quantum computers to model complicated chemical reactions, a task that conventional supercomputers can't really manage. In July 2016, Google engineers used a quantum device to simulate a hydrogen molecule for the first time, and since then IBM has managed to model the behavior of even more complex molecules. Eventually, researchers hope they'll be able to use quantum simulations to design entirely new molecules for use in medicine. But the holy grail for quantum chemists is to be able to model the Haber-Bosch process- a way of artificially producing ammonia that is still relatively inefficient. Researchers are hoping that if they can use quantum mechanics to work out what's going on inside that reaction, they would be able to discover new ways to make the process much more efficient. They may enable ultra-efficient logistics and supply chains, such as optimizing fleet operations for deliveries during the holiday season. They may help us find new ways to model financial data and isolate key global risk factors to make better investments. And they may make facets of artificial intelligence such as machine learning much more powerful.

Few reasons why you should learn to code...

Programming languages are like the languages we speak. Every language has its own grammar and words which when put together is turned into thoughts that people can understand. Similarly, programming languages possess a system of variables and rules which when put in a logical way gives the output. Different languages have different rules, same goes for programming languages. It isn't that difficult! So, here are few reasons why you should learn to code...

1. Develop problem-solving skills
While learning to code, you learn to break up a problem in smaller steps and then logically create a program that solves it. This same approach can be applied in many other situations.

2. Be smarter and think differently.
Learning to code can help you in other subjects that you are learning. This is due to the methodical approach that has been evolved while learning to code. You can always use the knowledge of programming while creating your own website blog etc.

3. You'll learn how to learn.
Learning programming will also teach you how to learn in a self-structured way. Coding requires attention to detail and precision. Programming is such a vast field that you'll have to search for correct methods and techniques off your back and that approach to learning will help you learn better in other fields.
Most importantly, everyone can learn how to code.

It's not for people from IT sector. If you like to think logically and creatively then we are sure that you will enjoy coding. And there are loads of free resources like Coursera, edx, Tutorials Point etc. where you can get started. So all the creative brains out there, let's code!

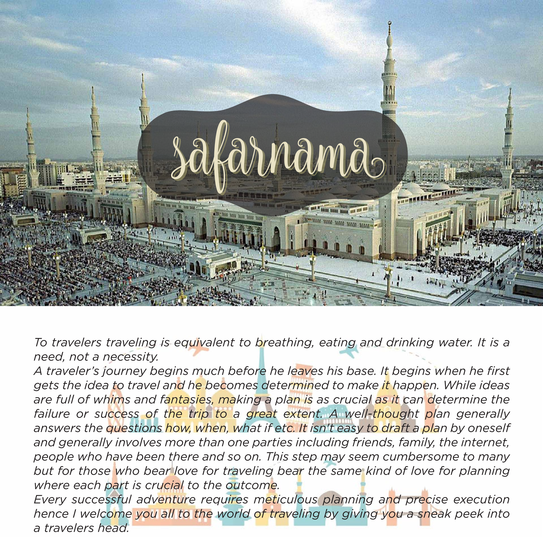
Science of Everything

Phineas Gage, whose story is also known as the 'American Crowbar Case', was an unwitting and involuntary contributor to the history of neuroscience. In 1848, when he was just 25 years old, Gage sustained a terrible injury to his brain. His miraculous survival and the effects of the injury upon his character made Gage a curiosity to the public and an important case study for scientists hoping to understand more about the brain.
On September 13th, 1848, Gage was using explosives to clear rocks for the construction of a new rail line in Cavendish, Vermont. The work was simple: he'd drill a hole, fill it with explosive powder, pack it in with a tamping iron, and then pour sand on top. But at one point, he tapped the iron in the hole, turned to look at his men as he tapped it again. The tamping iron hit a rock, creating a spark that detonated the explosive. That sent the 3.5-foot long, 1.25-inch wide, 6 kg bar directly into Gage's head. It entered through his left cheek, plowed through his eye socket, and blasted out the top of his skull, obliterating brain tissue in its wake. Phineas was knocked over but may not have lost consciousness even though most of the front part of the left side of his brain was destroyed.

The American crowbar case

Dr. John Martyn Harlow, the young physician of Cavendish, treated him successfully after which he returned home to Lebanon, New Hampshire 10 weeks later.
But after the accident, the change that was observed in him landed him in the records of science history.
Before the accident, he had a "well-balanced mind" and was a "shrewd, smart businessman, very energetic and persistent in executing all his plans of operation". But after the accident, in 1868 Harlow wrote a report on the mental manifestations of Gage's injuries. He described Gage as "fitful, irreverent, indulging at times in the grossest profanity capricious and vacillating" and being "radically changed, so decidedly that his friends and acquaintances said he was 'no longer Gage'."
A brain injury changed Gage's personality! Something science hadn't come across before and still hasn't figured how!

To make your brains think about the brain more, we have got some cool facts about the brain
- The human brain has the same consistency as Jell-O.
- You have about 70,000 thoughts a day and 70% of them are believed to be negative.
- There's no such division as left and right brain, both parts work together.
- Studies show that brain waves are more active while dreaming than when you are awake.
Most people dream for about 1-2 hours a night and have an average of 4-7 dreams each night.
-The term "computer", in use from the early 17th century, meant "one who computes"
- When awake, the brain produces enough energy to power a small light bulb.



To travelers traveling is equivalent to breathing, eating and drinking water. It is a need, not a necessity.
A traveler's journey begins much before he leaves his base. It begins when he first gets the idea to travel and he becomes determined to make it happen. While ideas are full of whims and fantasies, making a plan is as crucial as it can determine the failure or success of the trip to a great extent. A well-thought plan generally answers the questions how, when, what if etc. It isn't easy to draft a plan by oneself and generally involves more than one parties including friends, family, the internet, people who have been there and so on. This step may seem cumbersome to many but for those who bear love for traveling bear the same kind of love for planning where each part is crucial to the outcome.
Every successful adventure requires meticulous planning and precise execution hence I welcome you all to the world of traveling by giving you a sneak peek into a travelers head.

TRAVEL TIPS

A SAVVY TRAVELER

Meaning - Someone with a practical knowledge of traveling

I have always wanted to be savvy in traveling, so I used to Google, YouTube, and what not, just so that one day I could travel through airports like it's my home and fit into any new culture like a fish takes to water.
But then I realized the process of achieving savviness is much better than actually being savvy - I've missed buses, got off at wrong destinations, lost tickets, roamed all night because I ran out of budget for a hotel and this on-the-road experience has made me a savvy traveler, though there are so many things I wish I'd known before.

Here's a bunch of tips I wish I had known when I first started out.

LEARN ABOUT THE CULTURE BEFORHAND

* If you are dressed up like a local, it will instantly make you feel safe rather than left out.
* Learn a few phrases of the native language.

EAT WELL

Who doesn't love to try out new food and drinks but there's always a question of whether it is safe or not?
* Search for places and eateries where children are eating, because what's safe for them is definitely safe for you.
* Drink Starbucks, familiarity is comforting.

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY

* Carry enough supply of your medications, because unless you have a prescription it is impossible for any of the pharmacies to give you those medicines.
* Have a copy of all your documents, in paper and in pdf. (PS - You could share the pdf with your dear ones to be extra safe)

TRAVEL SMART

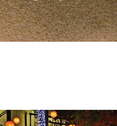
It's fun to get lost, because that's when you find out your secret place but not always!
* Don't trust just 1 person for directions.
* Always consider asking cops over locals.
* Download routes beforehand.

LET THE SPONSOR BE GUARDED

Money - our best travel friend
*Buy attraction cards - if you plan to visit a lot of monuments and museums, this card might just be your savior. It saves a lot of money and is valid for almost all the touristy places
*While booking flights, use the incognito feature in your browser to hide your search history. Travel companies might try to fool you with higher prices.

SOCIALIZE

* Stay at hostels because
(i) They are very light on your pocket.
(ii) You find friends.
(Talk to people-you might make lifelong friends, click a lot of pictures with them, you are making memories you wouldn't want to forget.)



BE HAPPY

*Bring home souvenirs.
*Write a diary. You will definitely find yourself coming back to that journal again and again to relive those memories you didn't know you were making.
*Save all the tickets.

Lastly,
Travel by yourself at least once in your life.
What if you find your true self in the streets of New York?

RASHI GULATI

LIFE IN SAUDI ARABIA

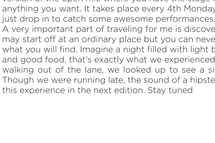
When we talk about the Middle East, we often end up talking about Dubai. It is easy to overlook other countries in favor of their famous neighbor. However, there is no denying the public's fascination with strange locations or lifestyles, so different and exaggerated from their own. Therefore, it makes sense that the world is equally fascinated about what goes on behind the closed doors of Saudi Arabia, a nation too private for the information-hungry 21st century.
It is not often that you get a chance to call Saudi Arabia your home. The country is not exactly known for its welcoming nature towards tourists. The lives of women in Saudi Arabia have always been the subject of much fascination and outrage in the West. Females and Saudi Arabia are not really the best of friends.

The Middle Eastern desert is not exactly a haven for women - what with the driving bans and numerous other restrictions.
The first thing to address would probably be the abaya - a black robe worn over clothes. It is mandatory for women to wear an abaya when out in public in Saudi Arabia. To most, this does seem like one of the worst parts of being a woman in Saudi Arabia. I don't disagree - there is something deeply degrading about being reduced to a black speck among millions next to males and loud, boisterous teenage boys who are allowed to wear clothes of their choice. At the same time, there is nothing like wearing your pajamas under your abaya all day and leaving none the wiserbecause on most days, comfort trumps all.

The driving ban was another topic of much discussion, mostly for the utter absurdity of it. Saudi Arabia is the last country to allow to women to drive. It is a sad fact that for the longest time ever the Saudi roads were graced only by men. However, this has recently changed with the lift of the driving ban which allows women to take to the roads sometime in the near future.
Curiously enough, old habits really do die hard. There are times when I wish I could wear an abaya, for the sheer anonymity and comfort that it offers. There are times when I wish I could just sit and relax and have someone else drive me around.
There is a lot of room for improvement. Women still cannot take any major decisions without their male guardians' approval. Women cannot wear clothes of their own choice. They cannot compete freely in sports. They are not allowed to interact with men. Nevertheless, the nation has taken a few key decisions in recent times. Maybe this is an indication of better times to come.
It might not be the best place to grow up in but I cherish the time I got to spend in this country. All I have are good memories of a country that might be misrepresented in the media a bit too much.

SHREYA NAIR

CAFERATI



Like many other people, I fall into the category of romanticizing the city I live in. How the city sings at night and how a city grows from old to new, from ancient British-era buildings to the sprawling suburbs replete with modern amenities, well you get the gist. Mumbai is so much more than a city to me. After college began and I commenced my rocky relationship with my freedom, my friends and I decided to go crazy and go on a food trail around the city with some sight-seeing thrown in. Our destination for the day was Juhu and where else to soak in the culture other than the thriving Prithvi café. Upon taking the train to Vile Parle station and a rickshaw to the café, we realized how utterly conventional our choice was. The café was brimming with people and there was no seating in sight. However, just as I was about to whip out my phone to zomato places around me, a guy in a leather jacket and handlebar mustache started tapping with a mic in his hand. He sang about how the city was his muse and the only thing he had ever written about. Sitting under fairy lights in Prithvi café, my friends and I were drawn into the dark and brooding poetry, Punjabi rhapsody, Urdu shayars, guitar sessions and a brilliant host. If you want to know what I am talking about, it's called Caferati. Its Prithvi's version of the open mic where you have the stage for 2 minutes and you can do anything you want. It takes place every 4th Monday of the month and you can just drop in to catch some awesome performances.
A very important part of traveling for me is discovery. You may start off at an ordinary place but you can never know what you will find. Imagine a night filled with light banter and good food, that's exactly what we experienced. As we were walking out of the lane, we looked up to see a signboard exclaiming- Look right, hippies are out there. Though we were running late, the sound of a hipster café can make anyone stop in their tracks. More about this experience in the next edition. Stay tuned

PRIYANKA TIBREWAL

Fictionally yours

THE PRINCESS OF KAIKEY
PART 3: THE DUTY AND THE DEED

"Senapatiji, there is a message for you. It is urgent." said a steady voice from the doorway of his office. No courtesies done, no permissions taken. The Prime Minister seated across Senapati initially looked appalled but understanding soon dawned upon him.
"Bring it inside and hand it over to me," Senapati replied.
Senapati looked sharply at the messenger as he approached, dressed in the uniform of Ayodhyan guards. Hardly anybody could tell him apart from them, but the kada in his hands gave him away. It was a rare alloy of silver and bronze, he could bet the words *'Shrutya, Dharma, Nishtha'* were engraved on it. Deed, Duty, Loyalty. Kaikeyi's Motto. He was no ordinary messenger but one amongst the elite guards in the Queen's retinue- a group of Kaikeyan Warriors who were well trained, intelligent and fierce.
"Has your Princess summoned us to her Palace then?", asked the Prime Minister.
A look of surprise flashed across the messenger's face before he masked it with a stoical expression, somewhat taken aback as his identity was revealed so easily. "It's the Kopa Bhavan actually. The Princess has recently moved there. Still, read it yourself and ascertain."
Senapati opened the scroll and glanced through it, not just he, but the Prime Minister, Vaidya Raj, Raj Purohit were called as well.

It was said that wrath of a Queen could harm the well-being of the Royal Family. If a Queen entered the Kopa Bhavan, she was to be addressed to immediately by the King. It was a magnificent palace, it's walls painted in calming hues, the décor emanating a cool vibe. Fitting for Queens who were enraged and sought redressal. Prime Minister Sumantra felt his frayed nerves were soothed by the interiors.
"What do you think is the purpose of convening a meeting in the Kopa Bhavan? This is a family domain, isn't it? This is very unconventional." remarked Senapati.
"Senapatiji, when has Queen Kaikeyi followed conventions? She does her duty anyway she can. Wasn't this the reason why we all asked such a terrible deed of her?", the Prime Minister replied sardonically.
"Do you think she has agreed?"
"The answer lies beyond this door, Senapatiji, by all means, let's seek it."
They entered the Antechamber to see it taken up by the Kaikeyan Guards. They had dispensed with the Ayodhyan Uniforms and were now proudly wearing their Kaikeyan Coats of Mail.
"This way Mantriji, Senapatiji, the Princess is holding the meeting inside, Raj Purohit and Raj Vaidyaji have already arrived." A burly guard showed them in.

"This way of treatment also failed, Your Majesty. We have tried to seek every possible remedy, but have met repeatedly with failure. Little can be done for his Highness's health now. I am terribly sorry."
Kaikeyi was in deep conversation with Raj Vaidya and Raj Purohit, the Patrikas and Palm leaves were scattered on the desk in front of Kaikeyi, she bid the duo to take their seats around the desk. The atmosphere was tense and gloomy. Kaikeyi's voice was quivering, she struggled to maintain the calm stoic look.
"You are not to blame, RajVaidyaji. None amongst us is. The Fate has written suffering in the lives of our Princes, who can erase that? I wish it could have been kinder to Maharaj though. It is disheartening to see such a mighty warrior being wasted away, growing helpless each day and fighting a failing battle. And now I will be the source of his added misery."
Prime Minister spoke in a measured tone, "Your Majesty, one has to protect the future, dwelling on the past would prove to be futile. It is important that the line of Raghu continues. Ram and his steady leadership, will be needed to save Raghukul, for it faces many dangers. RajVaidyaji's predictions have shown that there are many strong factors building up, *kashchit mrutyoh dinam abhyagatah***.** The date of a certain death draws close."
Raj Purohit, an aged, sharp scholar, whose gift for prophecies had been remarkable said, "We know you won't be shying away from your Dharma. It will only be a few days, let the danger pass, and you'll be reunited with your Son again. Remember the Prophesy,

in 14 days an attempt is made,
for 14 months will the loss degrade,
14 years taken to be repaid,
let 14 days be the ascent delayed.

The heralded fourteen days beginning on the day of coronation. You better make a decision soon. "
"I have indeed reached a decision. Kaikeyi has never failed her duty if harsh measures bring good results so be it. I will bear the recuperation, Ram's Ascent will indeed be stopped for 14 days. Let the Ashubh Kaal pass away and I will myself put Ram on the throne he rightfully deserves. Sumantraji, I want you to go tell Maharaj that I have entered Kopa Bhavan, tell him that my demand is terrible and to come prepared for the worst."

Kaikeyi stood before a feeble form of King Dashrath, it was only in her company that he showed any weakness, but she would not be swayed, too much was at stake, the future of Ayodhya, that of Kaikeya.
"Why Kaikeyi? Why?", a world-weary voice asked the question. Dasharath, once a mighty warrior, looked defeated by his illness. A shell of a man he once was. Even now he could sense a slipping headache coming up in full force, soon he would be writhing in pain, oblivious to what was done and said around him.
"It has a strong reasoning for Maharaj, everything I do, has. Call me selfish or ambitious, an opportunist or schemer, but I want my son to be installed on the throne."

"Ram is your son, Kaikeyi, you've proclaimed that a hundred times before. Why such step-motherly behavior now?" Dashrath raised his voice and regretted doing so in an instant, for now, the headache set in full force.
"Bharat is my blood, Maharaj. I want to see him on the throne. Remember your promises. The ones you gave me on the battlefield and the one you gave my father before our marriage. All of Kaikeya remembers the Promise of letting my son ascend the Ayodhyan Throne."
"What makes you think that Ram will step down? He is the rightful heir! People will rebel if the crown prince is set aside." Dashrath could not think straight now, his head felt like lead like it would blow up with the slightest provocation.
"Ram will do anything you command him to, send him away for some time. Let Bharat rule Ayodhya in the meanwhile. I seek fulfillment of those promises today, Maharaj. I seek throne for Bharat and Adnyatvas in the Vana for Ram. Chaturdashah ***Vasarah*** Adnyatvasah. That is all I ask for. Will you break your word, Maharaj?" Fourteen Days of Adnyatvas.
"I am a Suryavanshi, word, once given, will be kept by me. Send for Ram, send for Bharat as well. Let him see what has become of his mother."

"Ram, a promise was once given by me to Queen Kaikeyi. It was a word of an Arya, given to someone who had saved his life. Do you think I should break it if its realization is not to my liking?" Ram, Bharat and Kaikeyi, and on Kaikeyi's insistence, Prime Minister, Senapati, and RajVaidya had assembled in the Kopa Bhavan.
"Never, father. The Word of an Arya is law, keeping it is his Dharma, his solemn duty"
"What if it gives you hardships? If it's realization troubles my son?" asked a haggard Dashrath, wanting to be anywhere else but here, telling his son to abandon his birthright. His headache had started hampering his ability to focus on what he was saying.
"Our forefathers have faced several such hardships, I will be honored if I get to follow my illustrious ancestor's footsteps. The comforts of palace hold no attraction to me. I can be just as happy living in an Aranya if it means that I am helping my father."
"I am afraid that is what you have to do, son. You will have to go live in Adnyatvas, in a Vana. Bharat will be the King in your absence."
"This is preposterous! I cannot, will not take your place as a King, bhratru. Not even for a kshan, a tiny moment. Mother, how could you ask for such a thing?" Bharat was furious and unable to comprehend what drove his mother to these lengths.
"Krodham ma kuru, Bhratru, do not be angry. My course has been set. The promise has been given and Raghuvanshi always fulfills his promise. Ayodhya will thrive under you. You will be a very good ruler in my absence. There is just one question I wish to ask, Father. How long will my Vanavas be?"
Kaikeyi felt a premonition of something terrible. Icy tentacles of fear began squeezing her heart. In the next instant, she heard her husband's booming voice, too strong for his distressed health.

"Chaturdashaha ***Varshaha,"*** declared a distraught King before he was seized by darkness and collapsed. Fourteen Years. Several things happened at once, RajVaidya and Bharat reached for the King, Kaikeyi realized what blunder had been committed due to a mispronunciation and felt her legs give away. Ram reached for her as Prime Minister and Senapati rushed to the King's side. In an utter chaos that followed, it was soon forgotten that the upset king had made a terrible mistake. But the Deed had been done and Ram would have to face the hardships and Kaikeyi, the condemnations.
THE END

PS: There goes on a legend that says Ram was intended just 14 days of Vanavas in order to refute the curse, which was given by Sharavan's Parents to Dashrath, upon his accidental killing by Dashrath's arrow. Kaikeyi knowing the possible repercussions takes it upon herself to solve the problem of this Curse. But the word Vasarah meaning days is mispronounced as Varshaa meaning years the situation is made much more complex. The ancient Sanskrit playwright Bhasa had a beautiful Play written on the similar theme called Pratima, where a distressed Kaikeyi jumbles the words. I would also bring it up to your notice that this entire story is a work of imagination and does not seek to malign, hurt or damage anyone, least of all the characters. I thank all my Sanskrit learning friends for helping me with translations. This is the third edition, the previous two have been published in the February and April issue respectively. Do read and drop in your feedback.

Aditi Patil (TYBA)

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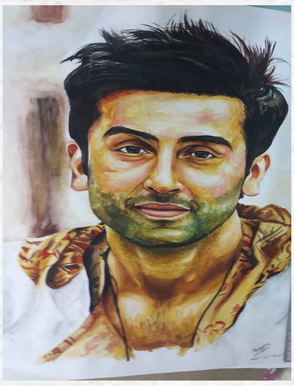

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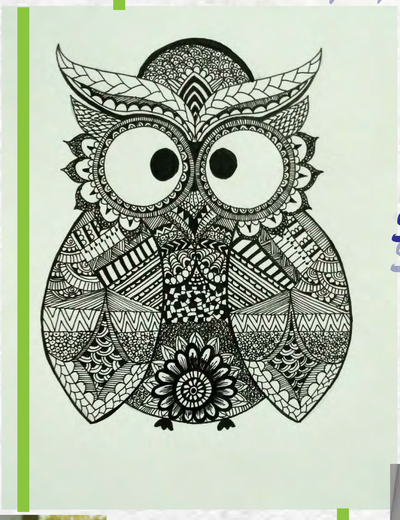

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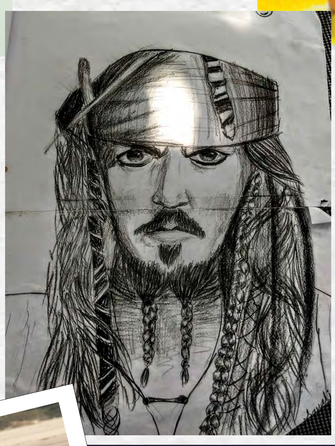

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