

the
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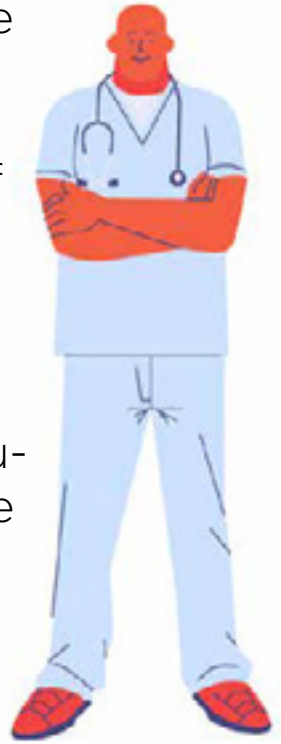
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CREDITS

Hello, Ruiaites!

The outbreak of COVID-19 means that society has to redefine the fundamental principles which has governed it. In this lockdown, making complete use of this “Quaran-time”, here’s a glimpse of what the Monthly has in store for you.



The only thing that is plaguing everyone’s mind right is the novel coronavirus. Behind the Scenes highlights the causes and conspiracies of COVID19 along with a segment of books and movies that are relatable to this outbreak. Buzz Around continues on the same lines and focuses on the Do’s and Dont’s to be followed during this crucial period. In this time of dilemma, it is the doctors that have emerged as the true heroes. Careerwise,



thus, brings to you a set of interesting careers to pursue in the medical field. On the other hand, Safarnama has written about virtual tourism highlighting the cause of social distancing. Fictionally Yours has penned down a poem on how this virus has brought everyone together and positivity in calamity.

Op-Ed has talked about how the concept of ‘being woke’ has resulted in a mob mentality online along with political correctness and ‘cancel culture’.



Tech-tricked has worked on an interesting issue regarding satellite mega constellations and technology in military unarmed aerial vehicles. Insight has delved into a reflection over the attitude of false superiority, mistaken optimism and constant hurry and competition held by humans, while Open Forum writes about the prisoner's dilemma and historical plagues.



Here's hoping you enjoy yourself reading all that we've put together and remember to stay home and stay safe. Happy Reading!

The Editorial Team.





Buzz Around

Do you know as of now any willing woman shall act as a surrogate mother and be permitted to undergo surrogacy in India? Read along the newly approved Surrogacy Regulation Bill 2020!

Simply Put

Surrogacy Bill

Chinmay Parulekar | TYBSc

Riddhi Solanki | TYBSc

Surrogacy is the process of a woman giving birth to a child for an intended couple with the help of a legal agreement. Due to several incidents of harassment against surrogate mothers, there was a need of better regulation imposing laws of surrogacy in India. Hence the union cabinet on 26th of February approved the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2020 by including several recommendations given by a 23-member Rajya Sabha committee on amending the bill passed by Lok Sabha in 2019. Here is what you need to know about it:

How does the bill assist in regulation of surrogacy?

In simple words, the bill bans commercial surrogacy altogether but allows altruistic surrogacy. Commercial surrogacy is defined as procedures undertaken for

monetary benefits or rewards exceeding the basic medical expenses and insurance coverage. The amendments have also included prohibiting sale of human gametes and embryos. Whereas, altruistic surrogacy does not involve any extra benefits other than medical and insurance coverage.

What is the eligibility criteria for intending couple?

The intending couple should have certificates of 'essentiality' and 'eligibility'. Conditions for the essentiality certificate include proving infertility of one of the member of the couple, order of parentage and custody of child passed by magistrate's court and also insurance cover for the surrogate of 36 months. Eligibility certificate can be issued to Indian married couples, Indian-origin married couples, widows or divorcees upon fulfilling specified conditions.

What is the Eligibility criteria for the Surrogate mother?

To obtain a certificate of eligibility from the appropriate authority, the surrogate mother has to be:

- (i) A close relative of the intending couple
- (ii) A married woman having a child of her own
- (iii) 25 to 35 years old; (For Medical reasons)
- (iv) A surrogate only once in her lifetime *and*
- (v) Possess a certificate of medical and psychological fitness for surrogacy. Further, the surrogate mother cannot provide her own gametes for surrogacy.

Certain points to be considered: A child born out of a surrogacy procedure will be deemed to be the biological child of the intending couple. An abortion of the surrogate child requires the written consent of the surrogate mother and the authorization of the appropriate authority. This authorization must be compliant with the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. Further, the surrogate mother will have an option to withdraw from surrogacy before the embryo is implanted in her womb.

What are the Offenses and Penalties?

The offences under the Bill include:

- (i) Undertaking or advertising commercial surrogacy;
- (ii) Exploiting the surrogate mother;
- (iii) Abandoning, exploiting or disowning a surrogate child; and
- (iv) Selling or importing human embryo or gametes for surrogacy. The penalty for such offences is imprisonment up to 10 years and a fine up to 10 lakh rupees. The Bill specifies a range of offences and penalties for other contraventions of the provisions of the Bill.

What are the Changes recommended by the committee?

There are about 15 Changes recommended in-context to the Bill proposed by the Health Minister in 2019. Therefore, the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2020:

- (i) Allows any “Willing” woman to become a surrogate mother and not just a close relative to the intending couple.
- (ii) Includes deleting the Definition of ‘Infertility’.
- (iii) Has Provisions for allowances and insurance along with maternity leave for the surrogate mother, besides relaxation in numbers of surrogacy.

Therefore, the bill proposes a complete ban on Commercial Surrogacy, but allows altruistic surrogacy abolishing any exploitation that incurs to the women of lower economic strata. This Bill has been hence welcomed by majority of the parties across the political spectrum.



Top 10 News

Riddhi Solanki | SYJC

India marches into Lockdown 2.0 as the initial three weeks lockdown gets extended to May 03 with additional guidelines.

India COVID situation- Passes the 17,000 mark and the death toll rises to 543 as of 20th April.

The Tokyo Olympics get postponed until 2021 due to outbreak of pandemic.

RCSM GMC, Kolhapur in Maharashtra becomes the first hospital to carry out Convalescent Plasma Therapy for COVID patients inspiring other 99 institutes to participate in actual clinical trials.

The Union Home Ministry on April 16, 2020 issued an advisory stating that the Zoom mobile app is not safe for private use.

Kerala becomes the first that shows signs of the Corona Curve flattening while Goa becomes Corona free.

COVID-19 death toll of Italy and Spain surpasses that of China thus posing great threat to entire humanity.

The government urges healthy people to make home-made masks while allowing the Healthcare personnel access to more protective masks like N-95 while battling the Corona threat. An initiative which is also supported by our own

Republic of Ireland confirms its first case of Covid-19.

1,70,000 crore worth of schemes announced by Finance Minister focusing on providing food security to the poor and providing money in their hands to fight the pandemic.

Rahul Gandhi

via @RahulGandhi



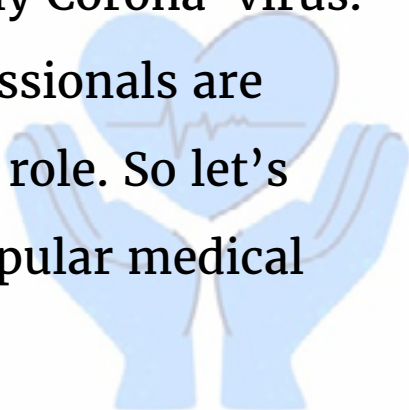
“The Govt announcement today of a financial assistance package, is the first step in the right direction. India owes a debt to its farmers, daily wage earners, labourers, women & the elderly who are bearing the brunt of the ongoing lockdown.”

Careerwise



Medical Careers

Janata curfew- 22 nd March 2020, the day whole India united to respect the doctors, health care workers and hygiene workers, police, defence and all the other people who were fighting as real heroes to protect us from the deadly Corona-virus. Today, the medical professionals are playing a very important role. So let's look at some of the unpopular medical careers.



Cardiovascular Technologies

Prachiti Jadhav

Cardiovascular Technologists are health professionals that deal with the circulatory system. They assist physicians in diagnosing and treating cardiac heart and peripheral vascular blood vessels ailments. They work in a cardiac cath lab and performs very complex procedures, including stent implants, cardiac pacemakers and defibrillators and other

tests to diagnose heart disease. They also take emergency calls and participate in saving the lives of those who are having a heart attack.

Cardiovascular technologists may specialize in three areas of practice: Invasive cardiology, Cardiac sonography, Vascular technology/sonography. The educational qualification needed is : A cardiovascular technologist must go to college to get an associate or bachelor's degree. One year is dedicated to core courses followed by a year of specialized instruction in the chosen area of speciality. The areas of specialisation are:

Invasive cardiology:

for students who plan to work in a cardiac catheterization lab or with the cardiac catheterization suite, which sometimes includes electrophysiology

Noninvasive cardiology:

for students who plan to work in Holter monitor, stress and pacemaker testing

Noninvasive echo cardiology:

for students who plan to work with
cardiovascular ultrasound

Noninvasive vascular cardiology:

for students who plan to work in
peripheral vascular cardiology



The working conditions are following:

Technologists and technicians generally work a five-day, 40-hour week that may include weekends. Those in catheterization labs tend to work longer hours and may work evenings. They also may be on call during the night and on weekends. To become a cardiovascular technician, you need a high school diploma. You can be trained on the job.

You may also choose to attend a certificate program or earn an associate degree. The salary for the cardio-vascular technicians is also high. Thus, it is one of the best but less popular career in the field that can give you amazing success if you get proper training.

Healthcare scientists

Shriya Hadavale

The Covid-19 crisis news is wide-spread. Entire country is fighting the war with the unknown enemy. Many countries have declared lockdowns and advised people to stay in quarantine for safety. At such a time one profession that are working for our safety day and night are healthcare scientists.

Healthcare scientists work to save our lives. They study human body. An health-care scientist work in many health related discipline. Some of them are known as clinical scientists and most

of them work in laboratory. Some of them have direct contact with patients. It also covers a wide range of things from tissue analysis to medical illustration.

The profession can be mainly divided into three sub topics which are-1) Life science 2) physiological science 3) Clinical engineering and physical sciences.

1. Life sciences

include pathology, pharmacy, genetics and embryology, which can be used in fertility treatments.

2. Physiological science

means study of body and organs. They try to find the healing and better functioning for the different organs of the body.

And the last one,

3. Clinical engineering and physical sciences

focus on developing of technology for the different health care services and treatment helping the different medical sectors.

This is the range of topics included in the curriculum of the study for a degree in healthcare science. The educational qualifications needed for this profession are : you can gain a degree or postgraduate qualification in any science related subject. There are certain universities that also offer undergraduate degree courses in healthcare science. This is accredited under the NHS PTP (Practitioner Training Programme). These three years courses combine academic study with 50 weeks of work experience. Here, students will not be able to apply for NHS funding unlike medical or nursing degrees. Initial entry level jobs, Support workers, Senior healthcare, assistants/technicians, Assistant practitioners, Associate practitioners. They all determine the field of your expertise to work on in the future.

In the world that is facing number of health issues, environmental crisis and other issues, the solutions majorly depends on the expertise of the scientist.



They are the one to come up with the new techniques, ways and medicines for the relief and protecting the world health and environment. So, the scope for the healthcare scientists is quite high with high salary too. To succeed in this field one must be expert in the above mentioned knowledge and have to be updates about the nature and human bodies.

Dance therapist

Tapasya Iyer

We all love dancing, don't we? It removes all the stress and we automatically feel happy forgetting our issues. I am sure most of you have experienced this. Have

you ever considered it a profession? Not dancing but mental care through dancing.

Dance therapist is a lesser known but high paying profession in medical field. It helps in mental, emotional, and sometimes even physical healing. The career is quite popular in America and United Kingdom. However, it is gaining popularity in India in the last few years. As it is group therapy it also promotes social well-being and integrity among people. There are certain principles that is laid down in this profession. They are:

1. Movements are a form of non-verbal expression. They say a lot of things which we can't speak out loudly.
2. Mind, body and spirit are connected.
3. Dance therapy can heal the mind and other physical pain as well.

Using these premises to guide their work, dance/movement therapists use body movement, the core component of dance, as the primary inroad to their psycho

therapeutic work. The therapists observe the client (they can be individual or even a group) and then teach and practise the movements that will improve the condition of the person. They also improve the body image of the person.

The educational qualifications available in India for this profession is Diploma course of 1 year or 60 hours. It is available in 3 major institutes. They are Symbiosis school of Liberal arts, Women's Christian college. The name of the course is Diploma in Expressive Art Therapy. In abroad, degree courses are available too. It is must to have a degree from American Dance Therapy Academy to pursue a career there. The fees for degree as well as diploma is quite high.

The skills required for a dance therapist are excellence in dancing, basics of psychology, a great communication, easy understanding and quick decision-making, compassion. All these skills an lead

to a great career as a dance therapist.

If you are fond of dancing and can understand the basics of mental and physical health, this is the profession for you. The salary is also quite high. Dance can truly heal.





Behind the scenes

In this Corona Pandemic, we're hearing terms like 'Superbugs', but what are they anyway? What about the conspiracy theories spreading everywhere? And, oh, do you know about some interesting books and movies based on pandemics? Let's get to know!

CORONA: A DIRE CALAMITY

Sayli Mokal | SYBSc

The Pandemic Turmoil

The Corona virus pandemic is perhaps the first of its kind global crisis our generation is facing. Although experts in various fields are attempting to predict the impact, Covid-19 will have lasting effects, some of which we might still be oblivious to.

Businesses are closed down, social gatherings entirely banned and major sports events have been postponed. Even with many major businesses being closed down due to the pandemic, the field of technology is probably the only one that benefits during these grievous times.

With restrictions being placed on social-contact, humans have become excessively dependent on technology for entertainment, networking and most importantly to stay updated about the virus. Added to this, is the increasing use

of surveillance technology, that has been deployed by several countries including China and Israel to detect patients. While it isn't new, experts predict that surveillance might become inevitable for security, even after the crisis and that will certainly affect our civil and political rights, especially the right to privacy. The pandemic has taken a psychological toll on the population too, especially on those people already suffering from mental illnesses. Though, some studies claim that people become psychologically stronger and wiser after pandemics.

Experts predict that, in post-pandemic times, healthcare might be prioritized over everything else. In order to be equipped to fight against such crises, governments might increase stockpiling of drugs, vaccines, numerous essential medical equipment and assets.

While the economic impacts of a pandemic are considered secondary to the health consequences, they are still very significant. There are the costs to the

healthcare system, disruption of social activities due to social distancing, reduction in international trade, travel and tourism after a pandemic. It is important to efficiently manage the various risks posed by the pandemic and mitigate its impact, at local, national and international levels, in order to protect the future.

The Superbug Territory

Tanaya Sheth | TYBSc

When was the last time you ate a chicken burger? Or craved for a beef jerky? What about those crispy chicken nuggets? Stop right there and think about how that single piece of meat has arrived on your plate today. A poultry farm somewhere is constantly adding supplements and injecting animals with antibiotics and steroids to give you this juicy piece of meat. How does this affect us? Strains of

microorganisms are slowly becoming resistant, or in other words, have stopped showing susceptibility to these antibiotics. When we consume this antibiotic treated meat, we are indirectly conferring this resistance to these microorganisms giving rise to superbugs. Superbugs are strains of microorganisms – bacteria, viruses, parasites – that have become resistant to antibiotics. How does this happen? Over hundreds of years, humans have been in close contact with animals and with the medical front improving, the number of antibiotics have increased which are targeted at improving the health of the animal. But in the current era, with the increase in demand for meat, more and more poultry farmers are resorting to using these antibiotics to increase meat production and quality. This overflows into the human population contributing towards the slow increase in resistance towards these drugs which is on the rise in these microorganisms.

Furthermore, not only is it the fault of the meat industry, doctors have been known to over prescribe antibiotics even at the slightest cold. This includes over the counter paracetamols and other broad- spectrum antibiotics which are slowly contributing to this issue. Experts are of the opinion that sometimes it is better to let the body's immune system naturally battle out the infection. This prevents the parasite from developing resistance to the drug.

Now you may wonder, how does this resistance develop? Over time, many microorganisms end up mutating due to their primitive DNA replication machinery. A single mutation could lead to an entire strain becoming resistant to the antibiotic. Further exposure reduces its susceptibility to the drug, even actually letting the parasite coexist with the drug. This is a very dangerous situation as the time required for any new antibiotic to enter the market for the general public takes anywhere between 10

to 20 years with all the testing phases.

Well known personalities like Bill Gates are of the opinion that the next pandemic in the world would not be because of an unknown parasite break out, but because of antibiotic resistance unknown parasite break out, but because of antibiotic resistance. Even with the current COVID-19 outbreak, this particular virus is resistant to regular drugs that are prescribed for a dry cough or sore throat. How do you think you can help with this serious threat? Reduce your meat consumption and don't rush to your medicine cabinet at the slightest sign of cold or stomach ache, you're doing the world a favour and saving it from a grave threat.

Conspiracy Theories Everywhere

Hiya Shah | SYJC

It indeed seems like the conspiracies and rumours about the COVID 19 contaminate people's minds more swiftly than the virus itself does.

SARS, which is the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, emerged due to the breakdown of an extremely vulnerable epidemic in the Wuhan City of China.

The virus has caused huge havoc among almost all countries across the globe, conquering the major superpowers. But did it ever occur to you that perhaps this was bioengineered in the ever efficient Chinese laboratories? Have you ever thought of it as a bio weapon to overpower the major nations across the globe? Rumors are certainly afoot.

One such claim is that the virus first escaped from a laboratory in Wuhan and

then spread to public corridors. This theory has also evolved into claims that the virus was genetically engineered to be a bioweapon. But scientists have stated that there's not enough evidence to pinpoint where the virus was bred from and there exists no information regarding whether the virus was artificially produced.

A Russian scientist claimed that SARS is a synthesis of measles and mumps.

According to him, this combination cannot be created in the natural world and therefore the SARS virus must have been invented under laboratory conditions. Another Russian scientist had earlier commented that the SARS virus may probably be man-made. However, independent labs concluded these claims to be premature. This was because the SARS virus is a coronavirus strain whereas measles and mumps are paramyxoviruses. The primary discrepancy between them are in their structures and method of infection,

thus making it implausible for COVID-19 to be created from those diseases.

Therefore, experts concluded that the new virus is not a bioweapon. They disagree on whether it could have leaked from a research lab, and according to them it has been released from the natural world.

Whether a lab accident could have led to the COVID-19 outbreak remains unclear, but making that determination is worthwhile, Ebright says:

“Understanding the origin of the outbreak is a crucial step to reduce the risk of future outbreaks.”



Books and Movies to the Rescue

Neha Nayak | TYBSc

These times of a nationwide lockdown are indeed filled with insecurities, worries coupled with a lot of boredom. And then comes curiosity to know more about the current happenings that is put right into the mix. Here are our top 2 picks of books and movies each that will keep you occupied, help you make sense of the situation while satiating your curiosity surrounding virus outbreaks in general :

Oryx and Crake –



A speculative science fiction written by the queen of the genre, Margaret Atwood herself, the novel focuses on a post-apocalyptic character called 'Snowman' living near a group of primitive human like creatures who are known to be 'Crakers'. It goes on to explain his past, as a boy called Jimmy, and of the genetic engineering and eventual pandemic caused by someone he thought he could trust.

The Hot Zone: A terrifyingly true story –



This book is a non-fiction thriller by Richard Preston and talks about the spine-chilling incidents of rare and lethal viruses and their appearances in the

human race woven into dramatic storytelling that shocks and frightens the reader. This book is solid proof of the truth being scarier than the typical fictional ghosts or monsters.

Contagion –



One of the most popular thriller films in the history of pandemic based films, this film shows a very realistic depiction of the transmission of viruses and the public reaction to an outbreak. It is inspired by the 2003 SARS epidemic and 2009 flu pandemic and shows similarities to the current happenings during the novel coronavirus outbreak.

The Andromeda strain –



Based on a medical science thriller written by Michael Crichton, the story follows the outbreak of a deadly virus of an alien origin and the race against time to stop it from wiping out mankind. This nail-biting piece of work does its job delivering in both thrills and chills to its audience.

INSIGHT



The Human Complex

Sara Chavan | TYBA

"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."

- George Orwell, 'Animal Farm'

There is silence everywhere. Deafening silence. An unsettling standstill. And yet we are unsure, whether this silence is the end of the crisis, or a beginning of another. The warning bell was silenced long back and now, everything has come to a sudden pause. It's time, we as a species introspect before it is really very late.

This month, Column Insight takes you through a reality check of the False Sense of Superiority humans hold, and the extent of its impact on the entire world in return....

Two statements:

1. About 70000 years ago, organisms belonging to the species Homo sapiens started to form even more elaborate structures called cultures.
2. 'God created man in his own image'.

Both are set in different perspectives and yet talk about the same creature infesting this planet- Humans. For anyone having read Yuval Harari's Sapiens, the word infest won't sound crude. As has been documented by historians, the species Homo sapiens, wherever it migrated, overtook the foreign territories, killed the native megafauna and established its 'supremacy' in each corner of the globe it touched. The motives may be many, but surely urged from the inherent drives of Fear and Need for Power. Aristotle comprehended human nature very well- Man is a Political Animal. Humans craved power and needed someone to be their subordinate. As the species progressed

through the ages at a phenomenal speed of discovering the world in new lights, it kept concretizing its belief of being Superior to other animals, even Nature itself. Some psychologists say that the sense of Superiority may stem from a deeper-rooted feeling of inferiority- sort of a defence mechanism. And Humans, by nature, don't like to be subjugated by anyone.

The evident shift of thought process, from statement 1 to statement 2 indeed took place gradually, and yet it overshadowed the larger facts, right from the Big Bang to the very creation and evolution of human species. The creature started boasting itself to be the Creator. Fools. And today, the human species has been caged in its concrete jungle abode, while Nature is busy resetting the misdoings of its most intelligent creation.



Parasite

Tanvi Padia | TYBA

Just watched the Academy Award-winning Film 'Parasite' and am left as confounded as a rat in a maze. So, I googled to gain some understanding.

Nothing makes sense until you make some out of it.

But you don't need to know this, really. __



parasite

/ˈpærəsɪt/

noun

noun: **parasite**; plural noun: **parasites**

1. an organism that lives in or on an organism of another species (its host) and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense.

"the parasite attaches itself to the mouths of fishes"

2. **DEROGATORY**

a person who habitually relies on or exploits

One that makes you hollow from within.

Does it echo?

A new guest to our host town Earth, I guess, is the living day's parasite that's exposing the hollowness within us.

What are we running after, after all?
Money? No, that's not your saving grace.
Power? Sorry, but that only makes you the
Head of the crisis. Friends, family? Oh, you
are poisonous to each other.

What have we done to each other that we
can't be with each other? Do we realise we
are social animals and we have an enemy,
invisible to the naked eye that's using our
social fabric to wreak havoc on us? And the
only hope is 'social distancing'.

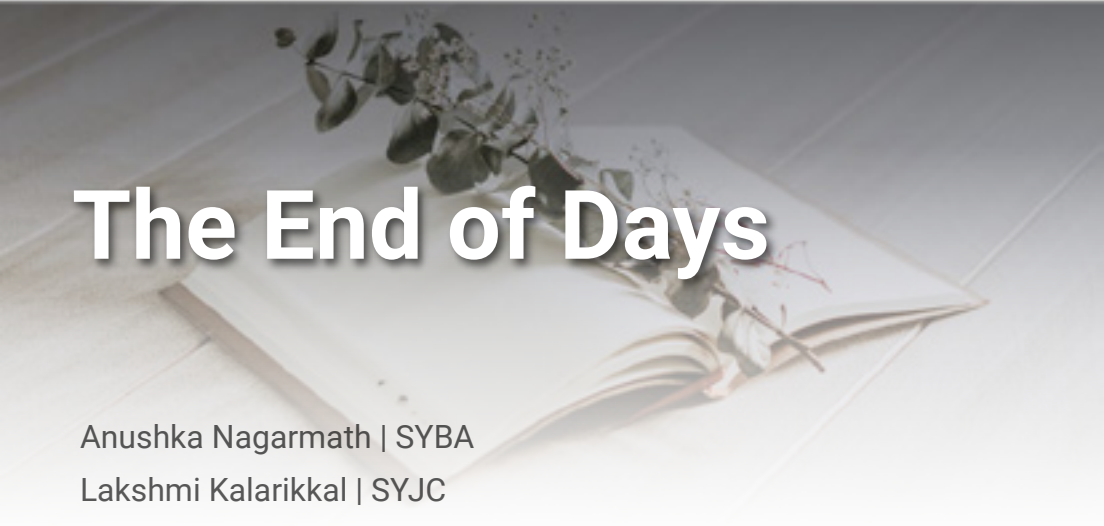
The parasites that we have become to each
other, that a third parasite has to emerge
to end the toxicity of our race. What have
we done to the environment? What have
we given it in return? Have we done some-
thing worthwhile, all this while?

Was it worth?

What is worth?

But you don't need to know this, really.
Because you already know it.





The End of Days

Anushka Nagarmath | SYBA

Lakshmi Kalarikkal | SYJC

Day 1, 20xx

Mother hasn't come home in days.

I'm starting to doubt whether she will at all. I wonder what will happen if she does not return. One less adult body out there scavenging for food, but then again one less adult body to feed.

My sister accused me of being callous, of being just like the rest of them, of not caring about our own mother. But it's hard to find the energy to grieve. Our youngest may not even remember her. All he'll have are stories. Maybe that's what we all are in the end.

Maybe that's what this effort at journaling is. A way of holding on, fighting to leave a mark, the only way I can.

Because maybe one day these words are all that will become of me.

Day 2, 20xx

Father has not spoken a word in days. He sits on the couch and watches the news, one bad incident after another, like he is trying to find peace in someone else's tragedy.

Some days, I catch a glimpse of another painful headline, another death count and my mind will make up wild fantasies:

Sometimes I picture Mother caught in the chaos of hungry, grabbing hands.

Sometimes it is her coughing the sour air out of her lungs. And on the days when the bitterness makes my heart swell, I imagine her standing outside the forbidden neighbourhoods, the ones that were once our home, wondering if she had found that courage in her desperation, what we all lack.

I suppose, just like every other powerless creature in this world, we will never know.

Day 3, 20xx

Father pulled out pictures today, of his youth. Actual pictures, printed out on shiny material. He says that they have a certain charm that our modern pictures lack.

But I wish they were of today's technology anyway. I wish I could flick my wrist and walk around in these pictures for a bit.

Live in this land of laughter and ice creams and the ocean extending far as the eye can see. Young men with their arms slung around each other, grinning confidently at the camera, whose handsome faces would soon become gaunt, out of hunger, out of the poison in the air, out of despair like they must've never imagined at the very peak of their life.

I used to feel a sense of betrayal, looking at what seems like paradise. How could my parents and all those who came before them not protect this? How could they not see, that they were living in the best of times and not give their all to keep it? For their children, if not for themselves?

Day 4, 20xx

Even in desolate and utterly hopeless times like these, Mother used to find solace in prayer. In the motions of laying out her prayer mat and bowing her head and letting your destiny rest in the hands of a kind God. I tried to do the same yesterday and found I could not find the same sanctuary in prayer. There are no religions now, not like in the times of old. There is no need. The Gods are here, out in the countryside, throwing revels and balls, with overflowing food and drink, and clean, fresh air while the rest of us fight to survive, in the cities that they once built. The Gods are no longer kind.

Maybe they never were.

Day 5, 20xx

It is strange, I suppose. The stories, butchered and half-eaten as they were, always talked about the end of the world as a sudden, explosive thing, like a zombie apocalypse. But maybe we have been the

zombies all along, slowly turning mindless in our greed, numb to the pain we cause.

Then perhaps, in a sense, this must be justice after all

Day 6, 20xx

Our youngest fainted today, from hunger, from disease, from grief, who could tell? Not me, certainly. I was too caught up in my own head to pay attention to my own brother, barely out of infancy.

I've decided I've had enough. I can no longer look at the way Father's eyes have gone a little wild, his hands shaking where he's keeping vigil over his son, how my sister hasn't stopped crying for hours.

I'm going out there. For my family, for my Mother, lost somewhere. But also, for the world. I am done waiting for change, waiting for someone to save us. Maybe it's time I was the saviour.

What next?

Sayli Mokal | SYBSc

It's summer
but all we can feel,
is cold and distant.

The world has come to a standstill.

For a brief moment
that seems to be lasting forever

We are stuck,
In our insignificant homes,
doing insignificant things.

Insignificant we are.

But why does it feel so hard to accept?

Were we delusional in our very notion of
the world and where we stand in it?

Did we prioritize the wrong things?

It doesn't matter now.

After all of this is over,
Maybe we will be able to
accept and learn
from the grievous reality
of all that will be lost
and all that will be left.

Maybe, our definition of 'normal'
will be amended,
to include all the lessons of humility
these times have taught us.

Maybe none of the above will happen,
and we shall go through,
another global crisis
and another after that
and another after that.

Till we finally learn our lessons.



A group of people are working in a modern office setting. In the foreground, a man with a beard and headphones is seen from behind, looking at a laptop. To his right, another man is focused on his work. In the background, a man with glasses and a beard is resting his chin on his hand, looking thoughtful. The office has a warm, wooden aesthetic with several white candles in glass holders hanging from a metal frame. The overall atmosphere is professional and collaborative.

OP-ED

This month Op-Ed is talking about mob mentality. How much power does a horde of faceless people on the internet really hold? Read on to know more!

Mob mentality is #cancelled

Vrushali Gadkari | FYBA
Disha Shanbhag | TYBA
Hritvi Acharya | FYJC
Shabduli Shinde | TYBSc

As more and more people have started turning to the internet for their news, socialization and discussions, we are exposed to more and more people as well as opinions. The blind trust that people have started placing on online personalities has resulted in swaying of opinions with very real-world effects. These effects have ranged from online slander to riots with millions worth of public and private property destroyed. A 'Them' v/s 'Us' attitude has developed as people with their own definitions of what is right have become more and more close minded about the existence of a subjective definition of 'rightness'. In this edition of Op-Ed we'll breakdown the internet mob mentality in regards of 'Woke'-ness and political correctness.

“WOKE” is a word we all have been

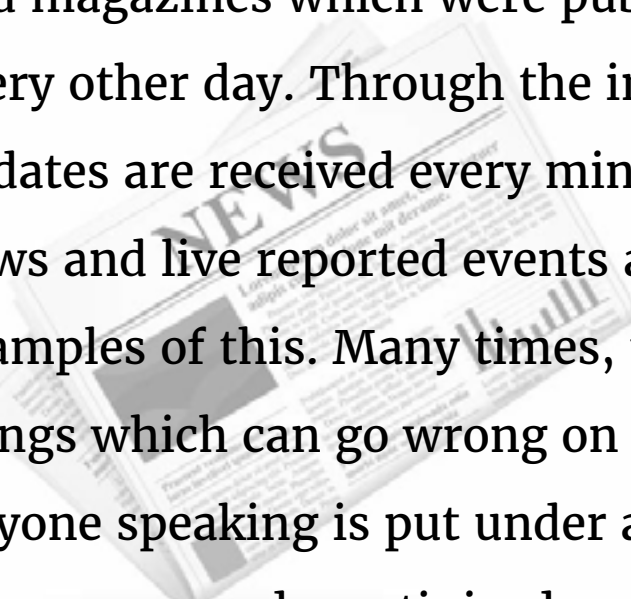
seeing in pop culture and the internet a lot nowadays. The word originally meant to 'be vigil' now is synonymous to being aware of the happenings in the world. Being woke is now one of the necessary qualities in a millennial and Gen Z. And why should it not? Being aware about things happening around is never bad, on the other hand it helps people to gain more perspective about things. But, can it reach unhealthy levels? Let's find out.

When someone is in the process of being woke, one has to read the news, go through articles and listen to the views of other people, which leads to the forming of one's own opinion. Undoubtedly, the internet and social media plays a major role in this data collection and assessment. But, it also can sway people in different directions at the same time. There have been endless times where people have simply believed in things because it was apparently 'cool'. During the CAA protests and Delhi riots, many people were against the act just

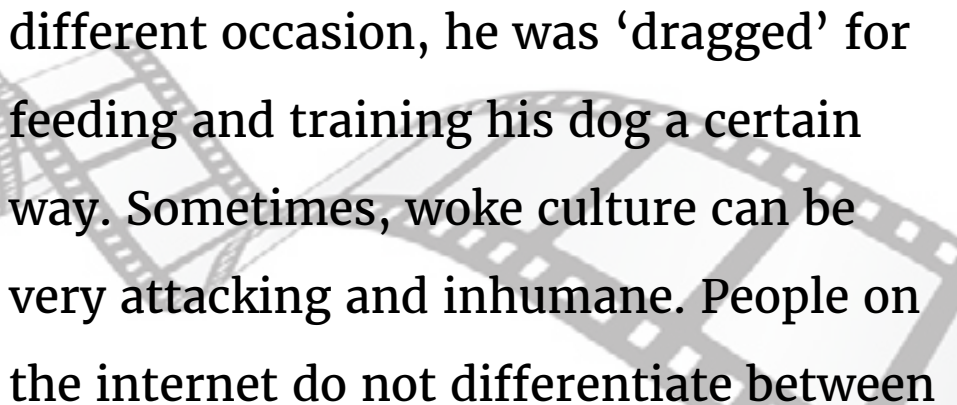
because major celebrities and public figures were unsupportive of the act too. Blind support of ideologies without understanding the depth of them can deter the person's rationalization as they are only doing so to look cool.

Woke culture can also be defined as 'healthy paranoia about injustice around you'. An aspect of being woke is being on top of the news at all times. This can lead to an unhealthy obsession with news and social sites such as Twitter, where everyone has their own opinions. Twitter is one site which never stops buzzing; everyone has something to say at all times. Obviously, it's good to form opinions and take inputs from others. But what happens when one does not complete their own research? It can lead to a lot of clash of thoughts, leaving the person utterly confused.

Obsession can also be with how early one gets news. The introduction of good internet connections has led to the immediate spread of news. Before, people



were heavily dependent on newspapers and magazines which were published every other day. Through the internet, updates are received every minute. Live news and live reported events are literal examples of this. Many times, there are things which can go wrong on air. Anyone speaking is put under a microscope and scrutinized severely. Each and every word is crucial. In a world where no-one is perfect, we expect unedited TV to be perfect. It can go to unfair levels if someone gets attacked for saying something by mistake, especially if it is not from a place of hate.



Let's look at this: James Charles received a lot of flak for simply not liking the movie 'IT'. He was criticized heavily for not having a good taste in movies and on his behaviour in a movie theatre. On a different occasion, he was 'dragged' for feeding and training his dog a certain way. Sometimes, woke culture can be very attacking and inhumane. People on the internet do not differentiate between

age, gender, size or race. Everyone gets their own share of trolling. The internet is probably the only place where one can get trolled and redeemed at the same time which causes many people immense anxiety and worry issues.


It can make people over think their opinions so much that they end up modifying their opinions just to not offend anyone. As a result, content creators or artists may end up losing themselves just to please people. This is also an indication that nowadays, people have such strong opinions that contradicting them can have a huge impact on them. This is usually about major fandoms or politics or even random opinions (milk before or after cereal?). It is clear that people are more sensitive than what they were before. Everything offends someone. But then what's right and what's wrong? Can a person not decide that for themselves or just they always fall in with the society? Just how strong an effect an internet mob


can have on a person's psyche and do they really find it easier to be aggressive behind an username with virtually no consequences for the words they utter?


Mob mentality and the newly developed cancel culture have become regular players in the social media game. We know and use these terms but often fail to understand them and their impact. Let's see their manifestation through an example.


Say for instance a celebrity posts a video on Instagram purely as an opinion and an advice with no intention to offend anyone.

Now what will happen is that majority, although not all of her followers will perceive this as politically incorrect. Why? Let's see the comment section.

 *Haha. Wow. Easy for you to say.*

 *Bold of you to assume that all of us have the same privilege!*

 *'With your lavish six bedroom house, a personal pool and gym.*



 *Lmao. I can't even with these 'celebs'. Not everyone got life easy. Smh*

Hey guys,how are you all?Remember-This too shall pass.Please,please stay at home.If you are true fans you'll stay at home. Muahhhhh.Stay Safe loveliesss..



Such comments will pile up on their posts, rapidly developing into what we call mob mentality. Person after person jumping onto the bandwagon. This very mob mentality is what eventually explodes as 'cancel culture'. As more and more people call her out for the video, her words will be taken out of proportion and made into something they're not: the unwanted opinion of a rich, privileged celebrity.

As people get angrier, they become more demented and indulge in cancel culture. The comments will look somewhat like this:

#686 	Go back to where you came from! Nobody here has time for your opinion. #Cancelled
#1016 	Look at your privileged self all telling us what to do. Haha. #Cancelled

Now the #Cancelled is what will boom and become viral, with that celebrity being tagged with the hashtag and it being associated with them. Eventually leading to everyone treating them as a social pariah and taking a toll on their mental health.

The unnecessary jumping on the bandwagon can also be responsible for greater division in terms of opinion and in certain cases even cease a constructive dialogue like we've seen with the 'OK Boomer' trend. The constant condescending opinions of the Gen X or 'Baby Boomers' regarding the lifestyle of millennials and the Gen Z were often met with the younger generations trying to justify their life choices and educate the older generations about their problems. 'OK Boomer' emerged as an all-encompassing comeback to such remarks that birthed an entire trend. As funny as the trend may seem at the surface nothing progressive has come out of people simultaneously jumping on a 'cool' trend. The condescension in the minds of older generations has remained intact and they announced the trend as plain disrespectful and dismissed it in an attitude disturbingly familiar to our parents treating our teenage rebellions. Jumping on an online trend for a laugh without giving it a second thought results

in real world consequences as the boundaries between the online and offline worlds have started to blur every day.

Even as the internet has provided us with a space to have discussions to understand each other better the differences between people continue to mount. There have been some heartwarming humane instances of understanding but the journey is far from over. The only real distinction between right and wrong is when someone's opinions or actions are disrespectful and hurtful towards someone and the way to achieve mutual understanding is to keep an open mind regarding the experiences and backgrounds of people and communicating to co-exist. Let's be kind to each other in these harsh times! Be well informed and research every bit of information you come across. Because we know our world needs it!



Open Forum

LE CHOLÉRA

A PLAGUE ON OUR MINDS?

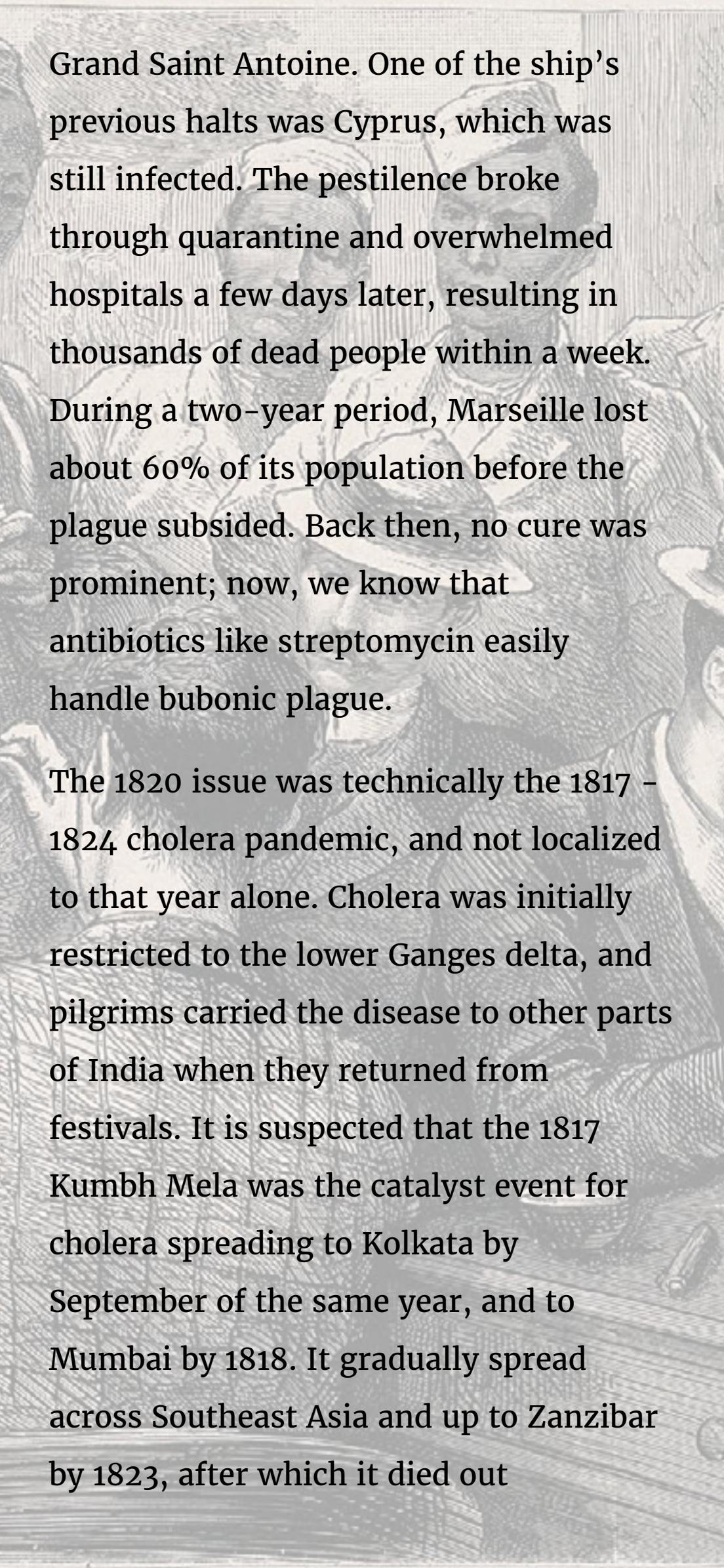
Natasha Desai | TYBSC

The month of April usually brings the summer breeze, and all the associated freedom and fun times with it. April has always been the relaxing part of the year; the phase to wrap up the academic year, unwind, stretch your legs, mill around with friends and eventually prepare for your May vacations. 2020 has something else in store, unfortunately. Everyone is camped at home, fiddling with their phones and laptops, watching their parents somehow carry on with their work over conference calls that you might have had to help set up, and waiting for this pandemic to pass us by.

It's not ALL dreary. Passing the time playing board games, cards or reading with your family is a bonus. And in this day and age, chatting and playing with your friends whilst staying in your

houses is a readily available option, courtesy of the Internet. It's still a worrisome time, though. A lot of people are concerned about the rapid spread of the disease, and the fact that it does not have an established cure yet. Harbingers of doom have been more than happy to point out that similar extensive outbreaks have occurred in 1720, 1820 and 1920 - but they've somehow ignored the fact that despite the odds and the suffering, the human race is right here, twiddling their thumbs in 2020.

The 1720 epidemic wasn't even an individual, unrelated event - the Great Plague of Marseille was the final major European outbreak of the bubonic plague that ran rampant in the 16th century. Even though the city had gone above and beyond in their efforts to curb the spread of the disease by setting up a sanitation board sometime after 1580, as well as a control and quarantine system, on ships arriving at their port, *Yersinia pestis* was carried to the city aboard the vessel



Grand Saint Antoine. One of the ship's previous halts was Cyprus, which was still infected. The pestilence broke through quarantine and overwhelmed hospitals a few days later, resulting in thousands of dead people within a week. During a two-year period, Marseille lost about 60% of its population before the plague subsided. Back then, no cure was prominent; now, we know that antibiotics like streptomycin easily handle bubonic plague.

The 1820 issue was technically the 1817 - 1824 cholera pandemic, and not localized to that year alone. Cholera was initially restricted to the lower Ganges delta, and pilgrims carried the disease to other parts of India when they returned from festivals. It is suspected that the 1817 Kumbh Mela was the catalyst event for cholera spreading to Kolkata by September of the same year, and to Mumbai by 1818. It gradually spread across Southeast Asia and up to Zanzibar by 1823, after which it died out

presumably due to the harsh winter that followed. The movement of Naval troops and army men overland to Afghanistan and China was the reason for propagation of the disease.

The Spanish flu is likely the most infamous of these outbreaks, caused by one of the most innocuous diseases – influenza. The lack of nourishment and poor hygiene practices of World War I caused superinfection in the UK troop staging at Etaples in France, which rapidly spread throughout the armies. The increased lethality was attributed to the weakened immune systems of the soldiers. This flu claimed more lives than AIDS did in 24 years. The pandemic suddenly declined in late 1918, which was explained by increased effectiveness of treatment and prevention in the medical field. Some academics argue that the virus may have tipped the balance in favor of the Allies in World War II.

All of the above events were unfortunate chapters in our history, and looking at

it from a pessimist's point of view can certainly leave you feeling iffy about COVID - 19. But look at the flip side: all of these events have one thing in common, and it's the survival of the human race. We pulled through before, and now, in the 21st century, with a millennium's worth of research backing our efforts, I see no road but one that takes us safely into a corona-free future.



The Quarantine Dilemma

Aditya Negi | SYBsc

You're shopping for atta at a store which is running short due to COVID-19. You know that hoarding is bad, so you're only going to buy as much as you really need. Or so you think, but then you see some douchebag with enough flour in their three trolleys to fill up your room from ceiling to floor. Hey, if other people cheat like this jerk, there will be nothing left for you next time, right? Maybe, just maybe, for your family's sake, the smart thing to do is to follow their jerkwad example. The study of decisions like this is called game theory, and while it's all around us all the time, it's never felt quite so real before. In particular, the situation described is a version of the prisoner's dilemma, the most famous problem in game theory.

The original version is as follows:

“Two members of a criminal gang are arrested for a robbery... They are given the opportunity either to betray the other by testifying that the other committed the crime, or to cooperate with the other by remaining silent.

If A and B each betray the other, each of them serves two years. If A betrays B but B remains silent, A will be set free and B will serve three years. If A and B both remain silent, both of them will serve one year.”

It sounds simple, and your instinctive reaction was probably “Well, easy, just cooperate and receive the lighter punishment!” But there’s a diabolical catch which makes this dilemma endlessly fascinating. Suppose you are A,



and you know that B will betray you. Of course, the correct decision here is to betray B to avoid getting the extra punishment.

If, however, you know that B will cooperate with you, then the “correct” decision, the decision with the greatest reward, is *STILL* to betray B and walk free. No matter what B does, the optimal decision for you is to betray B. The reverse is also true. No matter what you do, the optimal decision for B is to betray you. And so, if both A and B are rational and think only of their own self-interest, then both will betray each other even though cooperation gives better results. Hence, the dilemma.

This dilemma arises in many situations. It would be nice if the countries of the world cooperated by phasing out their militaries, eliminating the risk of warfare; unfortunately, it would only take a single bad actor, a single rogue nation, to ruin things and profit from everyone’s weakness. It would also be nice if people

TECH - TRICKED



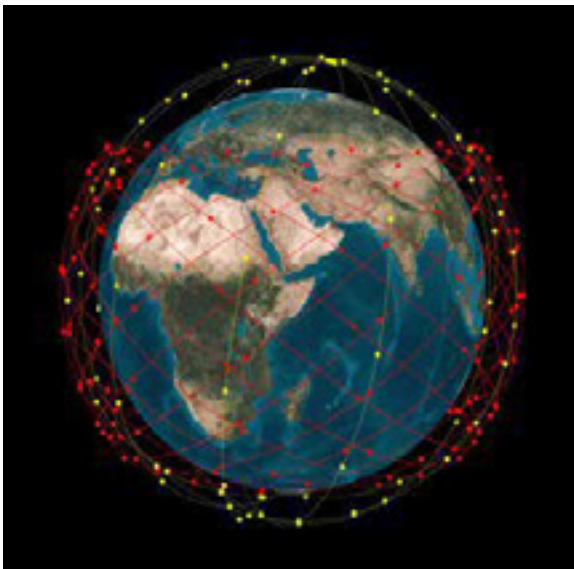
Satellite Mega Constellations!!!

Suvin Mayekar

Before October 4th, 1957 the Earth was naked. Naked because this was before approximately two thousand satellites were to orbit around her. Before anyone had ever counted backwards from 10. But on that promising day the Soviet Union became the first nation to dip its toe into the shallows of the cosmic ocean. It launched Sputnik 1, a simple radio transmitter that circled earth every 96 minutes. And people all over the world came outside to find this new light in the sky. A man-made moon. It symbolised that nothing could stop us from achieving our most daring dreams.

Since the start of the space age more than 8,875 objects have been launched into Earth's orbit. But in the years to come that number could increase significantly. Private companies tend to launch tens of thousands of satellites into space. To

beam internet to costumers on Earth Elon Musk's SpaceX alone has announced plans to launch forty-two thousand satellites as part of it's starlink internet project. If this happens SpaceX will by itself be responsible for about a fivefold increase in number of spacecrafts launched by all of humanity.



The space race that started nearly 60 years ago has resulted in launching of more and more objects into the Earth's orbit. Now companies such as SpaceX and OneWeb, Amazon and Telesat want to launch thousands of satellites. This will result in the creation of satellite mega constellations. A satellite constellation is a group of artificial satellites working together as a system. Unlike a single

permanent global or near-global coverage, such that at any time everywhere on Earth at least one satellite is visible. Satellites are typically placed in sets of complementary orbital planes and connect to globally distributed ground stations. They may also use inter-satellite communication. The reason why these companies are pursuing mega constellations comes down to essentially two factors. One being the cost of hardware and it's size have reduced considerably. And the second is that the demand for data has increased very rapidly all around the globe. Which had made providing high speed data at any point on Earth a very valuable asset. Satellites that provide internet are not necessarily an entirely new idea.

Companies like Hughes Communication and Viasat are already beaming internet to rural parts of the planet.

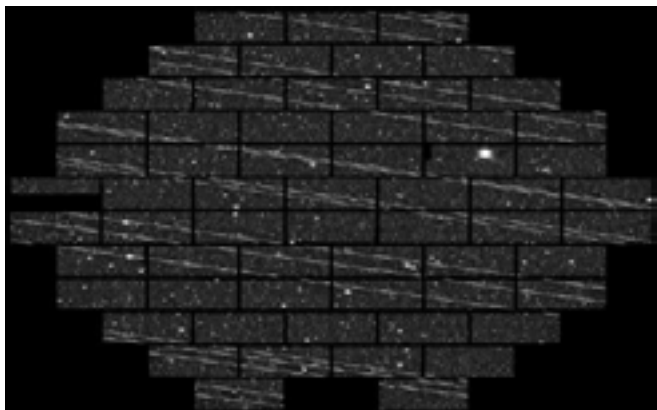
About 49% of global household are still not connected to the internet. And these are the targeted consumers traditional

satellite companies try to reach. Today there are only a small number of consumer internet offerings over satellite because they tend to be expensive.

Traditional satellites orbit very far away from Earth. That distance increases the overall latency of the network. Latency is a time interval between the stimulation and response, or, from a more general point of view, a time delay between the cause and the effect of some physical change in the system being observed. In simple words it is the responsiveness of the network. Most satellites today operate in what's called geostationary orbit.

Which is about 36,000 kilometres above Earth's surface. They remain fixed on top of one area. But the satellites proposed in mega constellations systems will operate in low earth orbit (LEOs). Which is 180-2000 kilometres above Earth's surface. In theory this should cut down on latency issues and provide 20 times faster speeds than current GEO satellites. But the problem with LEOs is that you need more of them to get the same

coverage. And satellite internet coverage is preferred because the speed of internet is 40% faster than one can get using fibres.



Companies like SpaceX and Amazon not only have to build satellites and launch them in orbits but they will also have to focus extensively on ground coverage. Which will result in thousands and millions of antennas all over the world. Facebook and Google both have considered these kinds of schemes in providing their services. About 2 years ago Facebook talked publicly about its Athena satellite. While Google is investing heavily in SpaceX's starlink project, Amazon's

investment is in Project Kuiper Network. Amazon has already begun ground coverage with its AWS ground station but it is yet to launch any satellites.

Satellite mega constellations are a concern for astronomers all round the world because the brightness of these numerous satellites causes interference in radio astronomy and saturate detectors and cause all sorts of difficulties in astronomical observations. SpaceX is already looking into solutions for dimming its satellites. Another major concern is the debris. This is summarised by the theory of Kessler Syndrome. It is a theoretical scenario in which the density of objects in LEO due to space pollution is high enough that collisions between objects could cause a cascade in which each collision generates space debris that increases the likelihood of further collisions. This can result in rendering space exploration and activities in specific ranges difficult for many generations.

In the end the subject of satellite constellations should be tackled from the angle of what are the services that are being provided, the opportunities this will create in businesses as well as the cons and the enormous numbers of satellites that will be launched. Whether this technological advancement will be beneficial or not is yet to be seen.

UAVs let there be flight !

Prasad Mokal

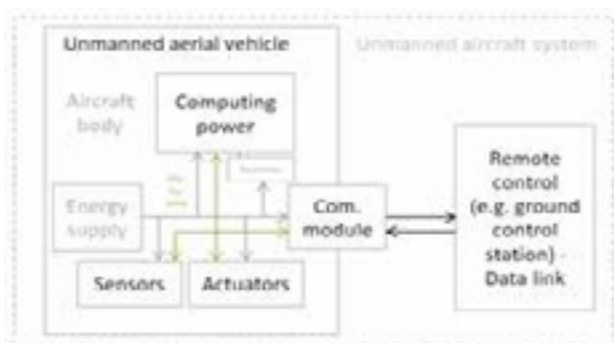
Cooper was leaning against his car about to light a smoke when he heard the sound of some large aerial object zooming past just overhead. Instinctively ducking at first, he hastily got his kids inside and revved up the punctured car, darting across the corn field to catch another glimpse of the UAV..

Thus opens an earlier scene in Interstellar, a movie set in a near-future beset by food shortages causing all technology-based systems other than agriculture to shut down at least ten years prior to the events of the movie. The UAV, had since then, been autonomously carrying out it's mission (probably surveillance) quietly without any external interference, well-supplied in energy due to it's solar cells.



Defined as "powered, aerial vehicle that does not carry a human operator, uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift, can fly autonomously or be piloted

remotely, can be expendable or recoverable, and can carry a lethal or nonlethal payload", UAV's have since their inception gone through major technological makeovers. Today the basic structure as well as operating principle is somewhat similar to that of a remote-controlled airplane.



Unmanned Aerial Vehicles have been around longer than anybody's guess: The earliest attempts at unpowered flights go back as far as 1849. But progress in remotely manoeuvring fixed-wing aircraft came along only after the actual aircraft was invented (!) Though mostly through military projects, it's early purposes consisted of dropping torpedoes at enemy's naval vessels. Today, ranging from the deadly jet-engine powered MQ-9 Reaper (see pic 2) used by the US ARMY in drone strikes to the DIY

quadcopter flown by enthusiasts and High schoolers as science projects, to the heavy-duty cargo-shipping ones employed by logistic companies, UAV's have diversified in terms of appearance, function, capability, power generation and even crew strength.

One of the most familiar apparitions of a UAV is the rotary-wing quadcopter often seen in popular media, and referred to as drone (both terms are used interchangeably). But while, every UAV out there classifies as a drone, which, experts say is any vehicle without a commander, a drone could also be a remotely-operated underwater vehicle. In a sense, every drone is not a UAV, but pretty much every object we have referred to so far is a drone.

Although initially developed by and for the military, including it's first recorded attack when the Austrian army launched incendiary balloons on the besieged city of Venice (Yes, those count as UAVs,

technically), they have found various non-military applications. Few innovative yet increasingly vital ones are listed here.

Filming Aerial Shots/ Journalism

These are the ones with the bird's eye view of the situation offering exposition as well scenic beauty. A drone fitted with a camera underneath does the trick. Not to mention saving the huge expense of renting a helicopter as was previously done. Ironically, much of the drone scene in *Interstellar* is filmed aerially, using a drone (!) It is also often used to collect exclusive footage of areas where civilians especially journalists normally can't enter such as a war-torn region.

Disaster Management/Search and Rescue

One of the most important uses, navigating flood-hit areas, or search for missing persons using activated thermal sensors in a jungle, or at night, drones once again eliminate the bulkiness and

liability associated with manned helicopters. They have also been used to drop supplies as well as gather geographical data on the affected region.

Precision Agriculture

Also known, known as satellite farming, precision agriculture requires accurate measurements of farming variables such as crop yield, moisture content, Nitrogen levels in the soil, it's pH level etc. to create special maps that can be used to optimize output crop while also preserving resources. UAV's are fitted with special RGB cameras to collect images of the vegetation which are then put together on a larger, regional level.

Wildlife monitoring

Removal of human presence out of the equation is a welcome move anywhere in the nature. Also, the sight of drones makes up a strong deterrent to poachers and other illegal activities carried out in the wild. Drones can easily monitor an endangered species such as Tiger without

causing any disturbance.

Drones are also used in many other important fields such as 3D Geographical mapping, safety inspection of structures, un-manned cargo transport etc. Many prominent companies such as Amazon, Walmart, DHL have been known use drones for internal services.

Not only serving as a mark of diligence, the UAV scene in Interstellar also deftly sets the theme of the movie: Ensuring mankind's safety through technological brilliance as the solar cells from the UAV later power the tractors on the farm. With the advent of A.I. and machine learning, it is not mere speculation that soon UAVs will be analogous to robots replacing manual labour; making pilots redundant. And though scientific prophecies are to be taken with a grain of salt, that they are taken seriously at all is indeed epic.

Safarnama



Our take on Virtual Tourism

Six ways to travel just by sitting on your couch!

Sanjana Bhate | SYBA

Who doesn't love traveling?

COVID-19 has hampered your travel plans? Well, you can't let that happen. Let's plan a trip and chalk out our next travel destination; we can certainly plan something for our future which can build our positivity.

Samantha Brown, a TV Travel Host said, "Travel comes back. A little fact I love is that simply the act of planning travel puts us in the same psychological happy place as being in a destination."

This is the time you can mark your inspirations and jot down your dream destinations. Researching various accommodation and restaurant services can help you schedule your trip and can

help you schedule your trip and can help you avoid over-budgeting. Not only planning but also surfing online to engage yourself with a variety of world's virtual touristic places can benefit you.

Sitting home makes us extremely restless and we crave for traveling. Well, you got it! You can travel during the self-isolation and not miss a thing just by sitting on your couch. Whether you plan a future trip or you watch people travel, your soul will be happy and satisfied. You don't have to just watch people have fun alone but even you can take the pleasure of accompanying them. How? Read on...

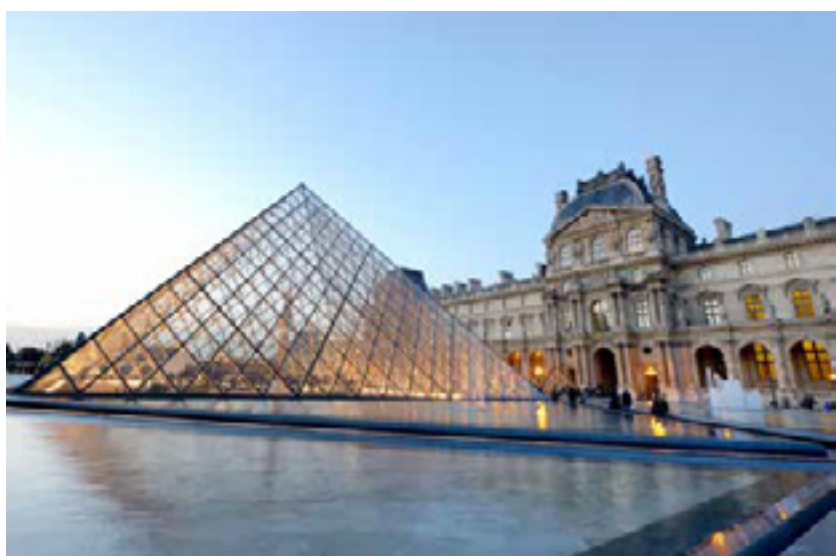
1. Use Pinterest



Pinterest is an amazing app through which you can note many rural, local

and metropolitan destinations to visit in the future. Whichever places your search is about; you are bound to find a bunch of blogs, pictures, and suggestions. It gives you credible first-hand information.

2. Virtually tour the museums and tourist attractions



Who has seen a virtual view of a distant place? Well, now it's here for us and you can enjoy it just by sitting at home.

Museums, zoos, beach walks, heritage walks, plays, etc. can be experienced in a very cheap deal. Also, you can download the app called 'Google Art & Culture' which enables us to take a trip to a variety of tourist attractions and food tours of many countries. Here I've listed some places which you can visit through

their Live Cam.

- Le Musée du Louvre, Paris
- British Museum, London
- Musée d'Orsay, Paris
- Jerusalem, Israel
- Guggenheim, New York
- Central Park, New York
- Grand Canyon, Arizona
- Miami beach
- San Diego Zoo
- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- The Metropolitan Opera
- Vatican Museums

3. Movies



Movies have always depicted scenes shot in many different locations in the world. Whether it is 'Zindagi na Milegi Dobarā', 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Dewaani' or '3 idiots'. Bollywood has never failed to surprise us.

Well, numerous movies have been released all over the world to show the beautiful locations spread across the lands. Watching movies can inspire a lot of us to plan our dream destination by visualizing it.

- 7 years in Tibet
- Into the wild
- Wild
- Hampi (Marathi)
- Eat Pray Love
- Nau do gyarah
- Roman holiday
- Thelma and Lousie
- The beach
- The endless summer
- The Darjeeling limited
- Encounters at the end of the world

4. Books

Books have contributed to a large extent in our life to shape and enhance our vision. Words can surely be an authentic guide to know and explore those beautiful cities and countries by the way of



imagination. Authors have successfully executed their work by noting their experiences and discoveries; and made it available for the world to know. How wonderful is that! I've listed a bunch of books below which you can surely buy on your kindle or a paperback version to sit back with your coffee and take a tour through words.

- North Korea Journal, by Michael Palin
- Eat Pray Love, by Elizabeth Gilbert
- Motorcycle Diaries, by Che Guevara
- Vagabonding, by Rolf Potts
- In a sunburned country, by Bill Bryson
- Turn right at Machu Picchu, by Mark Adams
- How to travel the world on \$50 in a day, by Matt Kepens
- Holy cow: An Indian adventure, by Sarah Macdonald

5. Blogs



Blogging has been constantly improving. Travel blogging is a trend and just reading the bloggers' experiences and itineraries can blow our minds. Traveling is a passion for many like Bunny in YJHD. Who else is like Bunny and sad at home? Ha, here you go with the list of beautiful bloggers who will not let you feel left out. Don't forget to check their amazing websites to dive into their travels and suggestions.

- Shivya Nath - A Shooting Star (PS - She also gives tips on convincing your parents to let you travel alone)
- Savi and Vid - Bruised passports
- Ami Bhatt - Thrilling Travel
- Kirsten - The Blonde Abroad
- Dan - Dan Flying Solo

6. Vlogs



A trend of video graphing travel is a thing. Many passionate vloggers use their high-tech mobile cameras or Go-pros to enhance the quality and make the audience feel the liveliness on their screens. These vloggers love adventure, cuisine and traveling just like you and I. Well, if you can't go there, they can take you along with them. Here I've listed a few of my favourite vloggers.

- Louis - Fun for Louis
- Bharatiya Touring Party
- Tanya Khanijow
- Kritika Goel
- Yatri Doctor
- Nomadic Indian
- Nadine, Hey Nadine
- Kristen Sarah

Don't you feel motivated? Hahaha...that's the power of traveling, even if it's virtual. Explore these ideas and do let us know on Instagram.

Maitri Kate

From young people to old, from the poor to the rich, everyone is quarantined because of the coronavirus. Everyone is on a mission to fight it by staying at home. But somewhere in the midst of all this there is this traveller amongst us who is sobbing over the wonderful vacations they had planned. In this situation, we can't help but think about virtual tourism.

There are a lot of ways to travel virtually, one of which is to use a VR Headset. You can get a 360° view of the place and it feels like you are actually travelling. It is trending nowadays, but there are many questions about it in the travel industry – will it enhance travelling or will it act as an alternative? According to me, old-fashioned travel can never be

replaced. The fresh air you can breathe, the breath-taking views you can feel – these can never be experienced in a virtual tour. Virtual tours can be really helpful for planning our trips, though. By taking virtual tours we can get a proper idea about the place we are going to visit. Also we tend to save our time and efforts by doing a virtual tour. Other than help you plan your trip, virtual tours also help the service providers market a place well. Kerala, for example, made many videos of its tourist attractions to be displayed at an expo in Europe. This was at the time when it was recovering from the floods.

As far as India is concerned, there are many virtual tours arranged for various places such as Hampi, Goa, Delhi, Amritsar, etc. People get to explore the vivid landscapes of India and are enticed to come and experience them firsthand. Many universities give virtual tours of the campus for their foreign student audience. With the advancing technology we are at liberty to get as creative as our

brain would allow to form virtual experiences of places, amusement parks, etc. Imagine wearing a VR headset and seeing any place as it was hundreds of years back.

After all we need to find some or the other solution for when we crave travelling but cannot. Why not try virtual tourism?

Is Virtual Traveling Authentic?

Rashi Gulati

Recently during this period of quarantine while searching for options to kill my boredom, I came across the suggestion of virtual traveling.

Advances in technology have direct and lasting impacts on tourism.

The much hyped concept of virtual reality (VR) is becoming talked about in tourism circles, since a few years now. But it is just recently that I tried my hands on it, well, quarantine made me do that.



I believe it is a good platform to do your necessary research before you travel but I cannot really accept that it could replace traveling in its real sense.

A true traveler would definitely not

accept it as it is a threat to the travel industry.

Because, what is travel without the journey?

'Virtual traveling' this is as unauthentic as calling a veg pulow, biryani.

Virtual travelling could be very well used as a marketing tool to increase a destination's appeal. But how far can VR technology actually deliver the kind of experiences you search while traveling.

Travelers might travel with VR, and use it in the planning process, seeing VR as a logical progression in the use of technology in tourism. But they can never gain the experience that they are searching for while traveling to new places.

My definition of traveling would be incomplete without the journey, a conversation with a local, the authentic staple food and of course the misadventures (getting lost, mostly!)

And a lot of people would agree that when one imagines travel, they are sure to see a person with a bag, wearing hippie clothes, walking down unknown lanes, getting lost and discovering their hidden place.

Travelers who replace traveling with virtual traveling aren't travelers to me, just tourists.

To discover the other side of virtual traveling, I'll use a well known Buddhist proverb: “If you visit a temple but do not take a selfie, did it actually happen?”

The Instagrammability of a destination is apparently now the number one motivation for booking a holiday for millennials. And the eternal quest for social approval is now seen as a jackpot, which widens the horizons of the travel industry.

Let's take Instagram for example.

Today we come across thousands of travel bloggers and vloggers.

Unfortunately enough, these Instagrammers are collectively sucking the joy and spontaneity out of travel.

We must pity the poor locals, who have to put up with them.

Let's consider the travel story I read a few months ago.

A traveler once took a train from the mountain village of Ella to Sri Lanka's cultural capital of Kandy. Widely regarded to be one of the most beautiful train journeys in the world, it traverses verdant mountain passes, waterfalls, and tea plantations. But what he noticed was that many of the passengers under 35 were interested only in obtaining the same photograph – lifted right from Instagram – of themselves hanging barefoot out of the open doors of the train, with significant risk to life and limb. Meanwhile, in contrast, an older couple sitting in his carriage spent the journey watching the scenery go by through the window.

The older the wiser.

Trust me, those of us too grumpy,
paunchy and tired to travel fashionably
might be only ones to experience travel
and the peace that comes with it.

Today, with the advancement of
technology, social media encourages the
meme-fication of human experience.
This idea of virtual traveling hence has
just lost the essence of traveling.

It is time, we stop traveling for
acceptance and start traveling for
ourselves.



Fictionally Yours



In trying times, it's important to keep the flame of hope and positivity burning. Here is a story to soothe frayed nerves, and a poem to stay calm, and stay safe.

INTERLOCKED

Rhea Prabhu | SYJC

The Chavans touched down at Mumbai at 10 AM. Ashutosh glanced at his Nikita, who was waking up their son, Aakash. Sayali had been reading throughout the journey and so hadn't slept. They waited for the crowd to leave before taking out all their luggage from the overhead compartments. They had saved a lot of time by choosing to pack light.

After all, it was only three days. In three days, they would be back in Chicago, each one in their own bedroom. This excursion to Mumbai was necessary, though vehemently vetoed. It was true: what seemed like a simple holiday was nothing but a check-up visit.

Radhika Chavan was seventy-two years old. Her heavy, wrinkled skin slowed her down but never stopped her. The septuagenarian filled her lonely days by

making and selling various pickles. On the weekend, two boys would come to pick up and deliver them. She made sure the house was clean before they arrived, always offered them a cup of masala chai, and enquired about their families. They never cheated the old woman; they called her Ammu with love.

Today, her face shone as brightly as her scrubbed utensils. She had looked forward to this with childish enthusiasm. She was so excited that she bought gifts for everyone, spending nearly half her savings. Every other person in her building, complex, and colony knew that Radhika's family was finally coming home.

It felt as if eternity had passed since the last time they'd visited. Aakash had been only six...he must be fifteen now. Sayali would be twenty. She smiled at the fond memories she had of them: times when they were young enough to be teased, answering all their nonsensical questions with equally nonsensical answers.

How she adored her grandchildren! They could do nothing wrong in her eyes.

*

Nikita recognized the smell of turmeric as soon as she stepped into the house.

Her mother-in-law was overjoyed to see everyone. She seemed much older than the last time—nearly ten years.

Everything was the same: the dining table in the corner of the room, the sofa in front of the old TV, the dark blue curtains draped to the sides.

Aaji fawned over Aakash, who— thank God— looked appropriately happy. Sayali hugged her for longer. From the four, Sayali was the only one who seemed to genuinely like Aaji. Nikita and Ashutosh could not forget the turmoil that his mother had brought into their marital life, and Aakash had seemed to inherit the bitterness. His attitude was almost as sour as Aaji's pickles.

As Nikita bent to touch her feet, she expected acidic silence – but no. Aaji had

long forgotten the many fights. Aaji prevented her from bending any further and pulled her into a tight embrace.

“You look beautiful! How was the flight?” She pulled away and beamed, taking a good look at her soon.

“You don’t look so bad yourself,” Nikita replied, smiling. “The flight was good.”

“No vertigo this time?” Aaji eyebrows furrowed.

“None. I fell asleep.” Nikita did initially have some pain, but she wasn’t going to tell Aaji that.

“Good, good. Thank God.” Aaji gripped Nikita’s shoulders, her eyes filled with gratitude and something else that Nikita couldn’t place. “I am very happy to see you, beta.”

Nikita smiled awkwardly, but could make herself say it back.

“Why is everyone standing? Go, wash your hands. I have my masala chai ready!” Aaji waddled to the kitchen, with

Sayali following. “I’ll help you, Aaji.”

“Arey baba, you wash your hands first. You know this virus...” The two women disappeared.

Nikita shared a look with her husband. He was happy to see his mother alive and well, but they both knew that it was going to be a very uncomfortable trip.

Although Aaji was kind and loving, she was a gossipmonger. This bad habit had been the cause for numerous fights between mother and daughter-in-law, which eventually turned to fights between mother and son. It had reached a stage where a transfer to the Chicago branch of Ashutosh’s company seemed like a one-way ticket to paradise.

He placed his arm around her shoulders. “We can play nice for three days, Nikki.”

*

Three days passed in the blink of an eye, but disappointment rolled out like a tear.

Throughout the day, Ashutosh spoke to

various clients. The pandemic had the company sinking. Even though he was on leave, they needed him to report, work from home – anything to get them business.

Aaji understood. It was a terrible time, financially. She made him snacks and closed the door behind her.

Sayali had brought along her stash of books, but the small two bedroom flat seemed to choke her. With her father in one bedroom and her mother in the other, she had to sit in the hall, mostly with Aaji, who always tried to start a conversation. Sayali loved her grandmother, but she loved her books more at that moment. She craved silence. Yet she couldn't say anything out of respect, and chose to subtly sigh instead.

Aaji was sad, but she understood. Sayali was an adult now, not the little child who gazed at her with wonder. It was time for her to make her own memories, to tell her own grandchildren.

Aakash seemed the moodiest of them all. Aaji had neither Netflix or Prime; not even a flat screen TV, and Wi-Fi connection was slower than the traffic outside the airport. He had absolutely no interest in interacting with the old woman who had caused his parents so much pain. He gave clipped answers, but tried not to be rude for fear of his mother's hand.

Nikita spent her whole day coding. Seeing as she was the only stable source of income, she had to work from home.

Nikita was secretly happy, as this gave her a good excuse to avoid all interaction with Aaji. Even if she had no pending work, she didn't mind doing a little extra just so that she could skip dinner.

Aaji understood. She had ruined her chances of a relationship with her son's wife when she decided to spill the family's secrets to her neighbours. She had apologized, too. But some things apologies can't fix. It was a bitter pickle to swallow. She left Nikita alone.

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On the last night of their stay, Aaji felt depressed. She had looked forward to these three days with so much joy – and now, those days seemed better than the three days itself. She had tried her level best to talk to her grandchildren and get to know them better...but apart from the first day when they arrived, there had been barely a word.

Dejected, she switched on the TV to watch the news, like every other Thursday. The anchor pressed: “The Coronavirus, or COVID-19, has claimed 3 lives so far in India. Total infections in the country have risen to 102 cases—”

The picture suddenly switched to the Prime Minister, giving a speech.

The members trickled into the hall, watching with horror as the man on the screen announced a nationwide lockdown for 21 days to combat the virus: no trains, no buses...and certainly no flights back to Chicago.

“We really have to spend the next

twenty-one days here? With Aaji?”

Aakash looked disgusted. “Why can’t we go back?”

“There are no flights, you idiot,” Sayali grumbled.

“Is there no way we can prepone the flight? The lockdown starts from midnight, maybe we could get an earlier flight?” Nikita asked her husband, hope in her eyes.

“No, I highly doubt it,” Ashutosh replied. “I can try, but...” he shook his head.

Aakash groaned. He missed his friends. Sayali had finished her books. What were they going to do?

In the silence, the news anchor that had disappeared was talking again. “Senior citizens are currently the most at risk. Any individual with a weak immunity is a higher risk of contracting the virus. We encourage our senior viewers to stay at home no matter what. It is the only way we can fight COVID-19.”

Aaji switched the TV off.

A moment of silence ensued...the seriousness of what could have been sinking into each mind.

Ashutosh looked at his mother. Her eyes stayed fixed on the screen, a sadness in them that he couldn't understand. Nikita felt ashamed of herself.

Time was so fickle. Everything seemed so insignificant.

She swallowed hard. "Aai?"

Aaji looked up with teary eyes, but still smiled. "Yes, beta?"

Nikita knelt before her and held her hands, holding them tightly. Hard hands that had slogged throughout the decades to raise a son alone. Hands that ached for care.

She kissed Aaji's knuckles gently. "Shall we have dinner?"

Ashutosh pulled the dining table out from the corner while the children brought out

the food. As they gathered around, Nikita knew that it would not be easy, but at least it was a start.

Her husband's phone rang. He cut the call. Sayali placed a pickle jar on the table.

“Pickles have a long shelf life, but other things aren't meant to be stored. They turn rancid and must be thrown out...”

Nikita said softly. “One must learn to let go of them, to make space for more valuable and delicious things.”

This lockdown would not chain the family down; instead, it would secure their bonds as a family, bolt them together and seal their love.

STAY IN, HEAL NOW, SHINE

Samrudhhi Sawant | FYBA

Surviving for so many years,
today the world experiences genuine
fears.

Empty streets, house full of feet.

Conversation increased, busy schedule
pushed on backseat.

Nobody, but this virus brought families
together.

Don't know, to praise it or curse it with a
magic feather.

Complaining about time? Now see,

Time has given you some time to be.

To be in peace, to make your mind clear.

Time never stops, but when it does,
people don't really like it, dear.

Yes, we can't go outside. So what?

We can always go inside ourselves, take a

seat, have a thought.

Find yourself, ask it questions, search its
ability,

It's time for you,

to take a break from you daily battle,

To heal your soul, to grow, your mind to
settle.

Bath with love, dress with strength, shine
with hope,

World is now ready to support, fight and
cope.

Stay away from fake news,

Don't risk your life for public views.

Have a conversation with your dad,

Show some creative skill, you lazy lad.

Get up, learn, practice, make complaints
few.

Come out later, surprise people with
your personality so new.

Be healthy, smile more,

Do what you always wanted to do, just
don't bore.

Don't complain later that you need more
time,

You got now enough, procrastination is
the crime.

Art Wall



Hampi

Asavari Shinde

Hampi: A city which is in ruins but still beautiful, surrounded by huge boulders, paddy fields and beautiful temples which attract thousands of people every year.



Believed to function uninterrupted ever since its inception in the 7th century AD, Virupaksha temple is the oldest and the principal temple in Hampi. This is easily one of the oldest functioning temple in India as well. This temple is located on the south bank of the river Tungabhadra, and is an important pilgrimage center for the

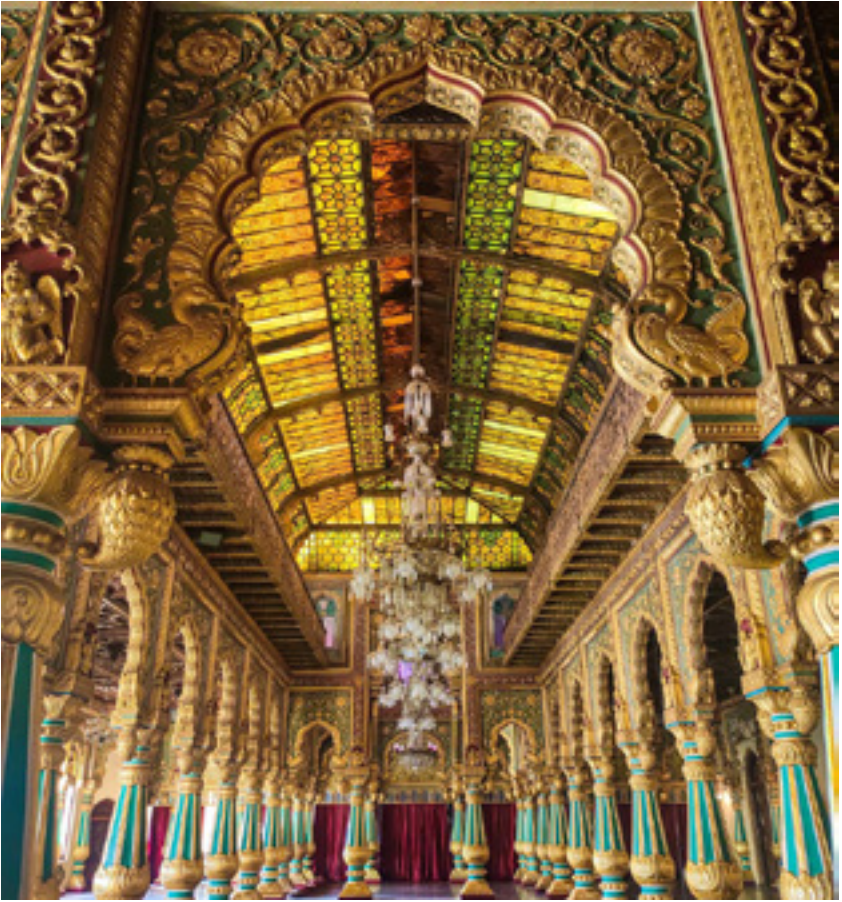
worshippers of Lord Shiva. This temple witnesses the pinhole camera technique: inside the temple in a very dark room, there is a small hole from which the rays fall on the other side of the wall and a image can be formed.



The Kadalekalu Ganesh temple houses the giant statue of lord Ganesh which is a single monolithic structure approximately 17 meters tall.

The Vithala Temple is not actually dedicated to Lord Vishnu, but rather depicts

the deity as residing in the minds and souls of the residents of Hampi.



These temples houses many smaller temples and also the 56 musical pillars known as Saregama pillars. Every temple's pillars depict folktales from the Mahabharat and Ramayana. Mongolian and Persian inscriptions of horse trace are also visible.

Hampi is an amalgamation of the present and past, and a trip worth making!



Akanksha Desai

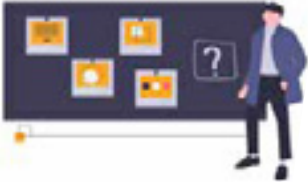


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