

the  
rui / AITE  
monthly

**OCTOBER 2020**



# CONTENT

04

**Editorial**

06

**Reporting**

1. Emotional e-goodbyes
2. Portrayal of Romance - embracing new notions

17

**Buzz Around**

1. Bloomsburried
2. Decoding Abrahm Accord
3. Ruia Buzz

28

**Careerwise & Safarnama**

1. Interview with Mr. Venkatesh Dhattareyan, the Regional Director

44

**Behind The Scenes**

1. The Golden Record
2. Pictures that speak way more than a thousand words
3. A mixtape of Earth and Humanity
4. Decoding of the Golden

56

**Insight**

1. Arjuna and Karna
2. Bhishma Pitamaha and Shri Krishna
3. राम रावण

66

**OP-ED**

Conspiracy theories, people and opinions

1. Jeffrey Epstein's Death
2. Who was Jack the Ripper?
3. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Death
4. Indian mythology- are chiranjeivi's still alive?

79

**Open Forum**

1. Multipotent Flora
2. The Deadly Nightshade
3. On Snowy's Absence
4. Symbolism of Flowers





96

## Tech-Tricked

1. Bringing down the house of Cards!
2. Health Advice or Casteism Revised?
3. The Paywall Hurdle

111

## Fictionally Yours

1. सत्य
2. The guests!

122

## Artwall

1. Artwork of the Month
2. Photograph of The Month
3. Student Submission
4. Column Exhibition
5. Photographs
6. Comic
7. Colorful Wildlife
8. RATC HOMEMADE
9. RATC- CITY

142

## Credits

**Disclaimer:** The views expressed belong to the authors and it does not reflect the official policy or position of The Ruitaite Monthly in any manner.



Hey there, reader. It's the October edition of the Ruiaite Monthly, and we're back and eager to please.



We pride ourselves on having something for everyone, and this month's no exception. For the conspiracy theorist inside all of us, we have whispered speculation and endlessly many what-ifs. The sentimental will surely find something deeply moving about the Golden Records, floating in the emptiness of space. If you're big on mythology, don't miss our musings on the meaning of dharma and its modern-day relevance! And that's just scratching the surface of what we've got.





We also invite you to join the conversation with us. Don't miss our flagship e-Mehfils, and if you have any words for us -- praise or criticism, or something about college you'd like to share with us and the world -- our email ID's [ruiaitpr@gmail.com](mailto:ruiaitpr@gmail.com). Looking forward to hearing from you!

Here's to a good day,

**The Editorial Team**





# Reporting



# Emotional e-goodbyes

**Vaishnavi Kulkarni** | TYBSc

## 5 minutes read



www.google.com

29th of August, 2020

*Via Google Meet*

In a matter of moments, a person can change and transform our lives for good. For more than half a decade she's been there for the Statistics Department and everybody else, as and when required. Associated with the examination cell of the college for the longest period of time, one might wrongly consider her to be rigid and unbending. But in reality, she's a well – mannered disciplinarian with the most soft-spoken personality. Just like her name, SAVITRI – she illuminated the minds of many. And thus, it was a



very heartfelt experience for all, when the day of her farewell dawned.

The 29th of August marked the last working day for Professor Savitri Govindan. Making the best out of this golden opportunity, the Statistics Department of Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College organized an e-farewell, held via Google Meet to bid adieu to the professor. At 10.30 that morning, the session was initiated as everyone wished ma'am good morning, for one last time!

Cherishing those 'you remember when...' memories, the teachers were caught in their lovely candid moments. Every faculty of the department spoke about their equation with Savitri ma'am, which left her teary-eyed. The common feeling of the beautiful speech session was that – she'd always be the first one to reach college and unlock the department. You'd catch a sight of her every morning walking through the college gates well before 7.45 am with a heavy sack filled with a delicious tiffin swinging on her shoulders.... After reminiscing the wonderful time passed by, with smiles on every face, the session was then passed over to the students.

“Goodbyes are difficult but good luck and cheers to your second innings.” Saying so, Vaishnavi Nair, a student from TYBSc. struck the chords of her veena. As her fingers tugged at those strings that





played the song 'Choti Si Asha', she soulfully conveyed the message – chase those unchased dreams and always stay young at heart! Taking the event forward, they had Vrinda and team prepare a video of collaged memories and unforgettable



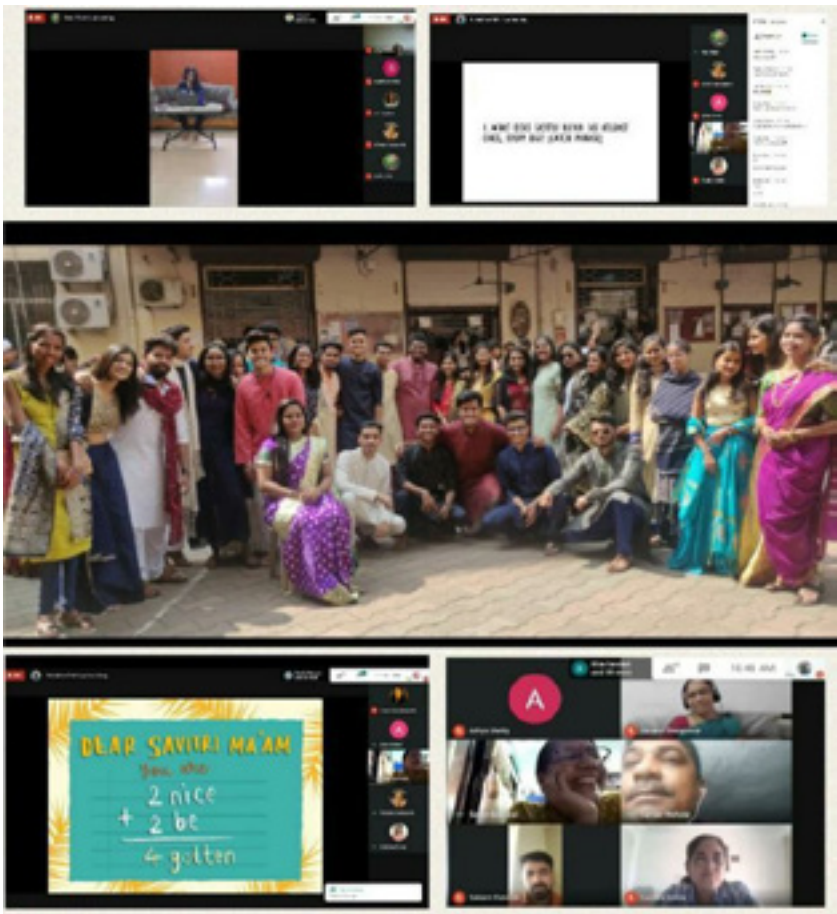
*Statistics Students*

moments. With background music and photos that told amazing stories from the past, every teacher was hit with a wave of nostalgia.

If tears welled up in the eyes of the faculty members over the video, the next one

had students grabbing tissues as well. The video that played on the screen had Neeti (from TYBSc) playing a mashup song on her keyboard. Photo grids of professors, non-teaching staff, and students were displayed, and every member in the audience felt their heart swell up with love and pride! The fun did not stop there. The students had organised a quiz, with its topic being none other than Savitri ma'am herself! With a clear adrenaline rush, the professors typed their answers at lightning speed. In a fit of laughter, the special quiz saga came to an end.





*Statistics Students*

A river of commendations and applauds flowed through the chatbox praising every member who put up such a great show. The 29th of August, 2020 was a day everyone would treasure for the rest of their lives. Even though the celebrations came to an end, their love and appreciation for ma'am stayed perpetual! Penning her thoughts and gratitude via a lovely WhatsApp message the next day, Savitri ma'am expressed her never-ending fondness for Ruia, the Statistics Department and the entire student clan at large.

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# Portrayal of Romance – embracing new notions

**Khushali Bhanushali** | TYBA

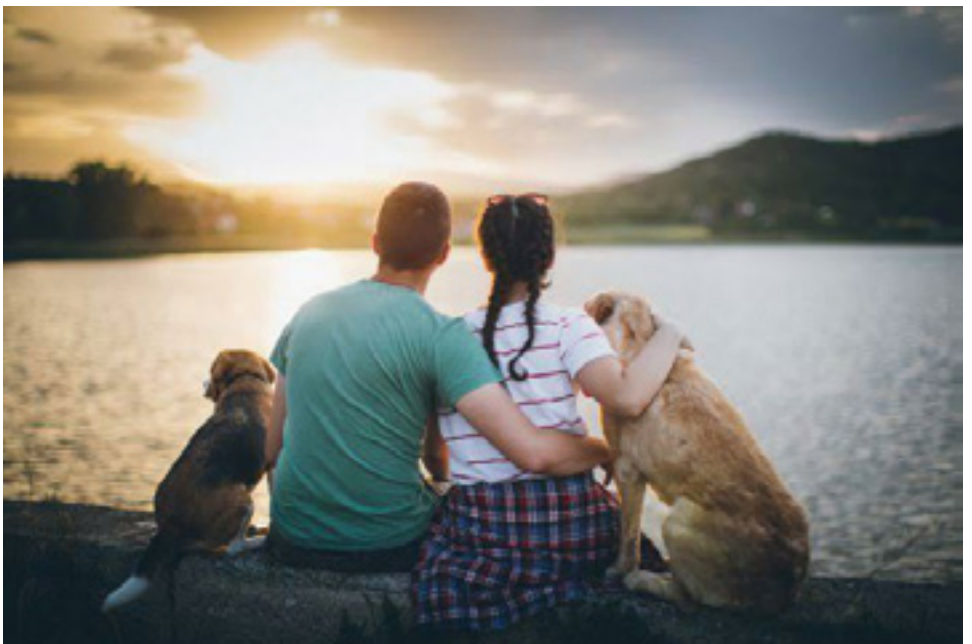
7 minutes read

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*29 August 2020.*

*Google Meet*

A beautiful space where two imperfect souls meet and create perfection. Two souls, one life. It's forever or never. A home by the beach, a cute pet, only two of us. Together till death takes us apart. Sounds perfect, doesn't it ? This may all seem supremely romantic, but does this happen all the time?



Ever come across movies, web series, books that portray romance as ‘kissing in the rain’, ‘finding your soulmate in a masquerade ball’, ‘falling for the bad boy’, or ‘running past the airport security check to stop the love of your life’?





Doesn't it make one feel that 'Yes, I know there is someone waiting for me somewhere' or ' I know my Prince Charming is on his way, just have to wait for the right time'? However, as hard as it sounds to accept , these views can lead to various unrealistic expectations about love and romance.

To shed light on “Portrayal of Romance in 21st Century Media”, the newly formed Interdisciplinary Studies Forum, initiated by the English Department of Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, conducted its very first open discussion on 29th August 2020.

21st Century Media”, the newly formed Interdisciplinary Studies Forum, initiated by the English Department of Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, conducted its very first open discussion on 29th August 2020.

This discussion was conducted on an online platform that began sharp at 4 pm, welcoming





anyone and everyone to participate and exchange their ideas and thoughts regarding the portrayal of romance through the media. It generated a humongous response; teachers also joined in and gave their valuable opinions.

The discussion commenced with Disha Thakker, a TYBA English Literature student who shared her presentation on various movies and web series that conceptualize love in ways that can't always be met in real lives.

6. Your perfect partner is cosmically predestined. It's in your destiny, you will live happily ever after with them.



*A glimpse from the presentation*

The presentation covered ideas such as 'finding a soulmate' that can create an illusion about love. Movies like 'Friends with Benefits' or 'Fifty Shades of Grey' can bring about fanciful thoughts on how sex relates to love. It could lead to thoughts wherein one feels that if your partner is truly meant for you, sex is always passionate and easy with them. Lots of movies give undivided focus to sex, that can overshadow the meaning of a relationship and easily carve thoughts like 'bad sex is love wasted'.



Casual hook-up culture shown in movies pressurises many teenagers to lose virginity or have kissed someone by high school. Many go along to start their first day in university thinking that they will come across some meet-cute moment and bump into someone who will change the entire meaning of their life.



Movies focusing on reincarnation that justify finding your true love again in the next life or completing the incomplete story of love in new life such as Om Shanti Om, Somewhere In Time, or Raabta can bring about quixotic notions of love.



Movies that show long-lost lovers being reunited like The Notebook or The Best of Me can falsely



raise hopes and expectations. Musical videos, romantic comedies, and fairy tales can all take us into a world very different from the one in which we live, and that can affect our real-life relationships.

This presentation that covered so many dimensions gave the participants a foundation to contribute their opinions, ideas, and thoughts. The interaction was full of enthusiasm. The discussion also turned to love in association with politics, culture, caste and race.

Highlighting the narrow corridor that exists between love and abuse was an important part of the discussion. Even purity of love made its way in the interchange of ideas. Love was also discussed from the perspective of mythological events and stories. Teachers paved the way by giving their opinions and perceptions on the relationship that prevails between love and movies. Various documentaries that have displayed the realities of love were suggested.



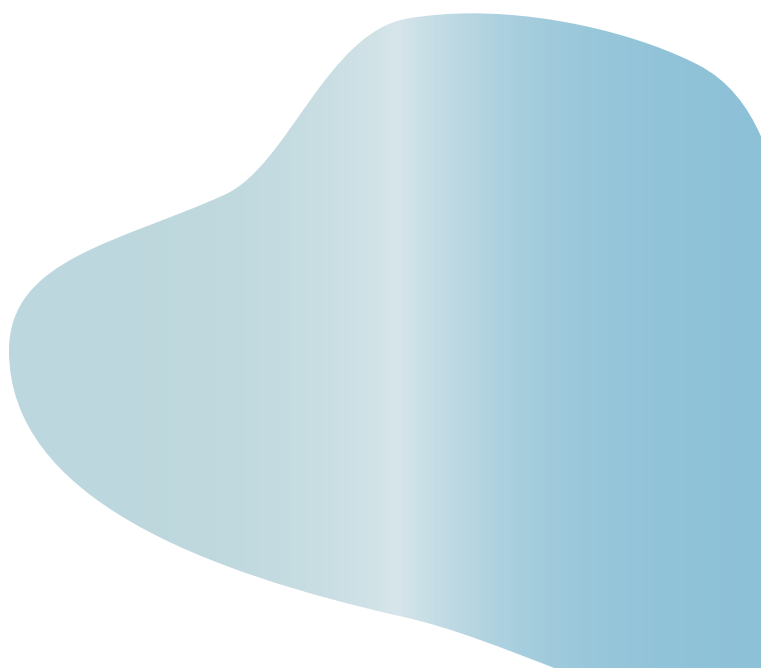


In movies, gifts, compliments, and proposals are predominantly initiated by men. This could build an unhealthy outlook towards love. This could make it hard when acceptance, honesty, faith, adjustments, and compromises come into the picture.

The idealistic romance shown in movies seems innocent and cute, but we often tend to normalise the media we consume. Younger viewers and teenagers are more likely to get influenced and formulate ideas about love based on various movies, books etc.

This open discussion made the process healthier by shedding light on various aspects of the topic and allowing the participants to freely express their views. The discussion came to an end by 6 PM. But this is just the beginning! The English Department of Ruia College is surely looking forward to exploring many more ideas and keeping us all enchanted.

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# Buzz Around

# Bloomsburied

**Ishita Narvekar** | TYBA

**Hrithik Nirhali** | TYBA

4 minutes read

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On 21st August, social media denounced Bloomsbury India – a publishing house, for attempting to suppress the voice of authors it didn't agree with. Bloomsbury India was set to release a book Delhi Riots 2020: The Untold Story in September. The book penned by Sonali Chitalkar, Prerna Malhotra and advocate Monika Arora gives a factual report of the three day violence that engulfed North East Delhi this February.

The virtual pre-publication launch of the book acted as the catalyst of this controversy. The authors without the knowledge of publishers invited Kapil Mishra as the chief guest for the online book launch. Kapil Mishra, a BJP MLA is alleged of giving a provocative speech that triggered the violence. Other guests invited were BJP leader Bhupendra Yadav, OpIndia Editor Nupur Sharma and filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri. After the virtual launch of the book, the publishers decided to withdraw the publication of the book since the publishers were uninformed about the event. Moreover, participation by parties irked them. This decision to withdraw the book led to turmoil on social media.





Bloomsbury India came under attack from all quarters. From Principal Economic Adviser Sanjeev Sanyal calling this incident an epitome of 'ideological censorship' to filmmaker Anurag Kashyap criticising it as suppression on the Freedom of Expression. Amish Tripathi described this to be "as bad as burning a book", while author Sandeep Deo withdrew his book published by Bloomsbury. Former IAS officer Sanjay Dixit terminated his contract with Bloomsbury India. Kanchan Gupta who is an eminent fellow at Observer Research Foundation expressed Bloomsbury's decision reflects 'cancel culture'.

The publishers have also been criticized on the grounds of agreeing to publish the book in the first place if they had a problem with it.

## **The other side of the coin:**

Some people have also opined that mere termination of contract with the publishers doesn't amount to suppression of Freedom of Expression. It has been argued that the authors do have the option of suing the publishers in court in the case of breach of contract. Besides, the book hasn't been banned and can still be self-published by the authors, or they can approach other publishing houses. Another argument being put forward is that Bloomsbury India also has the right to freedom of expression.



The authors, part of the Group of Intellectuals and Academicians (GIA) have purportedly claimed that they had conducted a fact-finding report of the Delhi riots which was published on 11th March. The report claimed that the riots had occurred due to the Left-Jihadi-Urban Naxal forces and anti-CAA protests. But in reality, the majority of those killed were Muslims. This raises doubts over the veracity of the claims regarding the origin of the riots. Besides, the matter is yet under investigation and police are still asking for time extension for tracing the origin of riots. Hence, the 'fact-finding report' which is at the core of the book can't be termed as bulletproof. The book was eventually taken up for publication by Garuda Prakashan.

Reference:

1. [This is fascism](#)
2. [Does Bloomsbury's decision to withdraw book on Delhi riots undermine free speech?](#)
3. [Bloomsbury Drops Delhi Riots Book: No, It Doesn't Harm Free Speech](#)



Simply Put

# Decoding Abraham Accord

**Shravani Mhaisale** | TYBA

4 minutes read

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The geopolitics of the Middle East have always been in an enormous turmoil . Amid such uncertainties, the UAE-Israel deal is viewed as a historic step.

## 1. What is Abraham Accord?

The Abraham Accord is a peace agreement between Israel and the UAE, brokered by the USA which startled the whole world, especially Palestinians. The UAE became the first Gulf Arab state and the third Arab nation to recognise Israel after Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994. UAE's deal to establish diplomatic relations with Israel was in return for Israel's suspension of plans to annex the West Bank. The White House stated that the two countries will meet to discuss bilateral ties in investment, tourism, direct flights, security, telecommunications, energy, tech, healthcare, culture, environment, etc. They will work together towards COVID-19 treatment and vaccine on priority basis.



## **2. Why are Palestinians in opposition to the Abraham Accord?**

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a century-long territorial dispute with religious and historical significance. The origin of the conflict can be traced back to the Zionist movement of Jews. Palestinian Arabs demand an independent state including Gaza and most areas of the West Bank. However, the two State solution is still under dispute. President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestine Authority blemished the deal as 'Betrayal' by the UAE. Palestinians believe that the Israeli commitment to stop the annexation of West Bank is deceptive, with plans to claim sovereignty over the entire West Bank by cutting up the dream of Palestinian state.

## **3. How have the other nations reacted to this deal?**

Bahrain and Oman are in favour of the deal. Saudi Arabia has maintained silence so far, but Saudi Arabia's King Salman told the U.S. President Donald Trump that the kingdom was eager to achieve a fair and permanent solution to the Palestinian issue. It will also now allow flights from all the countries to cross its skies to reach the UAE. India and China have welcomed the agreement with pleasure. Iran and its allies- in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon, the Hezbollah in Lebanon and Houthis in Yemen have condemned this agreement along with Turkey and Pakistan.





## 4. What facilitated this move?

It's the Iran factor that has facilitated the agreement. Iran's rising hegemony may have urged Gulf Arab's to back the deal, aiming to alienate Iran. The Israel-UAE achievement could be an artful play by Trump for the upcoming Presidential elections, by getting nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

## 5. What is on India's plate with respect to the deal?

India's geopolitical interests are always in close alignment with the Arab countries i.e Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman. India has growing trades ties with the Middle East. India's active support for the deal can be a progressive step towards its Middle East engagement.



# Ruia Buzz

मिहिर देसाई | TYBA  
अनिकेत चव्हाण | TYBA  
4 minutes read



यंदाचा झी नाट्य गौरव पुरस्कार सोहळा रुईयासाठी खासंच म्हणावा लागेल. यावेळी आपल्या महाविद्यालयाच्या “एकादशावतार” या नाटकामधल्या श्रीनाथ म्हात्रेला सर्वोत्कृष्ट सहाय्यक अभिनेता (प्रायोगिक) हे पारितोषिक मिळाले आहे. आज आपण श्रीनाथशी मनमोकळ्या गप्पा मारणार आहोत.. सर्वप्रथम हार्दिक अभिनंदन!



**तुला झी नाट्य गौरव पुरस्कार मिळाला आहे हे कळल्यावर तुझी पहिली प्रतिक्रिया काय होती?**

हे अविश्वसनीय होतं. कुणीतरी आपली मस्करी करत आहे असंच वाटलं. पण काही वेळाने समजलं की हे खरं आहे. कोणतेही बक्षीस असो किंवा पारितोषिक, मी ते माझ्या कामाची मला मिळाली दाद समजतो. पण तो आनंद क्षणिक असतो. खरंतर मला



प्रयोग झाल्यानंतर प्रेक्षकांनी केलेल्या कौतुकात प्रचंड आनंद मिळतो.

## वयाच्या कुठल्या टप्प्यात तुला अभिनय क्षेत्र खुणावू लागले?

लहानपणापासून मी शास्त्रीय संगीताचे शिक्षण घेतले. पण रुईयात येण्यापूर्वी अभिनय केला नव्हता. मी १२वी पर्यंत विज्ञान शाखेत शिक्षलो. पण त्यानंतर मी पूर्ण वेळ संगीताला देण्याचा निर्णय घेऊन त्या दृष्टीने रुईयामध्ये प्रवेश घेतला. त्यानंतर नाट्यवलयमुळे मला एक वेगळी दिशा मिळाली. मी रुईयामध्ये पहिल्यांदा “लैला ऑन द रॉक्स” साठी संगीत केले आणि त्याच्या दुसऱ्याच वर्षी आयुष्यात पहिल्यांदा “गर्दिश” या नाटकात अभिनय केला. त्यामुळे अभिनयाची सुरुवात रुईयाच्या रंगमंचापासूनच झाली.

## रुईया नाट्यवलय आणि रुईयाच्या नाट्यसंस्कृतीबद्दल आमच्या वाचकांना तू काय सांगू इच्छितोस?

आपल्या महाविद्यालयाच्या नाट्यसंस्कृतीला अनेक पिढ्यांचा वारसा आहे. आजचे “रुईया नाट्यवलय” म्हणजेच आधीचे “रुईया ड्रॅमॅटिक्स सर्कल”. अनेक नामवंत कलाकार या संस्थेने घडवले. अनेक दिग्गज कलाकार आमची तालीम व प्रयोग बघायला येतात. आम्हाला मार्गदर्शन करतात. जो कुणी या परिवाराचा सदस्य होतो त्याची नाळ या परिवाराशी कायमची जोडली जाते. मनीष हाटे सरांसारखे प्रमुख आणि कधीही मदतीला उभे राहणारे सिनियर्स ही आमची खरी ताकद आहे.

तू राहतोस “चौक” या ठिकाणी. पनवेलपासूनही खूप आत आहे हे ठिकाण. तर इतक्या लांब



## राहूनसुद्धा तू कसं काय हे सर्व शक्य केलंस?

नाटकाच्या आणि जिथे आम्ही तालीम करतो त्या वास्तूच्या ओढीमुळे हा लांबलचक प्रवास खूप छोटा वाटतो. अनेकवेळा रात्री घरी पोहोचायला मला खूप उशीर व्हायचा. कधीकधी पनवेलहून शेवटची बस सुटली तर वेळप्रसंगी रात्री २ -३ वाजेपर्यंत गाडी मिळत नसे. पण त्या काळात माझा नाट्यवलयचा परिवार माझ्या पाठीशी खंबीरपणे उभा राहिला. कधी खूपच उशीर झाला तर ते मला त्यांच्या घरी हट्टाने न्यायचे. नंतर मी जेव्हा माझ्या घरापासून लांब गोरगावात राहायला आलो तेव्हा हेच मित्र मी बाहेरच खाऊ नये म्हणून त्यांचे डबे मला खायला द्यायचे. आजही मला हे सगळं आठवलं की खूप भरून येतं. मी कायम त्या सर्वांचा ऋणी राहीन.



“एकादशावतार”मध्ये ‘कीर्तनकार’ आणि ‘नारदमुनी’ या दोन भूमिका करणं किती अवघड होतं?

खरंतर यासाठी आमच्या कार्यशाळा झाल्या होत्या. त्यामध्ये दिग्दर्शकांनी प्रत्येक ओळीवर माझा अभ्यास करून घेतला होता. त्यामुळे यामध्ये माझं एकट्याचं श्रेय नसून, ते संपूर्ण टीमचं आहे. या दोन भूमिका वेगळ्या असताना त्या साकारण्यातच एक वेगळी मज्जा आहे.





आपल्याकडे अनेक असे विद्यार्थी आहेत ज्यांना  
'नाट्यवलय' परिवाराचा भाग व्हायचं आहे. त्यांना  
तू काय संदेश देशील?

दरवर्षी अनेक मुलं ऑडिशन देतात. त्यातल्या काहींची निवडही  
होते. येतानाच कुठेतरी या मुलांच्या मनात असतं की  
नाट्यवलयमध्ये गेल्यावर लगेच आपल्याला नाटकात महत्त्वाची  
भूमिका साकारायला दिली जाईल. अनेक मुलं पहिल्याच वर्षी  
नाट्यवलय सोडतात कारण त्यांना हवी असलेली भूमिका मिळत  
नाही. अशाने नंतर चालून येणाऱ्या अनेक मोठ्या सांध्यांना ते  
मुकतात. एका रात्रीत अचानक अशी मोठी संधी मिळत नाही.  
कित्येक मुलं अशीही असतात ज्यांना पहिली २-३ वर्ष कोणतीच  
प्रमुख भूमिका साकारायला मिळत नाही. पण तरीही ते इतरांचं  
बघून बघून अनेक गोष्टी आत्मसात करत असतात. या गोष्टींचा  
नकळत त्यांना नंतर फायदा होतो. नाट्यवलयसाठी तुमच्यात  
“मेहनत” आणि “चिकाटी” असण्याची गरज आहे.



# Safarnama & Careerwise



Do you love travelling to different places? Are you craving the outdoors in this lockdown period? If you are a travel enthusiast, here we are to help you with a career in the Tourism industry. We also explore how the industry has undergone changes in the last few months.

This month Career Wise and Safarnama collaborated to interview Mr. Venkatesan Dhattareyan, the Regional Director (West & Central Region) of India Tourism – Mumbai.

**Here is a brief introduction about him:**

Mr. Venkatesan Dhattareyan, Regional Director / Deputy Director General,  
The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has been in the organization since 1991 as a tourist information officer. He has been engaged in Destination Marketing since 2004 with an active role in the North and South American markets. His speciality is marketing and developing niche tourism products. His previous positions in the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India included handling International Cooperation, Information Technology, Publicity and Niche Tourism. He has also coordinated and organized international and domestic events designed to develop tourism and promote Indian culture. He is



also a core team member of Incredible India. The primary responsibility of this position was the development and marketing of India as a destination in the USA, Canada, South America, the Caribbean and Mexico.

In his present capacity as Regional Director, Mr. Venkatesan handles matters relating to implementation of Government of India programs and policies for promotion of tourism in the Western & Central region in coordination with State Tourism Departments & stakeholders.

***Q. The ongoing pandemic has hit the tourism industry hard. What are some of the new initiatives that our tourism board plans on launching with the hope of recovering from the lockdown?***

**Reply:** The immediate need is to infuse confidence amongst travellers. For this it is necessary to have a strong safety and hygiene standard that is clearly visible to the public. People will travel to a destination only if they have proof that the place they are visiting, eating and staying is absolutely virus-free. Detailed operational guidelines for Covid safety and hygiene have been prepared in order to create awareness, training and assessment of compliance of the guidelines. The program is aimed at building the capacity of the hospitality industry particularly small and medium units to restart and grow their business.





The Ministry had launched **the Dekho Apna Desh(DAD)** initiative in January 2020. DAD is promoted extensively on social media accounts and websites of the Ministry and by Domestic India Tourism offices. Under this initiative, the Ministry carries out a series of webinars showcasing the diverse culture, heritage, destinations and tourism products of the country. To create mass awareness, the Ministry has also launched an online pledge and Quiz on DAD on [MyGov.in](https://mygov.in) platform.

The Ministry has focused on domestic tourism through a number of innovative steps like promotion of products, festivals, cuisines etc. of the country on its social media handles. It is also organizing activities to promote the concept of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat. It has commissioned aerial photography of several cities during the lockdown to promote these destinations. Similarly, the last mile connectivity is being targeted by viability gap funding through RCS-UDAN and discussions with the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) regarding improving road connectivity to important tourist destinations.



***Q. India Tourism already had many ongoing projects, like Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat, before India went under lockdown. How have you managed to continue with them in this new digital era? What are some new digital initiatives taken by the Ministry?***

**Reply:** The ministry has come up with a detailed strategy to utilize technology to the fullest extent to overcome the setback created by the pandemic.

Incredible India digital platform, in collaboration with Google, features a variety of 360-degree walk-throughs and stories for prominent tourist attractions across the country. The content is provisioned on major tourist destination pages within the Incredible India website. These embedded walk-throughs provide an engaging experience to the viewer by providing them with immersive 360-degree photos. 360-degree walk-throughs have also been provisioned for prominent World Heritage Sites in India.

Digital media will be utilized fully to promote and spread awareness about the tourist destinations and activities and involve people to prepare them for their visits when the situation becomes normal. Incredible India Web Portal and Mobile App is further being enriched with content and tourist friendly features offering a high degree of personalization.

The Ministry of Tourism has launched the Incredible



India Tourist Facilitator (IITF) Certification Programme – a digital initiative that aims at creating an Online learning platform with the objective of creating a pool of well trained and professional Tourist Facilitators across the country. This will help in the creation of employment at the local level and even in the remote areas of the country having tourism potential.

***Q. Once everything starts going back to normal, what are some of the changes that we can expect in the Tourism industry in terms or policies and new emerging types of tourism?***

**Reply:** People will start exploring their neighbourhood attractions through self-drive holidays. Day trips and weekend travel will be the first to resume. Even State Governments are encouraging people of their respective states to travel and explore their own state.

As we all know, Safety and Hygiene will be the primary concern of people while planning their travel. They will be mindful about social distancing, minimum contact with various touch points be it airport or hotels .

This change has taught the tourism industry the need to enable training, educate and develop programs for its employees to help them to innovate, organize so as to pioneer a new and better model of the tourism business which in the future

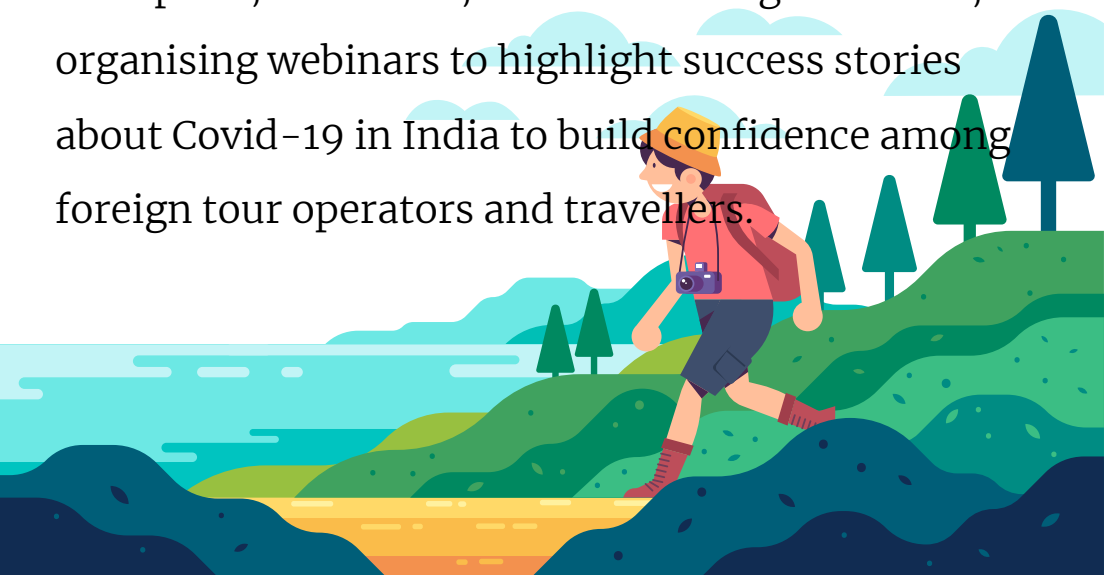


will be able to sustain any crisis.

***Q. What are the impacts of the lockdown that the Tourism Industry of India will face during the next couple of years in terms of numbers i.e. foreign tourist arrivals, contribution to GDP, contribution to the employment sector?***

**Reply :** No formal study has been instituted for assessment of the impact on the tourism sector and job losses. However, several rounds of discussions and brainstorming sessions with industry stakeholders indicate massive loss of revenue and jobs. In view of the highly unorganised nature of the tourism sector, the impact in numerical terms can only be ascertained in due course. **The contribution of tourism in the gross domestic product (GDP) and jobs in 2018-19 was 5% and 12.95%, respectively.**

The ministry of tourism through the India Tourism Offices overseas proposes to undertake various promotional activities which include participation in travel fairs and exhibitions; advertising in the local print, electronic, outdoor and digital media; organising webinars to highlight success stories about Covid-19 in India to build confidence among foreign tour operators and travellers.





**Q. What aid does the government provide to the tourism industry? Are all the policies implemented well?**

**Reply :** The guidelines for offering financial assistance to stakeholders under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme are in the process of revision with the objective of enhancing the scope and reach of the Scheme.

Validity of approval or certifications of hotels and other accommodation units whose project approval / re-approval and classification / re-classification have expired / were likely to expire, has been extended upto 30th September, 2020.

Recognition of Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators by the Ministry of Tourism has been extended automatically by six months. Those who have submitted applications for recognition by the Ministry have been given provisional recognition for six months, pending completion of required procedures.

There are several positive spinoffs from the '**Atmanirbar Package**' too that have been explained in preceding questions.



***Q. One of Incredible India's digital initiatives is the Tourist Facilitator (IITF) Certification Programme. Please tell us more about the program and how to apply for it.***

**Reply:** Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has launched the Incredible India Tourist Facilitators (IITF) Certification Programme, a Pan-India online learning program that is open to all, subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria, and can be undertaken from anywhere in the country. The Programme aims at creating a pool of trained professionals for facilitating the visit of tourists at destinations across the country.

There are two categories of IITF Certification Programme i.e Basic & Advanced (Heritage & Adventure) with an optional specialization programme of fluency in spoken foreign language other than English.

The programme will help in enhancing the overall experience of the tourists, who would benefit from the knowledge of the local tourist facilitators and it will also help in creating employment opportunities even in the remotest parts of the country. The Website for enrolling for IITFC is [iitf.gov.in](http://iitf.gov.in)



***Q. What are some must-have qualities for someone to make a career in tourism and what jobs, according to you, should youth opt for in the Tourism Industry?***

**Reply:** Adaptability and innovation can help to keep this industry thriving. With the help of technology's silver lining, we've been able to keep the industry afloat. This time has given us an opportunity to reflect on the existing business models and question them and change them to be more accommodating to handle a crisis such as this.

Any tourism practitioner has to understand the needs of customers and suppliers in the 'New Normal' and change accordingly. Acquire new skills in adjuncts – health, safety and others. Acquire IT skills.

Responsible consumption and responsible tourism will become the norms for travel in the coming days. There is immense scope to become a social entrepreneur. The students can look at co-creating holidays with farmers and rural India. This way new wealth will be created and distributed. Create typical packages like do a weekend to a village, stay in farmland, in a mud house, pluck mangoes, buy fresh veggies, spend the weekend in nature. Students can work with Self Help Groups to create experiences.

The opportunities will be open up to those who are flexible and can innovate. The real failure is to give up or to let 'failure' defeat us.



***Q. More than 38 million people are said to have lost their jobs in the tourism sector this year. How long will it take to recover and how does the government plan to create more employment?***

**Reply:** The demand for travel across the world has gone flat. We should recognize this fact first. Travel and Tourism is a function of several factors and thus we are in a situation of standstill. India is the 'Unlock' phase now. Government of India announced Atmanirbhar Bharat package which is primarily targeting at rebooting the economy . Revival of economy is key for travel to start. The Atmanirbar package has provisions for collateral free automatic loan for businesses, Including MSMEs. The loan will have 4-year tenure and will have a 12-month moratorium. PF contribution of both employer and employee has been reduced to 10% each from the existing 12% each for all establishments. The definition of MSMEs has been more inclusive by doing away with the distinction of services and manufacturing MSME and introduction of the additional criteria of turnover. About 70% of the tourism units come under the category of MSMEs. A large segment of the tourism service providers are expected to be benefitted under these provisions.

***Q. How has digitization, (audio guides, Virtual Reality) and how will it in the future affect the jobs of tour guides? What new kind of training do our tour***





## *guides need?*

**Reply:** The tour guide is an important part of Tourism industry's ecosystem . The Guide is a resource for creating unforgettable holiday experiences. Yes, it's true that technology is also bringing in new challenges. As I have mentioned earlier innovation and adaptability will be key to survive. While tour guides have skills and experience to bring something to the holiday experience that cannot be obtained through a device we also have to accept the fact that technology is here to stay but will not be able to eliminate the tour guide. The device cannot assess the mood of the traveller; it is the tour guide who can motivate the visitor to walk a few extra steps to experience things that are beyond the places of interest or monuments. The device will never be able to know the group's interest or read faces or any hardships that they are experiencing while on tour.

Learning has to be a continuous process in any profession. This applies for the tour guides too. The world is changing at a fast pace and the tour guides need to keep abreast of these changes .



***Q. Our readers mainly consist of college students.***

***What message would you want to give them? How can we, millennials, help contribute to the development of tourism in India?***

**Reply:** Tourism will never die. Man is a social animal and food, shelter and mobility are his basic needs and travel and tourism is all about fulfilling these needs. Once the central Incomes of households are restored with the boost given to the economy through the 'Atmanirbar package', the demand for travel starting with domestic travel will get back to normal. The key is to keep patience. Nature is cyclical: What goes down comes up stronger and better.

Depression is good: World's best companies GE, Microsoft, Google, and Facebook were built during the depression. So you all as students have to remember these three very important points. And reflect on it when you are alone. Research on the internet. You will realize that what I am saying is true. You are entering the world like the way Bill Gates entered to create a Microsoft or Mark Zuckerberg entered to create a Facebook.

It is true. Depression is the time when the real value for money is paid for real value for products and services. This is when the real value is created. So feel privileged that you have such a great opportunity that I did not have.



## **Studying Tourism:**

There are several certificate, diploma, degree and post-graduation courses available in India for students aspiring to make a career in the travel industry.

### **IATA Certification and Diploma Course:**

International Air Transport Association (IATA) is a global trade association for the world's airlines. IATA sets standards for airport operations, ticket pricing for airlines and monitors health and safety. The organization collaborates with countries' airline associations to govern air transportation. They have a specially designed training programme to have upskilled employees in the Air Travel sector.

To earn an IATA Diploma, a student has to complete 4 courses within three years. These courses have a combination of required and elective courses.

Their training portfolio includes topics for airlines, airports, cargo operators, governments, ground service providers, travel agents, young professionals and more.

There are various travel institutes in Mumbai who have a license from IATA to educate and prepare students to acquire an IATA certification. Passing with good merit will allow you to get a job in the airline industry as a ticketing assistant, tour operator, operations executive, immigration



## **Diploma and Degree Courses for Tourism in India:**

There are several institutes that provide Diploma and Degree courses in India.

One of which is by the government's scheme – DDU KAUSHAL KENDRA. Our college has this cell which manages the three year Bachelor of Vocation in Tourism and Travel Management course. Along with Ruia, Jai Hind and HR have the same course. These courses provide a diploma at the end of the First Year, advanced diploma after Second Year and degree after finishing the Third Year. This gives students multiple exit points.

Another institute with undergraduate and postgraduate tourism courses in Mumbai is Garware Institute of Career Education and Development.

Apart from that many travel agencies have their own training centers and courses. For eg. Thomas Cook Center of Learning.

## **Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management:**

IITTM has seven campuses in India – Gwalior, Bodhgaya, Noida, Bhubaneswar, Nellore, Shillong, Goa.

It is currently running three Bachelor in Business Administrations (Tourism & Travel) programmes and two Masters in Business Administration (Tourism and Travel Management) Programmes. Apart from that, they have a tour guide training



programme too.

**Conclusion:** Travel takes you to miles. You can explore the beauty of the world and make a successful career too.

**Acknowledgement:**

Ruiaite Monthly is extremely grateful to the Regional Director for this interview. We value his insights and advice as well as all the information he provided us with regarding Tourism Board Operations.

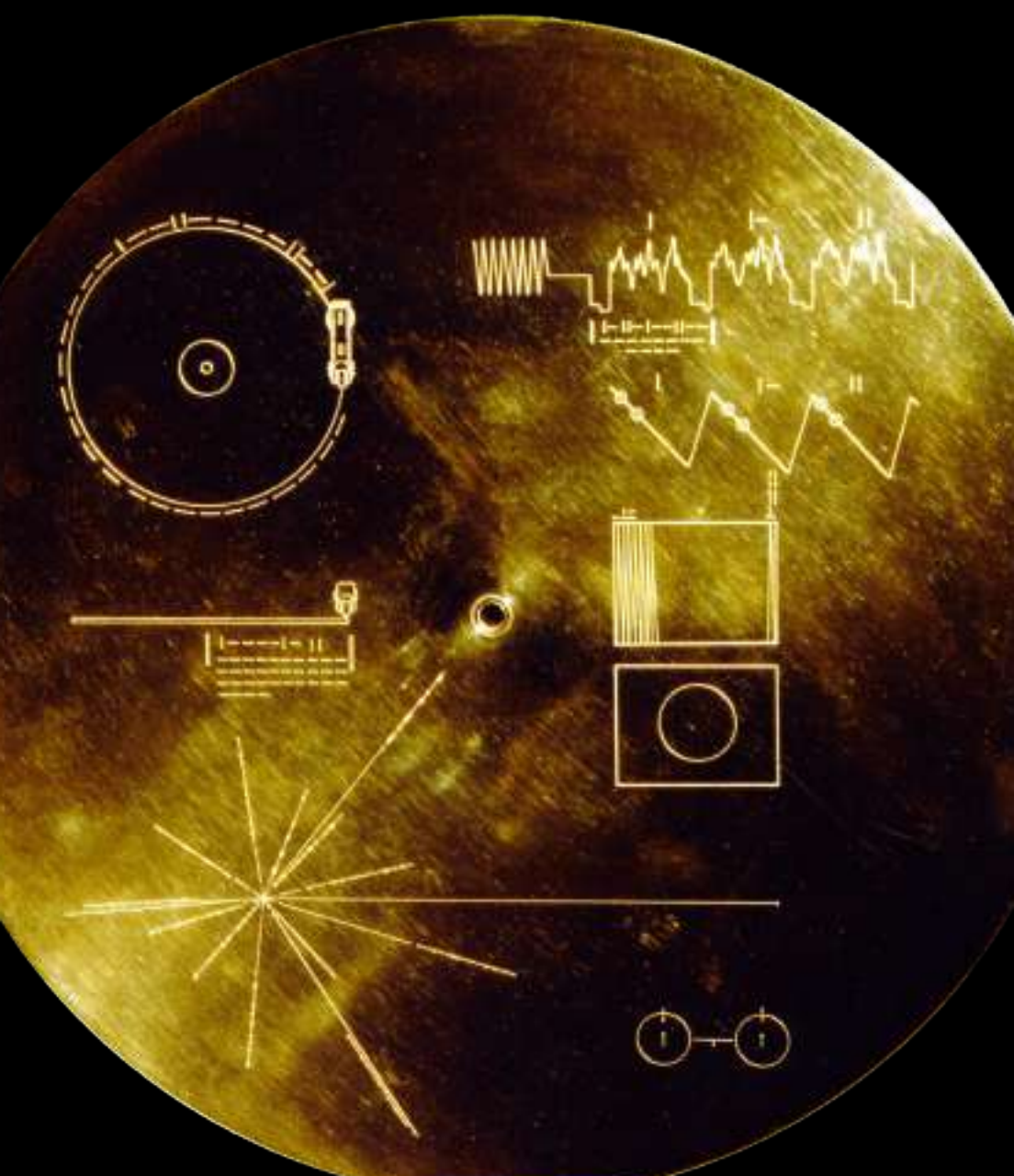
We also thank Ms. Malti Dutta, the Assistant Regional Director, for helping us organize this Interview.

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# BEHIND THE SCENES



# The Golden Record : A Chronicle of The Story of Earth.

**Tanaya Sheth** | TYBSc  
2 minutes to read

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The concept of “time capsules” is a fascinating one that has been passed over several centuries by many ancient cultures.

Many of us too, might have made one as a kid. A small box filled with some of our cherished childhood items, perhaps buried deep in the backyard of our native homes or at the back of our cupboards, beneath a pile of unused clothes; waiting to be opened a few years later.

Time capsules are an important cultural notion that store in them the most significant happenings of a particular period of time. When revisited after a few years, one can learn about the past as well as any historically significant incidents that may have taken place. These capsules also help detect a pattern of cultural development.

Now, imagine a time capsule representing Earth and the human race as a whole. It may surprise you, but it actually does exist.



Known as the Golden Record, these are two gold plated discs aboard Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 that were launched by NASA back in 1977. Each disc contains popular culture tracks, greetings, images and more that represent an amalgamation of life and culture on planet Earth.

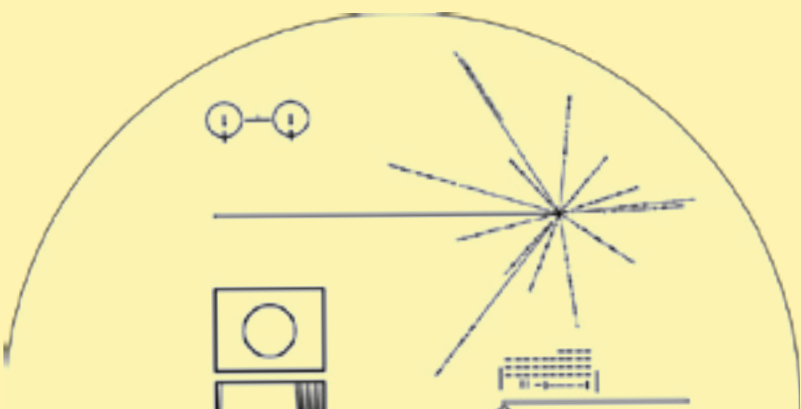
Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 set out on their journeys to study the outer solar system and the Golden Records set on them represent a time capsule of life on Earth should they encounter any extraterrestrial life capable enough to decode the discs and play the data loaded on them. Both these space probes are well beyond Earth, last detected in interstellar space more than a billion light years away from Earth.

Perhaps, in an unfathomably distant moment in the future, some extraterrestrial life-forms might come across **The Golden Record** and learn about planet Earth and it's wonderful inhabitants.

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#### References: -

1. [The Golden Hour](#)
2. [Voyager Golden Hour](#)



# Pictures that speak way more than a thousand words.

Janhavi Sathe | TYBA

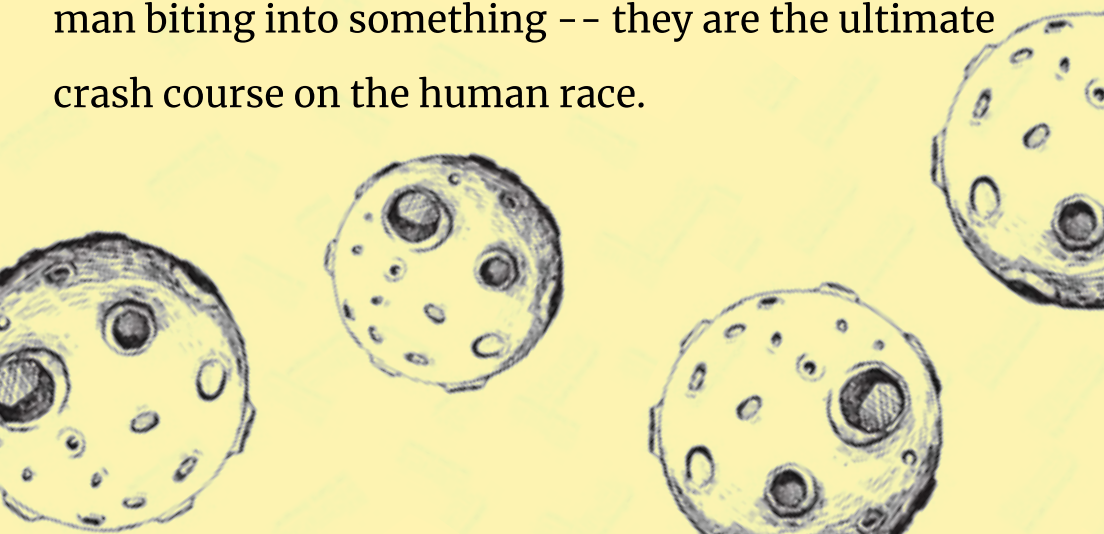
3 minutes to read

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A set of 116 images.

They act as the “watermark of our civilization,” according to Jon Lomberg, the man who helped put together these hundred-odd images that would come to represent all that is human, if extraterrestrial intelligence chanced upon the Golden Record aboard the Voyagers. In the case of such an event, for intelligent life to figure out how to access the Record will not be easy.

A range of images awaits civilisations other than our own: our solar location, human anatomy, evolution of vertebrates, children studying the globe, a child perched on his father’s shoulder, scenes of roads laid with cars. Much as some of these images would seem weird and unnaturally staged to us -- case in point, an image with a woman licking an ice-cream and a man biting into something -- they are the ultimate crash course on the human race.







*Demonstration of licking, eating and drinking*

*Credit: National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC)*

These images were strategically placed, the Record's makers had a paucity of space and were not equipped with modern technology. It would have, therefore, worked out better for them if one image held multiple implications. That is how, a photograph titled Sprinters, made the cut. It suggested a form of entertainment and fitness, the structure of the human body in flux, and was inclusive in terms of race.

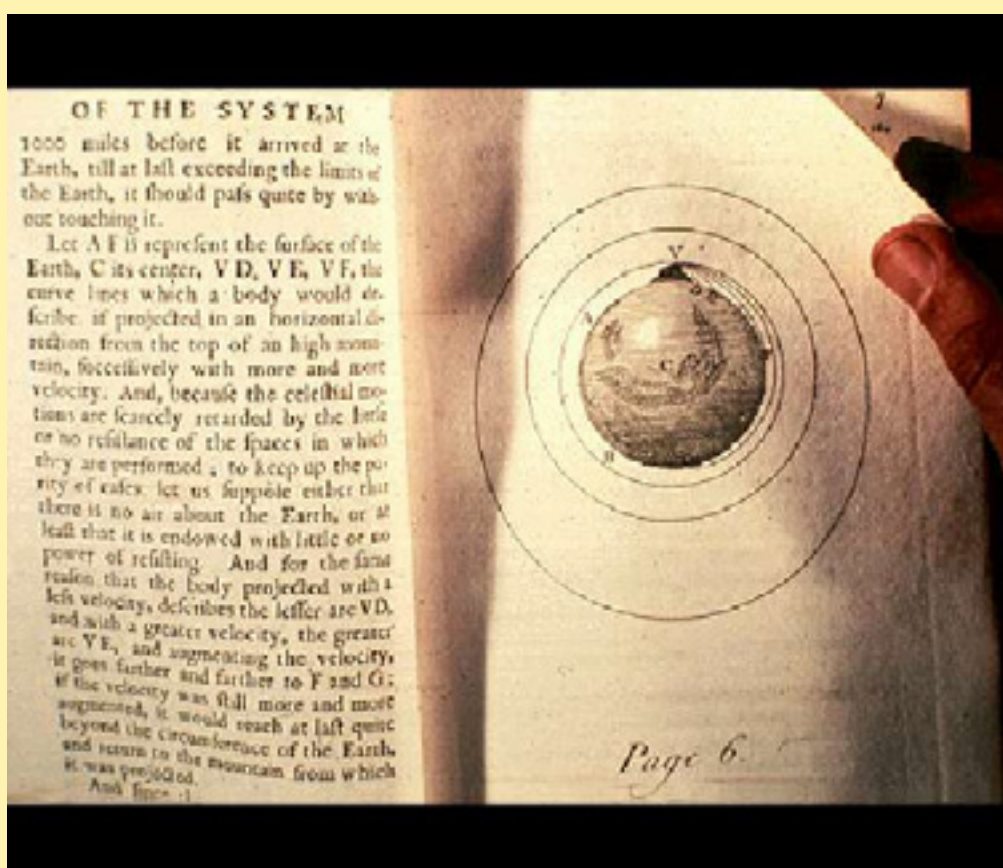


*Sprinters (Valerie Borzov of the U.S.S.R. in the lead)*

*Credit: History of the Olympics, Picturepoint, London.*



Images of tribesmen constructing huts, the United Nations building at New York in the day and night, made the cut in order to indicate the type of architecture common to the earth. However, when the makers wanted to select an image of monumental architecture, they had a wide plethora of cathedrals, mosques and temples to choose from. They chose a black-and-white photograph of the Taj Mahal instead, because it stood as an earthly testament of love, not religion. Another task in front of Carl Sagan's committee was to choose a page from a book, any book, that would signify our written language. They had all the world of literature to pick from; very aptly, they chose an excerpt from Isaac Newton's *System of the World*, which is the first text which explains the launching of an object in orbit.



*Page of Book (Newton, System of the World)*

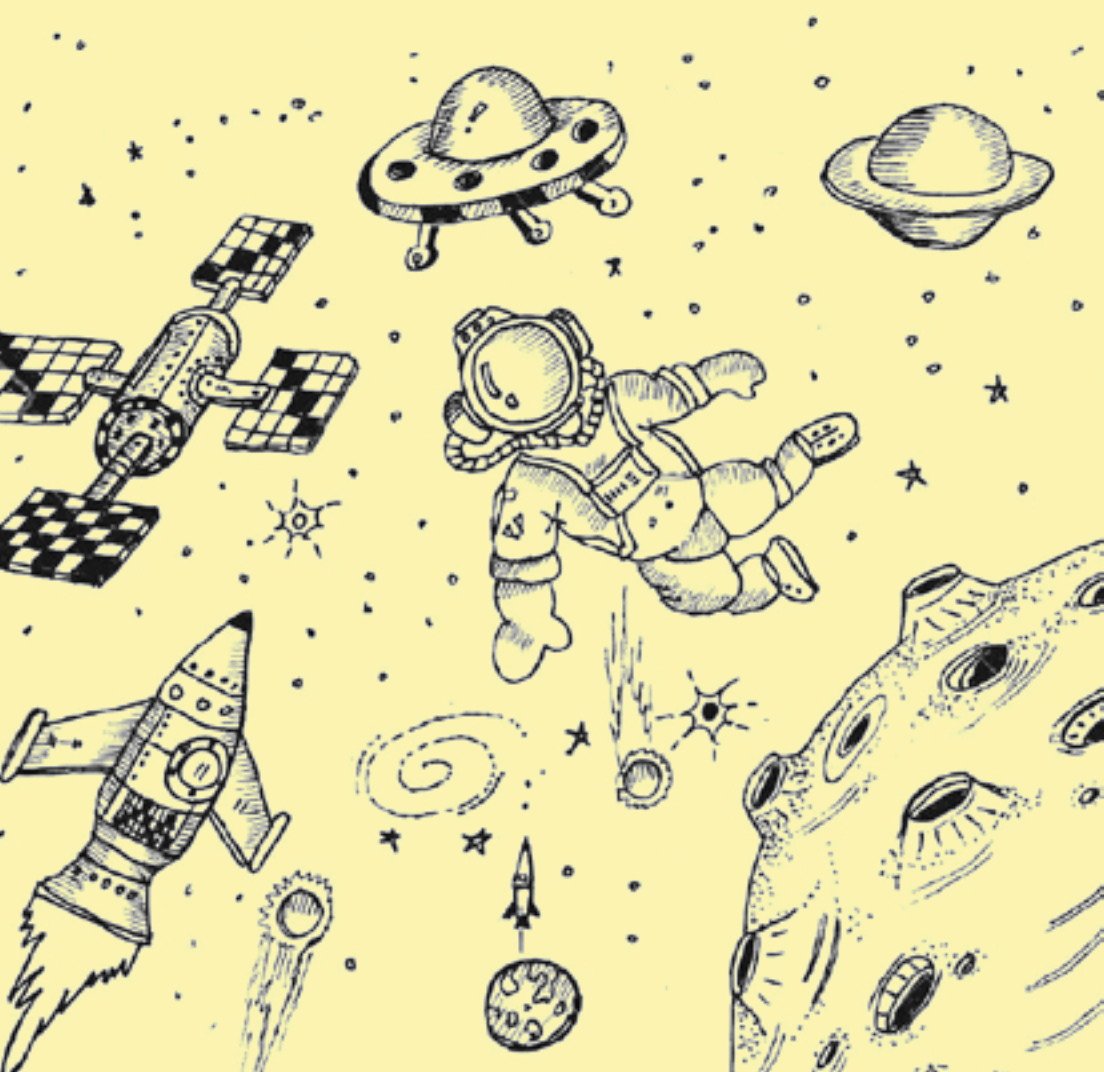
**Credit: National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC)**

Decades after the Voyagers departed from the earth, Timothy Ferris, one of the men and women who produced the Golden Record, said, “*It means a lot to have had your hand in something that is going to last a billion years... I recommend it to everybody. It is a healthy way of looking at the world.*”

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### References:-

1. What is on Voyager's Golden Record?
2. Decoding images from the Golden Records.
3. Images on the Golden Record.



# A Mixtape of Earth and Humanity.

**Malvika Bhardwaj** | SYBMM

2 minutes to read

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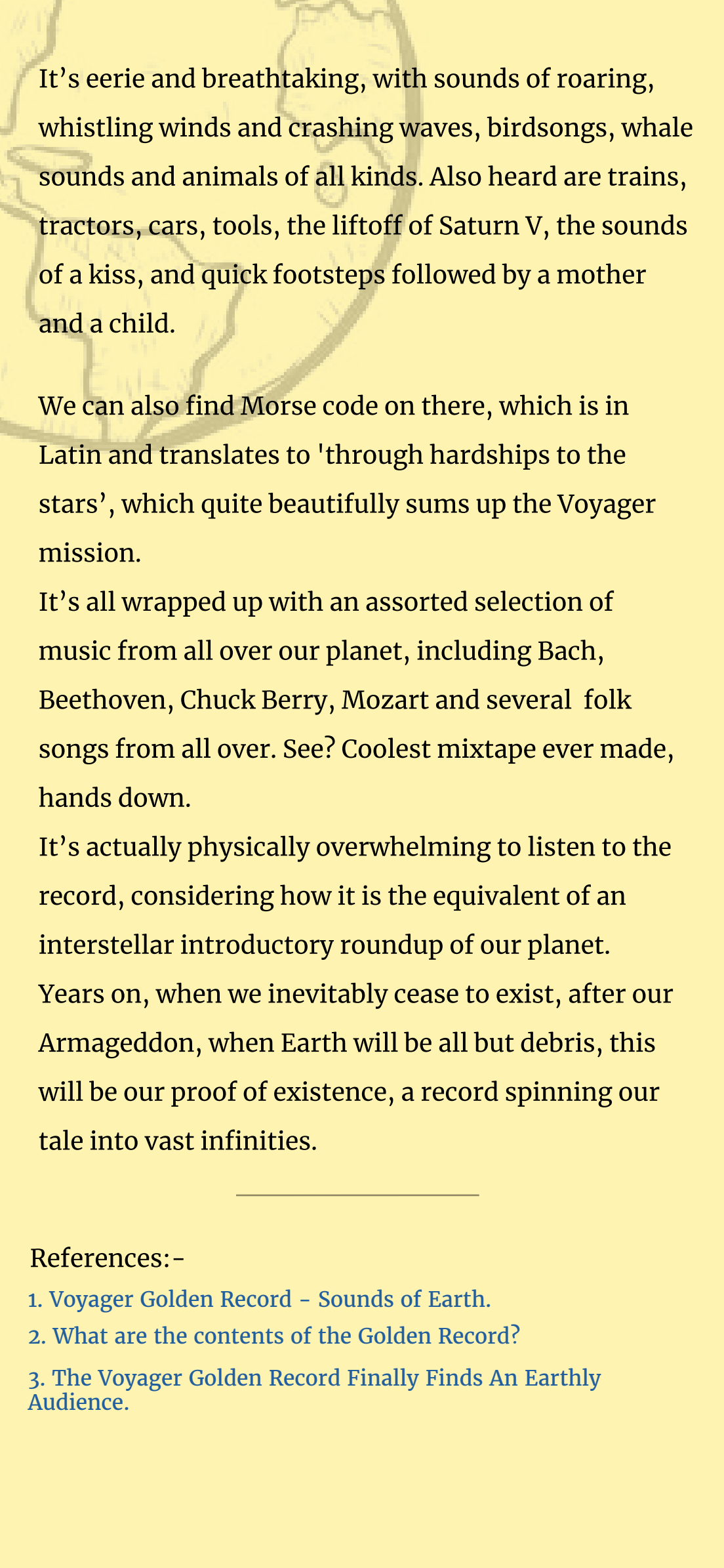
If you were to ask me, a week ago, what my favorite record is, I would probably go with the sophomore Nirvana album, or reasonably enough, Fleetwood Mac. Now though, my definitive answer is the whole and soul of the beauty that is the Golden Record.

The collection of the golden record, is a potpourri of sounds, an indie mix- tape of Earth itself.

The contents of the record were initially inaccessible to people but a kickstarter campaign in 2007, finally, made it available for our perusal, fittingly, on a golden vinyl.

The record starts off with a solid hello and greetings from the then-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kurt Waldheim. What follows are greetings in 55 languages, which is frankly, iconic.





It's eerie and breathtaking, with sounds of roaring, whistling winds and crashing waves, birdsongs, whale sounds and animals of all kinds. Also heard are trains, tractors, cars, tools, the liftoff of Saturn V, the sounds of a kiss, and quick footsteps followed by a mother and a child.

We can also find Morse code on there, which is in Latin and translates to 'through hardships to the stars', which quite beautifully sums up the Voyager mission.

It's all wrapped up with an assorted selection of music from all over our planet, including Bach, Beethoven, Chuck Berry, Mozart and several folk songs from all over. See? Coolest mixtape ever made, hands down.

It's actually physically overwhelming to listen to the record, considering how it is the equivalent of an interstellar introductory roundup of our planet.

Years on, when we inevitably cease to exist, after our Armageddon, when Earth will be all but debris, this will be our proof of existence, a record spinning our tale into vast infinities.

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#### References:-

1. [Voyager Golden Record – Sounds of Earth.](#)
2. [What are the contents of the Golden Record?](#)
3. [The Voyager Golden Record Finally Finds An Earthly Audience.](#)

# Decoding of the Golden Record

Hiya Shah | FYBA

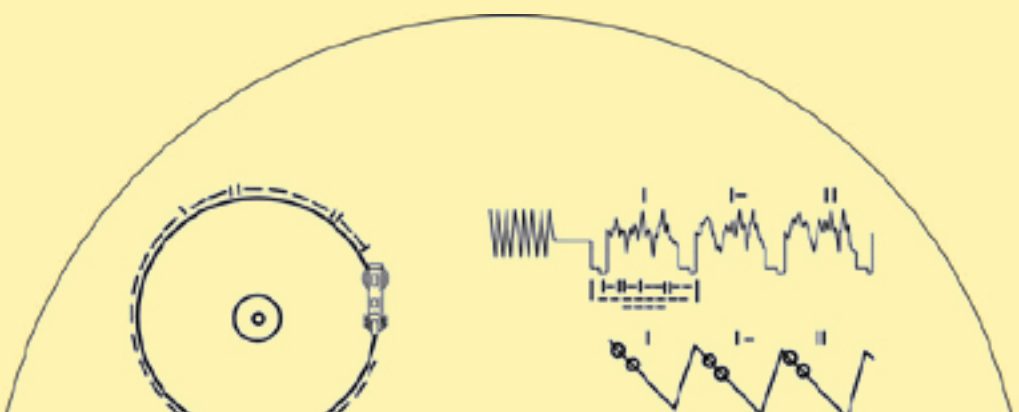
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The brilliant people who created the record, managed to design it in a way that they could include all the contents they wanted to and also make it comprehensible for whoever finds it.

If an extraterrestrial being ever comes across the golden record, the first thing they will notice is the cover of the golden record which comprises several unique symbols that conveniently explain the messages sent from Earth. The largest of the designs is the pulsar map which symbolizes the location of Earth in the wide universe.

To the bottom right of the discs, there is a diagram that depicts an atom of hydrogen, the most abundant gas in the universe. Once in every 10 million years, the electron contained in a hydrogen molecule revamps its direction of spin, hence making a tiny bit of energy. The hydrogen atom in the cover depicts a similar change. The 21-centimetre wavelength emitted is used by astronomers to map the galaxy and it is used as a constant for all other symbols in the record and this,





in a way is also helpful in decoding other record symbols, such as the total run time of the record which is 3229 seconds and the seconds for one round of the rotation which is 3.59 seconds. If the record is played at the given vitesse, all the sounds shall be quite audible and comprehensible.

On one side, the phonograph accommodates greetings in 55 languages, samples of music from around the world and the sounds of Mother Earth; on the other side, there's a rhythm which contains image data for all images.

To interpret the images, a few more figures are to be decoded. The basic idea of all further records is a thread of numbers that are arranged in a way that if interpreted correctly, construct a surface which is actually an image. Manuel Elizalde, an anthropologist, created a code to interpret these images. There are instructions on the disc to create a cathode ray tube to interpret these images.

For humans with advanced computers, the process is a lot easier. When the above mentioned code is run on a computer, the images can be seen.

There is an excellent video by Verge Science where the narrator quite comprehensively explains the entire process of decoding the record.

You can watch it here: -

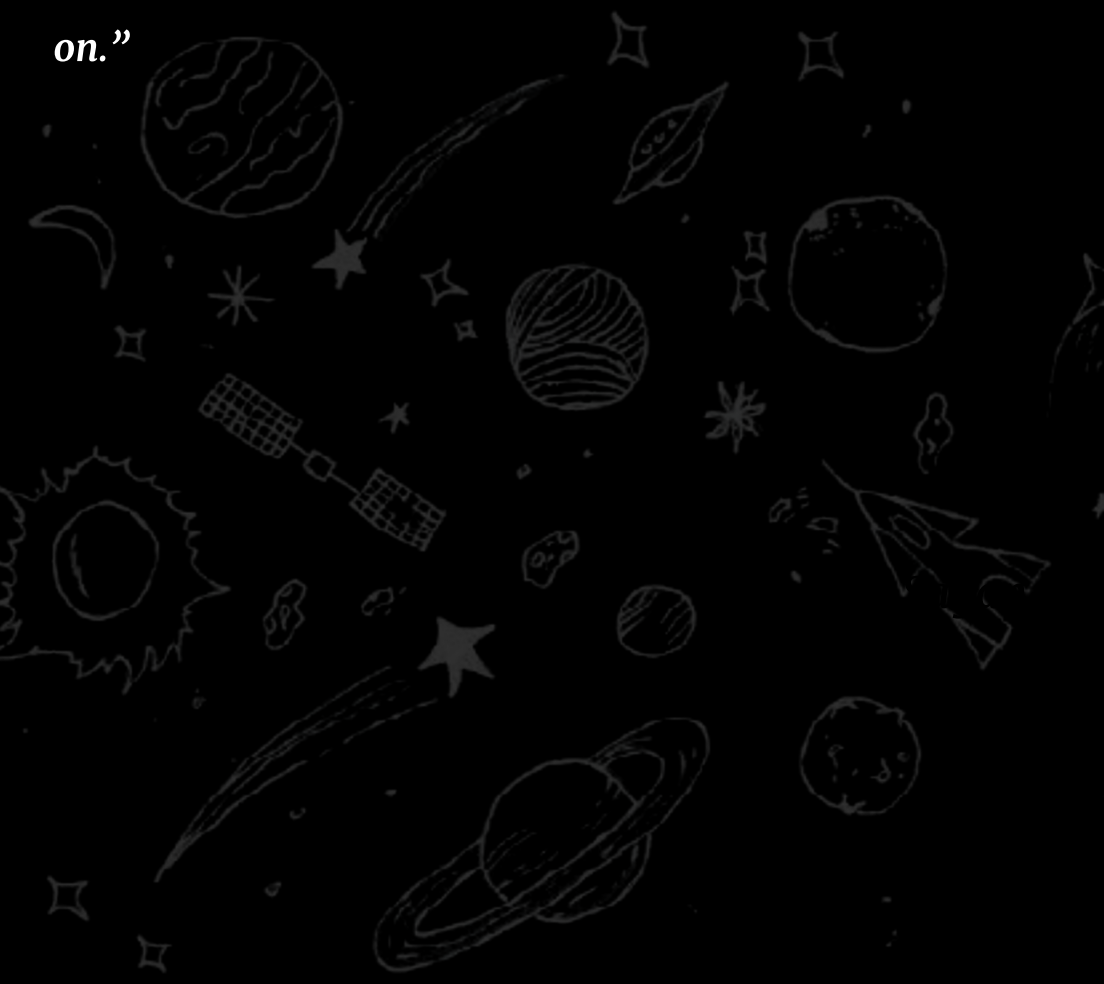
1. [We decoded NASA's messages to aliens by hand](#)

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*To infinity and beyond...*

In the time it took for you to read this column, **Voyager 1** and **Voyager 2**, each with one golden disc, an archive of the history and culture of our planet, traveled another 5000 kilometres on their respective paths, away from the Earth.

*“In five billion years, all human beings will have become extinct or evolved into other beings, none of our artifacts will have survived on Earth, the continents will have become unrecognizably altered or destroyed, and the evolution of the Sun will have burned the Earth to a crisp or reduced it to a whirl of atoms. Far from home, untouched by these remote events, the Voyagers, bearing the memories of a world that is no more, will fly on.”*



# Insight



**Myths can't be translated as they did in their ancient soil. We can only find our own meaning in our own time.**

- Margaret Atwood

It can be said that mythologies form the basis of all modern literature. Although they have an aspect of fantasy, the emotions and human relations they portray are found to be relevant even in modern times. These stories often talk about values, ethics and encouraging humanity. They show us the outcome of wrong decisions and help us analyse human behaviour.

Epics also make us realize that human beings are multi-faceted and that no one is completely good or completely bad.

Modern problems require modern solutions, goes the meme. However the solution to almost each of life's problems can be found in our epics- Ramayana and Mahabharata, which we have had the opportunity to watch during this lockdown period. The best thing about these mythological pieces of art is that every character is well-layered and plays a role in the climax of the story.

This month at Insight, we attempt character analysis and comparisons of some personalities and what makes them who they truly are.





# Arjuna and Karna

**Sanika Rajde** | SYBSc

4 minutes read

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Arjuna and Karna were both sons of Kunti-Mata, but Karna was not brought up as a prince. Despite the differences in their upbringings, they were both extremely intelligent and skilled warriors, possessing courage, strength, and righteous characters.

Arjuna was very disciplined and respectful towards his own said values and never delved into vices like gambling, which is a common practice in royal families. He was known for his right combination of physical and mental strength but was never too proud of his power. Karna fought against society to acquire skills that were not imparted to people of his caste and he was always thirsty for knowledge. Being a son of the sun god, he had a radiant personality.

Although Karna was never greedy, he lived for glory, and was willing to die for it. At that point, on





the battlefield, Karna knew that the Pandavas were his own brothers. But for him, the only thing that really mattered was to have the glory of ending a man's life who is believed to be the greatest Kshatriya ever – Arjuna. On the other hand, Arjuna never compared himself with Karna and had self-trust in his actions.

Karna not only defeated the four Pandava brothers (except for Arjuna), but also taunted each one of them. He wanted to have the generous reputation of defeating them without taking away their lives, as he had promised. Though Karna warily chose Duryodhana as his accomplice, (which cost him his life) he remained ethical towards this friendship till the end.

## **Krishna and Shakuni**

Krishna and Shakuni-mama were both sharp-minded people with expert tactics and skills in warfare and were known to be illusionists. Their sly manipulative powers helped them gain an upper hand in controlling the situation as per their motive. But Krishna surpassed all in terms of intelligence. When Shakuni stopped thinking, Krishna started.

Neither of them was very righteous and law-abiding and they often cheated to get the desired results. Krishna was never biased towards the Pandavas or Kauravas because it didn't matter to him as long as goodness prevailed.



On the other hand, Shakuni played against naive or good-hearted people who overlooked him whereas Krishna was ready to do wrong until the end result proved to be for the greater good of people's welfare. Both their methods were unjust and deceitful, but their intentions were what set them apart.

Before the war, Krishna had given the Kauravas his word that he would not fight. If he had fought then, he would be seen as a man who did not keep his word forever. Since, they already thought of him as Ranchor, a coward, a thief, another addition to this list didn't matter to him. He was ready to sacrifice his image for a virtuous outcome and those are the kind of commendable values we need to recall in Kalyug.

# Bhishma Pitamaha and Shri Krishna

**Srushti Shetty** | TYBA

4 minutes read

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One thing that is common between Pitamaha and Krishna, yet sets them apart is Dharma. Both individuals are praised for remaining true to their Dharma and following it in the best way possible. Bhishma, during his lifetime, faced many challenges but never broke his vow of celibacy or loyalty to the throne of Hastinapur. He, however, represents the older version of Dharma- the one



that gives traditions and long-followed rituals most importance- no matter its relevance. It is rigid -stays firm without considering the role of time, binds you and makes you helpless. When he gives up the rights of being the king, he also relinquishes his duties towards his subjects. Being the eldest member of the family, he could've taken the right decisions on many occasions. Instead, he stuck with his vow that was taken without considering various scenarios of the future. His Dharma valued promises made in the past more than duties required in the present.

Our dear Govinda, on the other hand, plays with words, conveys much more than he says, is known for being playful in serious situations and whose actions need to be fully trusted to be understood. Krishna's form of Dharma doesn't bind you, but rather sets you free. It tells you to perform your duties with responsibility without caring about its rewards and guides you to keep the welfare of society above your personal ideals so that your actions can benefit a larger section of people and restore Dharma.

This is the most important difference between Bhishma and Krishna that sets them apart and impacts their life in every way.

## **Kunti and Gandhari**

Although Draupadi is regarded as the most



important woman in Mahabharata, Kunti's role in Pandavas' lives cannot be sidelined. Bringing up five sons without their father was a herculean task and Kunti fulfilled it to the best of her abilities. The fact that the Kauravas, led by Duryodhana, repeatedly tried to eliminate the Pandavas would've been enough reason for Kunti to leave Hastinapur, but she showed immense courage and grit by not only raising her sons without fear, but also teaching them the best of values that were untouched by Kauravas' evils. She accompanied her sons when they were living in disguise and remained as their strength until the end. One guilt that she was always trapped in was Karna's true identity, but she never let her past affect the present.

Gandhari displayed exemplary courage when she chose to blindfold herself on marriage with Dhritarashtra. But even after this sacrifice, she did not play an important role in his decisions. She couldn't be an inspiration for her children, as they blindly followed the path shown by Shakuni. Even if she did try, she couldn't play the role of a queen in its true sense, and was always kept out of consideration in every decision taken on Hastinapur's behalf. Hence, in the midst of being a dutiful wife and mother, Gandhari lost her role as an individual in her own life.

She merely became a part of the games played by men around her and had to go through consequences of decisions she never made.



रामायणाचे खरे सौंदर्य हे कर्तव्यपालन आहे.

# राम-रावण

Sameeksha Dhalgade | FYBA

4 minutes read

“श्याम राम हा धर्मपरायण  
हा चक्रायुध श्रीनारायण  
जगदोत्पादक त्रिभुवनजीवन  
मानवी रामरूप त्याला।”-

(ग.दि.मा.)

असे अलौकिक चरित्र म्हणजे श्रीराम! माणसाने माणूस म्हणून आदर्श जीवन कसे जगावे, हे राम चरित्रातून समजते. धर्मनिष्ठा, कर्तव्यनिष्ठा, तेजस्विता अशा अनेक गुणांनी प्रभु श्रीरामांचे चरित्र विभूषित आहे. श्रीराम म्हणजे उत्साह, चैतन्य; म्हणूनच एखाद्या व्यक्तीला आपण भेटलो की राम-राम करतो; म्हणजेच एकमेकांतील चैतन्याला नमस्कार करतो. त्याचप्रमाणे श्रीराम म्हणजे गुणांची परिसीमा. जेव्हा श्रीरामांचा एक- एक गुण आपण अंगीकारण्याचा प्रयत्न करू तेव्हा खऱ्या अर्थाने तो श्रीरामांना नमस्कार ठरेल. आदर्श पुत्र, आदर्श बंधु, आदर्श मित्र, लोकोत्तर राजा तसेच आदर्श शत्रू अशा सर्व भूमिका लीलया पार पाडत श्रीरामांनी मानवतेचे प्रतिनिधित्व केलेले आहे. रामाच्या भव्यतेचे



वर्णन करताना मारीच म्हणाला होता की, “मित्र असावा तर रामासारखा आणि शत्रू असावा तर तो सुद्धा रामासारखाच”. एखाद्या व्यक्तीच्या दुर्गुणांचा द्वेष करावा त्या व्यक्तीचा नव्हे, ही शिकवण श्रीरामांकडून मिळते.

“साधु साधु वच वदती मुनिवर छेडू लागले वाद्ये किन्नर  
प्रमोद उसळे भूलोकावर सुरांचा महारिपु मेला।”- (ग. दि. मा.)

असा हा सुरांचा महारिपु रावण! रावणवध म्हणजे असत्यावर मिळवलेला सत्याचा विजय. मुळातच रावण हा अत्यंत बुद्धिशाली, तेजस्वी, शूर होता. इंद्रासन जिंकलेला असा हा पराक्रमी रावण त्याच्या अहंकारामुळे जिवंत पशुतेचा प्रतिनिधी बनला. प्रभु श्रीराम हे विश्वात्मवाद शिकवितात, म्हणजेच ‘जसा मी आहे तसाच दुसराही परंतु रावण हा केवळ व्यक्तिवादी होता. मी आणि फक्त मीच हा अहंकार माणसाचे जीवन अधःपतित करतो. यामुळेच पराक्रमी, शूरवीर व तपस्वी असूनही रावणाचा वध झाला.

माणसाने मन-बुद्धीच्या आसनावर प्रभु श्रीरामांना अधिष्ठित करून सात्विक जीवन जगले पाहिजे. श्रीरामांच्या मार्गाने गेलो तर विजयश्री नक्कीच आहे आणि रावणाच्या मार्गाने गेलो तर केवळ अधोगती!

## सीता-मंदोदरी

अहल्या द्रौपदी सीता तारा मन्दोदरी तथा ।  
पंचकन्यां स्मरेन्नित्यं महापातकनाशनम् ॥

हा श्लोक भारतीय संस्कृतीतील भव्य आणि तेजस्वी स्त्रीशक्तीला नमस्कार करणारा आहे. प्रतिकूल परिस्थितीतही आपल्या विचारांवर, धर्मनिष्ठेवर कायम राहून हिंमतीने परिस्थितीशी सामना करण्याची शिकवण या स्त्री-चरित्रांतून मिळते.

सीता म्हणजे गुण-सौंदर्याचा सर्वोत्कृष्ट मिलाप. सीता अतिशय





प्रगल्भ बुद्धीची होती, शास्त्रांमध्ये निपुण होती. शीलसंपन्न, व्यवहारकुशल पातिव्रत्य, कर्तव्यनिष्ठ, धर्मनिष्ठ, सौंदर्यवती अशा अनेक गुणांनी फुललेलं हे चरित्र पुष्प म्हणजे सीता. जेव्हा राम वनवासात जाण्यास निघतात तेव्हा वसिष्ठ विश्वासाने सांगतात की सीता राज्यकारभार सांभाळेल. परंतु सीतेने स्वतःचे व्यक्तित्व रामामध्ये विलीन केलेले होते. त्यामुळेच तेव्हा सीतेने बुद्धिकौशल्याने 'जेथे राघव तेथे सीता' असे उत्तर दिले व रामासोबत वनात जायला तयार झाली. 'रामाचा धर्म तो माझा धर्म', असे म्हणत सीतेने रामामध्ये एकरूप होऊन तल्लीनतेने प्रभुभक्ती केली आणि भारतीय नारी पुढे वीरतेचा, शीलसंपन्नतेचा आदर्श ठेवला.

रामभक्तीत तल्लीन होणारे आणखी एक तेजस्वी, मंगल चरित्र म्हणजे मंदोदरी! अहंकारी, राक्षसी वृत्ती अशा रावणाची पत्नी असून सुद्धा मंदोदरीने प्रभु भक्तीमध्येच खरे धन्यत्व आहे हे समजले होते. कुमार्गाने जाऊ पाहणाऱ्या आपल्या पतीला सन्मार्गाकडे वळविण्याचा वारंवार प्रयत्न मंदोदरी करत होती, परंतु रावणाच्या ते लक्षात येत नव्हते. रावणाच्या सानिध्यात असून सुद्धा मंदोदरीने तिच्यातील सात्विकता फुलविली होती. मंदोदरीसाठी कमल पुष्पाची उपमा यथार्थ ठरते. कमळाचे फूल जसे चिखलात फुलून देखील स्वतः चिखलापासून निर्लेप राहते त्याप्रमाणे मंदोदरी अधर्माच्या राज्यातही धर्माने, प्रभु भक्तीने तेजस्वी जीवन जगली. सज्जनांच्या सानिध्यात राहून प्रभु भक्ती करत सात्विक जीवन जगणे हे साहजिकच आहे ; परंतु दुर्जन, पशुतुल्य जीवन जगणाऱ्यांमध्ये राहूनही सात्विकता खुलवणे हे मंदोदरीचे वैशिष्ट्य आहे.

सीता व मंदोदरी या दोघींनीही आपापल्या धर्माचे पालन करत जीवनाचे ध्येय गाठले आहे आणि आपल्यापुढे उत्तम जीवनाचा आदर्श ठेवला आहे.





OP-ED



# CoNspiRaCy tHeoRieS, PeOplE and oPiNionS

We live in a world that loves to stretch and pull issues to tangents unknown and unthought of. So, revel in the range of opinions that exist about the most discussed conspiracy theories of 2020.

## 1. Jeffrey Epstein's Death

Vrushali Gadkari | SYBA  
3 minutes read

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### 'JEFFREY EPSTEIN DIDN'T KILL HIMSELF'

Don't these words seem familiar? That's because of the countless memes that spread like wildfire all over the internet. What birthed these memes was the conspiracy theories surrounding Jeffrey Epstein's death, a millionaire and a convicted sex offender. The cause stated for his death was suicide. *However, as per a Rassmussen poll conducted after his death, only 29% of the adults in the USA believed the cause to be suicide, whereas a whopping 42% believed him to be murdered, while 29% were undecided.* So why did people believe he was murdered?

Epstein who died on 10th August had attempted suicide in late July, due to which he was placed on a suicide watch. However, just six days later he



was taken off it and transferred to a special housing unit. There, he was to have a cellmate and be checked on by guards every thirty minutes. However, several odd incidents occurred right before his death.

One, on August 9, his cellmate was transferred out, and no other cellmate was brought in. Two, the guards on duty failed to fulfil their requirement of checking on him every thirty minutes, coincidentally, the very night he died. Three, the cameras covering Epstein's cell conveniently crashed resulting in no footage of his death. Moreover, discrepancies were found by forensic pathologist Michael Baden hired by Epstein's lawyers in the autopsy details. As per Michael Baden, the details of his death were more consistent with "death by strangulation."

This was enough for netizens to jump onto the internet and get #ClintonBodyCount and the countering #TrumpBodyCount trending. *Epstein's death is believed to be a cover up of the crimes of some very powerful persons with whom Epstein had formerly been associated and against whom he was set to testify.*

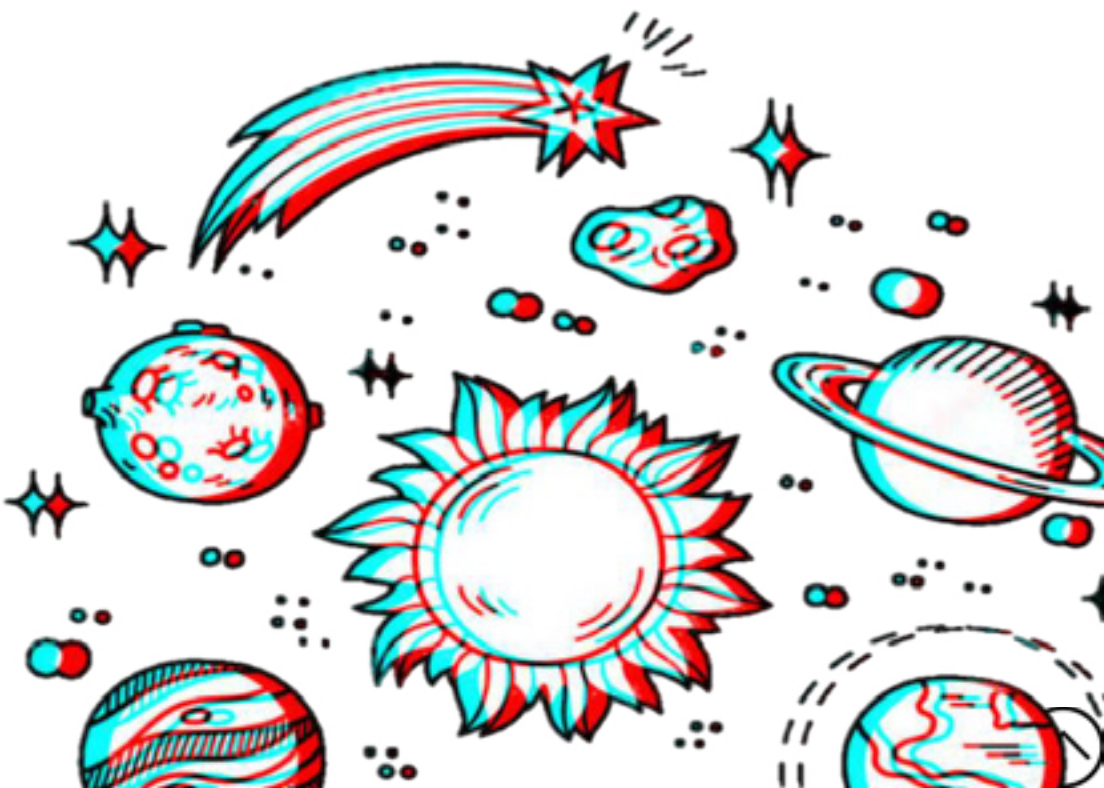
Epstein was known to have been friends with several influential persons. This included former US President Bill Clinton, incumbent President





Donald Trump and Prince Andrew, Duke of York and these names were dragged into the conspiracy theories.

In conclusion, we neither refute nor support any of the conspiracy theories. You, the reader gets to decide and Jeffrey Epstein Didn't Kill Himself.





## 2. Who was Jack the Ripper

Hritvi Acharya | SYJC  
3 minutes read

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‘How many people know who can name every serial killer who ever existed in a row, put them in chronological order beginning with Jack the Ripper...’(Must be the Ganja-Eminem)

And that’s Eminem for you and me folks! This is how I got to know about the cunning and stealthy man, the first of his kind, Jack the Ripper.

Jack the Ripper is said to be one of the first serial killers of all time. 1888, Whitechapel district, London was where he claimed his first victim. Also thought of as a doctor, he was guilty of murdering a total of 5 prostitutes in very gruesome ways: by removing their organs and body parts.

Now, some background on the district: Whitechapel was a poor district, where crimes and poverty were already on the rise. Most of the



women worked as prostitutes as they had no other option to earn money.

When the murders began, many women were forced to stay at home or return home very early. Which brings us to our first theory by a YouTube viewer: *What if Jack the Ripper was actually Jill the Ripper?* Since everyone was so busy finding a short man with a moustache, they could have overseen the fact that the serial killer could have very well been a short midwife or prostitute reducing competition in her field. In addition, the findings of the fifth murder revealed a piece of cloth which was usually worn by midwives at the time was found near the location.

There is one more theory which suggests that *Jack the Ripper was actually more than one person, and was*



*more of a gang of similar looking people going about committing the murders, hence making it so difficult for everyone to get hold of any single person. But to be frank, how many 5-foot-tall guys did the district have that none of them could be found out?*

Personally speaking, I would go with the first YouTube viewer and say that Jack Ripper was actually Jill the Ripper. It makes way more sense for a lady, specifically a midwife, to exactly know the female anatomy and extract wombs. The world might not have had its first female US president yet, but its first legendary serial killer might already have added a dubious feather to womankind's cap.



# 3. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Mysterious Death

Aakanksha Majumder | TYBA

3 minutes read



‘Netaji’ Subhash Chandra Bose was an Indian freedom fighter and one of the most prominent contributors towards India’s freedom. However, his actions were often controversial -- a prominent example being his attempt during World War 2 to rid India of British rule with the help of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

There are several theories that are discussed and believed by people -- that he either died due to third degree burns on 18th August 1945 after his overloaded plane crashed in Taiwan or *that it was a ploy set up by Netaji himself, to hoodwink Allied forces and reach a safe place to continue his struggle.*

*Another says that Netaji became a recluse and settled*



*down in north India. And another insists that he was betrayed by Nehru and Gandhi and imprisoned in a Soviet gulag. (Sumeru Roy Chaudhary, The Wire, 23 Jan 2020)*

Scholars and biographies believe and state respectively that Netaji faced his demise in Taiwan. His daughter, Anita Bose Pfaff, has stated that she believes the same unless proven otherwise. She has applauded Narendra Modi's efforts in uncovering the mystery surrounding her father's death by declassifying files and has further urged him to collaborate with the Japanese government by declassifying their files and for once and for all get a conclusive decision by DNA testing Netaji's ashes of Renkoji Temple in Japan.

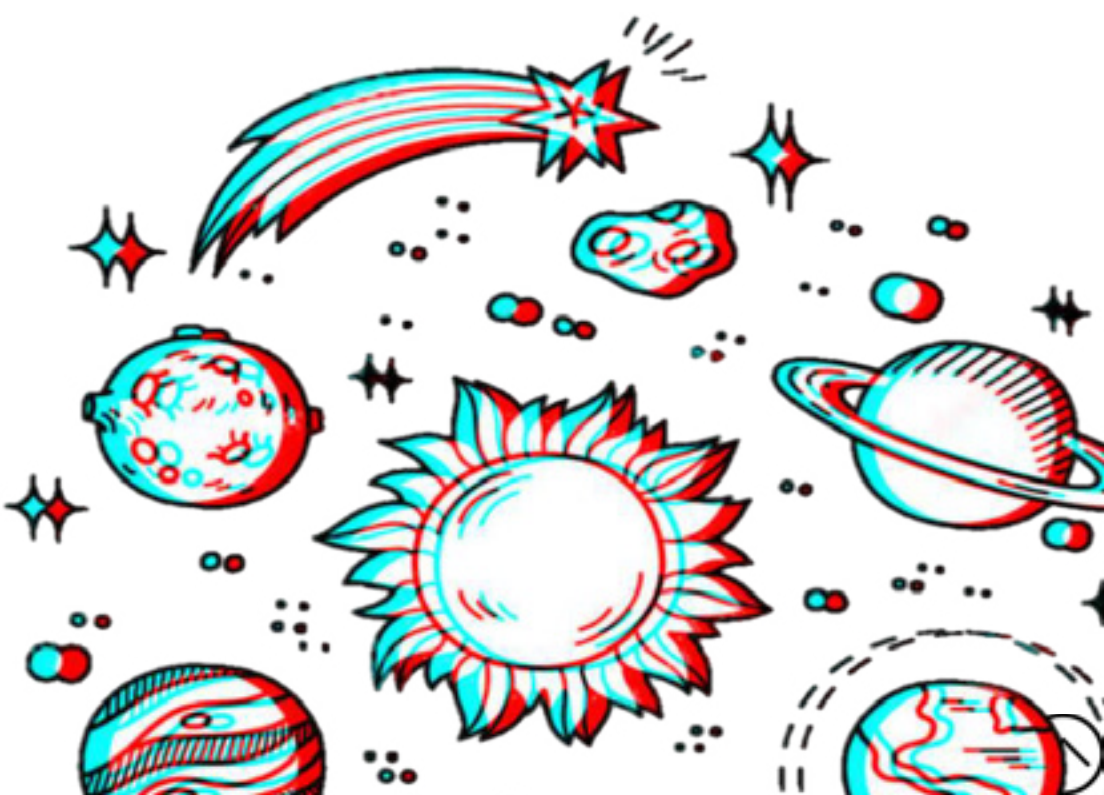




Youtube videos that either mention Subhash Chandra Bose's entire life or specifically talk about his death are full of people justifying the different conspiracy theories by articulating their personal relations to those theories. One of my personal favourites was a user claiming that Netaji was indeed Gumnaami Baba because, beyond just bearing a startling resemblance, they both used the same brands and both suffered from constipation. Yet another user proclaimed that while Netaji may have surely died in 1945, he reincarnates in the form of other brave souls of our nation.

On a personal note, I would love to believe the fantastical theory that he managed to survive and escape a ginormous crash unnoticed. However, the evidence currently pointing towards his death in 1945 is far higher.

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## 4. Indian Mythology -- Are the Chiranjeevis still alive?

Disha Shanbhag | TYBA

3 minutes read

The Chiranjeevi Shloka can easily be deemed as one of the best-remembered shlokas, referred to every time anyone wants to count Hinduism's glories. Ashwatthama, Ved Vyasa, King Mahabali, Hanuman, Vibhishan, Kripacharya, and Parshuram (Markandeya is at times added to the list) are the seven immortals as per the hymn. The myth continues to say that each of them will be alive till the end of the current Kali Yuga (the last of the four parts of the dharmic cycle -- Satya, Treta, Dwapar, and Kali) and have been prescribed certain roles that they would have to carry once the last avatar or the form of the Almighty graces the world.

The public reaction to this theory changes according to people's level of faith. A part of the audience raises questions regarding the consideration of Mahabharata as a historical tale itself, let alone the existence of humans 5000 or more years old.

Many accept the whole theory in its entirety. Their faith is so strong that they have erased the question mark that hangs on the very existence of



these great men and have further questions like: the tale says they cannot be seen by everyone, so what are the qualifications for being able to see them? And wouldn't it be so interesting to know what the Chiranjeevis think about the changes that have occurred in the last 2000 or so years?

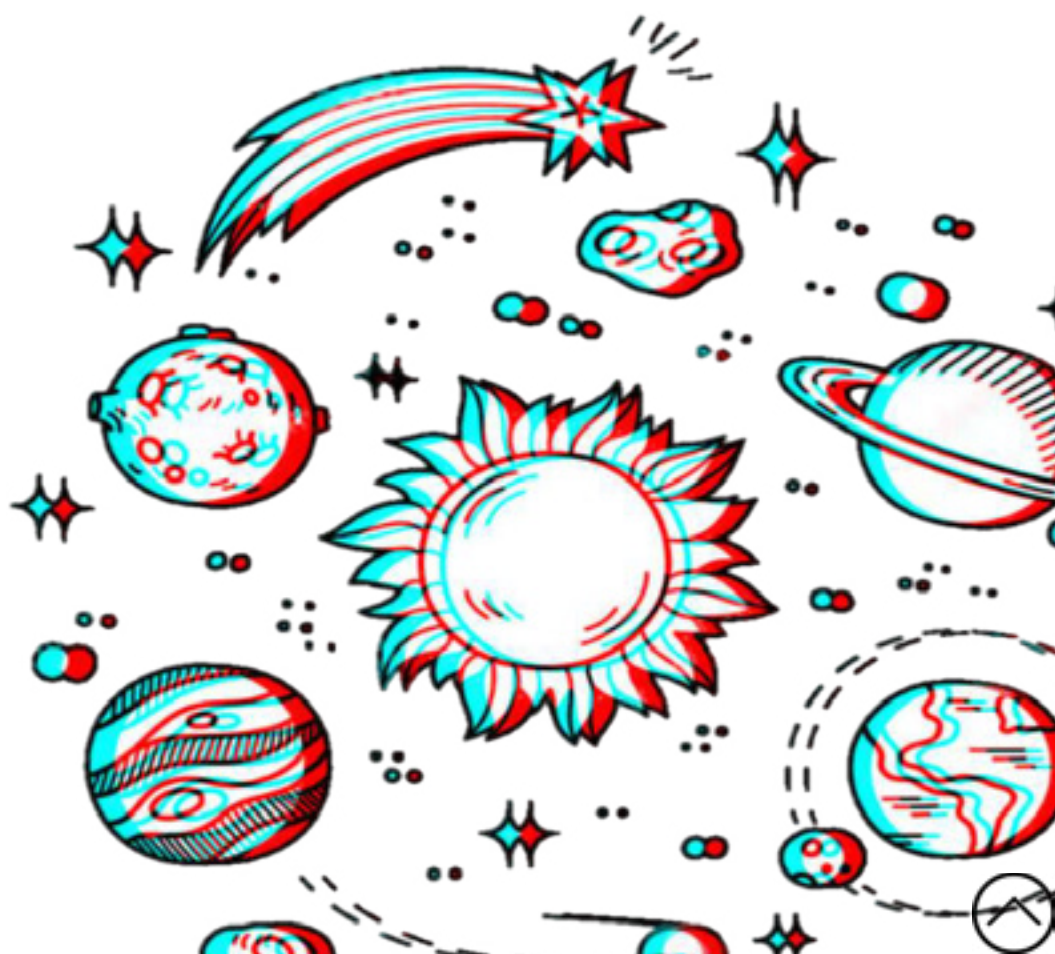
Another part of the population believes in these stories solely because they have faith in them or because the cults they adhere to have either validated and/or deemed the narration as a fact or have proclaimed instances where they met one of them.



While there is no harm in any of these opinions, one should look at matters rationally and try to make sense of them in accordance with their life and learnings instead of looking out for them elsewhere. I find it interesting that none of these seven characters are the main protagonists of the storylines they were a part of but were the ones who triggered major changes, either violently or tactfully. They for me represent the concepts of soft power and hard power, without which no “avatar” can create systematic change.

Do any of these theories hold any truth? Nobody knows. However, the nature of conspiracy theories is such that they prompt you to think. The inherent fantasy of it all is so fascinating that sometimes it's just fun to believe in the conspiracy and let your imagination run rampant!

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# Open Forum

A photograph of a black metal fence with ornate scrollwork. Behind the fence are several bright red flowers, possibly geraniums, with green leaves. The background is slightly blurred, showing a light-colored wall and more foliage. The text "Open Forum" is overlaid in a white, serif font in the upper left quadrant.

# Multipotent Flora



**Samyukta Shivshankar** | TYBSc  
3.5 minutes read

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*Completing the world with souls, one colour at a time.*

Consider this question, which part of a plant is the most useful? The edible fruits and vegetables? Barks and stems? Leaves? Rarely would anyone consider a flower as useful as the other parts, though.

While a fairly ignorant point of view generalises flowers as decorative accessories, science holds them in great regard for their contribution towards sexual reproduction in angiosperms -- without which traits like variation and evolution would never have occurred!

Even though Jean Kerr politely titled her bestselling novel "Please Don't Eat The Daisies" (later adapted into a film!), we encourage you to try them out!

Rich in vitamins and minerals, daisies can be added to soups and sandwiches or used to decorate salad dishes.

They can also be pickled in vinegar like capers.





Years ago, I was introduced to the lovely nectar of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* flowers, AKA china roses.

The sepals of the flower enclose a straw-like ending which can be used to suck the minimal quantity of nectar present from it.



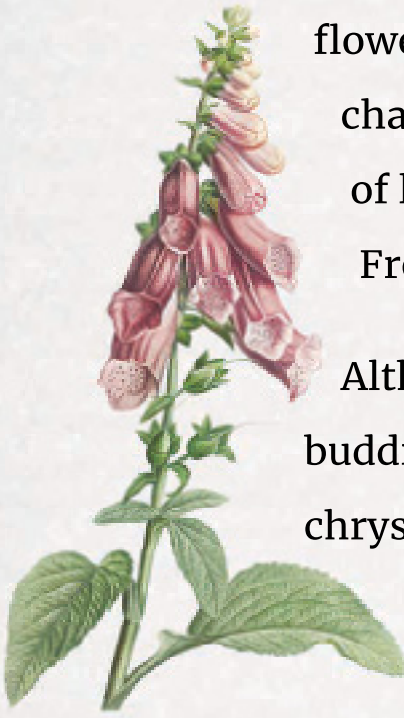
A satisfying, heavenly, yet potentially dangerous experience, for who knows what toxins I might have ignorantly consumed in this process? However, china rose has edible flowers which have been used in Ayurveda to make health-boosting tonics, given their wonderful effects on our hair, hormones and immunity.



Chicory, a plant whose roots are famously used as a replacement for coffee (hence, also referred to as the humble coffeeweed), has edible blue flowers which can be used to produce a yellowish dye. Ironically, its leaves can be used to make a blue dye.

*Digitalis* or foxglove, a plant widely known for its

amazing cardiac glycosides, has vibrantly coloured flowers which can produce a chartreuse coloured dye, a shade of light green named after a French liquor.



Although toxic to our animal buddies like cats and dogs, chrysanthemum is effective in eliminating toxins like formaldehyde, benzene and ammonia from the air. Hence, it can be planted as natural air purifiers.

Lotus, our virtuous national flower, does its best to relieve us of mental stress. Its essential oil has a soft, earthy floral scent which can



stimulate a poor appetite and alleviate anger.

Last but not least, one cannot forget to enlist the



magnificent rose as a multipurpose flower. Whether it is used to make rose water by the cosmetic industry, made into rose essence for perfumery, used to make mouth watering delicacies like Gulkand, rose doesn't fail to mesmerise us Gerard de Nerval, a major figure of French

Romanticism says, "*Every flower is a soul blossoming in nature,*" and I can't help but agree. How unlively this world would feel, had flowers not existed!

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# The Deadly Nightshade

Vidhi Dholakia | SYBSc

3 minutes read

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Poisons have been the sneakiest murder weapons since antiquity, and this is evident through accounts of poisoning populating the pages of historical literature. Owing to the fact that chemistry had an arduous evolution awaiting, deadly toxins were commonly derived from seemingly harmless flowers and fruits that bloomed in herbalists' gardens and decorated the shelves of ancient apothecaries. Some incredibly potent poisons were derived from some of the prettiest, most luxuriant flowers that have ever enchanted mankind. This fact is commonly referred to in archaic texts, as well as in modern literature and art.

Infamously referred to as "*the deadly nightshade*,"



Atropa belladonna derives its name from **Atropos**, one of the three Fates in Greek mythology, responsible for severing the thread of life measured and spun by her sisters.

"**Belladonna**" translates to "*beautiful lady*" in Italian, a nod to its extant use in cosmetics during



the Renaissance. Sometimes, belladonna is linked as a sacred flower to the Roman war goddess, Bellona. All in all, this flower is heavily related to dying and all things death.



Needless to say, there are many interesting and equally terrifying stories of belladonna poisoning. A paste made from "*the devil's herb*" was used by Romans to coat their arrows and spears to annihilate their armies. Romans may have used atropine, one of the two swift killers present in the



plant, to poison the enemy army's food reserves. Macbeth of Scotland also used belladonna extracts to stop Harold Harefoot's troops from invading during a truce.

Extracts of belladonna are still used today, albeit in safe concentrations, to dilate the pupils of the eyes during ophthalmologic examinations, but Venetian women were known to use



these to distend their pupils to appear more attractive. Moreover, a beauty tonic prepared from the flowers and berries was applied to redden the cheeks for a flushed appearance. Some records imply that Cleopatra also used a similar extract on her eyes. It was not soon enough that the horror stories of women going blind, and after prolonged usage, dying, began to surface, and the use of belladonna extracts in cosmetics was regulated.





Nightshade extracts were used along with morphine as a birth tonic by Victorian women, which induced an unconscious state, making the women retain no memory of the pain they endured during childbirth.

The hallucinogenic and delirious effects leading to death have earned belladonna its place in historical and modern fiction. Agatha Christie's novel, "*A Caribbean Mystery*" has a plot revolving around belladonna poisoning. Importantly, alternative medicine still uses belladonna extracts to reduce inflammation, relieve pain, and to anaesthetise patients. Its metabolites are still being studied for their bioactivity and toxicity.

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# On Snowy's Absence



**Saundarya Jain | TYBMM**  
3 minutes read

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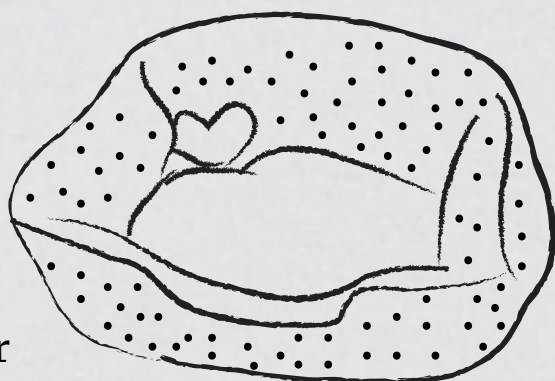


It has been four weeks since I lost my younger sibling: her name was Snowy. She was a Pomeranian of six years who had lived a wild, courageous life and recognized me as “didi”, our mother as “mumma”, our father as “papa.” To say that we loved her beyond anything would be an understatement. We loved her when we could not love ourselves, when we could not love each other. In a way, she reminded us of our capacity to love dearly and unconditionally. She was the glue that held our fissures together. Above everything, she was extremely loveable. (But didn't I already mention this?)

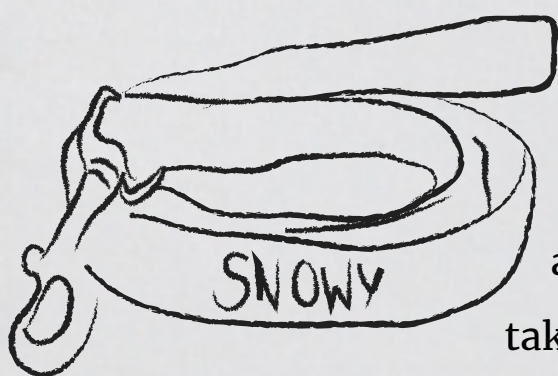
When she left us, her absence took her

place. Her purple bed with white polka dots was left empty.

Our mother took a huge zip-lock bag; stuffed it with her leash, her treats, her



blanket, her pillow; and placed it on her bed. However, she waited for thirteen days to do this. Our religious mother believes that a soul is tethered to the world for thirteen days, after which it takes a new birth. When she was convinced that Snowy did not need the bed anymore, only then did she replace her absence with her belongings. I don't think she was very successful, though.

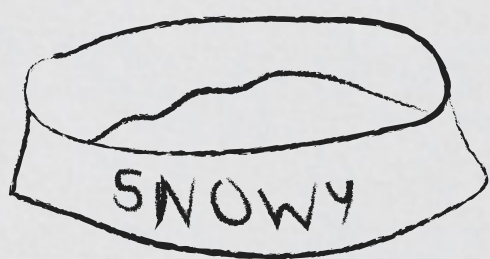


Snowy's absence has grown wider and bigger, taking more

space than she ever did.

It is presumptuous of us to believe that Death is ruthless, that it always takes and takes, never relenting. In Death's defence, it always leaves something behind in place of what it captures: a void. We might call it an unfair bargain, but something is better than nothing. After all, a void is a reminder

of what - or who - once was. We'd rather be victims of Grief than servants of Oblivescence.



It is easier now,  
perhaps because I  
have no choice, to

let the engine of language articulate the ache that pervades my chest; to mould it into words and sentences and paragraphs. It is far easier now to acknowledge Snowy's void and the finality of it rather than woefully wondering, as I had on the day she died, looking at her: her body is here but where did she go?

I suppose I  
understand now



why it's convenient for my mother to believe in souls.

Recently, I told Mother about my discovery that the beautiful flowers of nerium oleander we had planted on Snowy's grave are from the dogbane family of Apocynaceae, reputed to be deadly for dogs. She became anxious if we had made the right choice. I comforted her, saying: It doesn't matter. *She's not there anyway.*


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# Symbolism of Flowers

Pavitra Jotsinghani | SYBA

3 minutes read

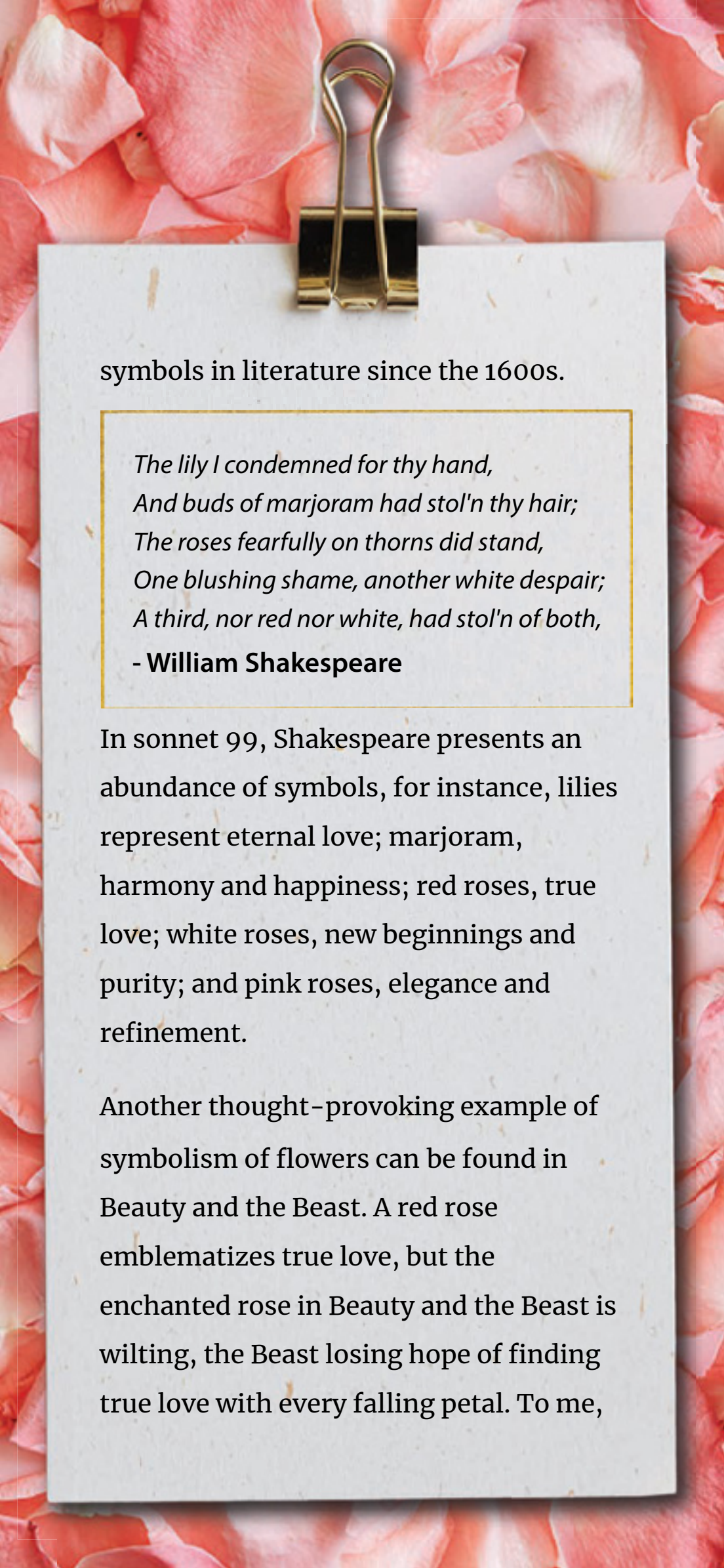
A fountain pen with a black barrel and gold-colored accents, including the nib and a clip, lies horizontally across the top of a white rectangular piece of paper. A gold-colored paper clip is attached to the top edge of the paper, just below the pen. The background is a dense, textured pattern of pink and red rose petals.

Did Charlotte Brontë's assumption that the readers of her *Jane Eyre* knew French annoy you as much as it did me? What you don't know is that Charlotte Brontë also assumed that we knew what Jane was feeling when she was looking at certain flowers. For instance, in chapter 9, Jane gazes at snowdrops, purple auricula and golden eyed pansies. Brontë uses these flowers as symbols of Jane feeling hopeful, cheerful and modest.

Symbolism is a literary and artistic device that uses objects as a curtain to hide feelings behind them. As a literary tool, it adds depth to the story and gives you a fresh perspective.

However, flowers have been used as





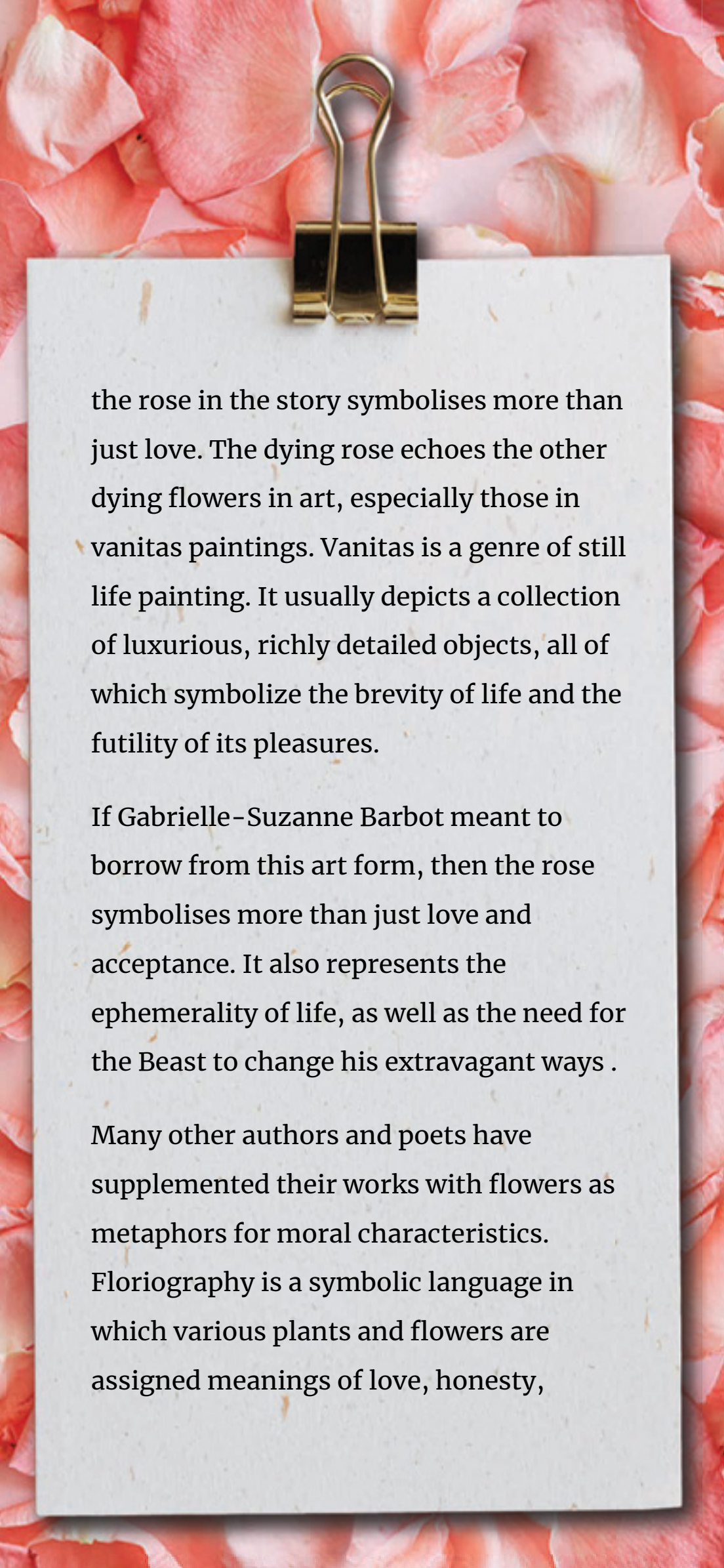
symbols in literature since the 1600s.

*The lily I condemned for thy hand,  
And buds of marjoram had stol'n thy hair;  
The roses fearfully on thorns did stand,  
One blushing shame, another white despair;  
A third, nor red nor white, had stol'n of both,*

**- William Shakespeare**

In sonnet 99, Shakespeare presents an abundance of symbols, for instance, lilies represent eternal love; marjoram, harmony and happiness; red roses, true love; white roses, new beginnings and purity; and pink roses, elegance and refinement.

Another thought-provoking example of symbolism of flowers can be found in Beauty and the Beast. A red rose emblemizes true love, but the enchanted rose in Beauty and the Beast is wilting, the Beast losing hope of finding true love with every falling petal. To me,




the rose in the story symbolises more than just love. The dying rose echoes the other dying flowers in art, especially those in vanitas paintings. Vanitas is a genre of still life painting. It usually depicts a collection of luxurious, richly detailed objects, all of which symbolize the brevity of life and the futility of its pleasures.

If Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot meant to borrow from this art form, then the rose symbolises more than just love and acceptance. It also represents the ephemerality of life, as well as the need for the Beast to change his extravagant ways .

Many other authors and poets have supplemented their works with flowers as metaphors for moral characteristics. Floriography is a symbolic language in which various plants and flowers are assigned meanings of love, honesty,

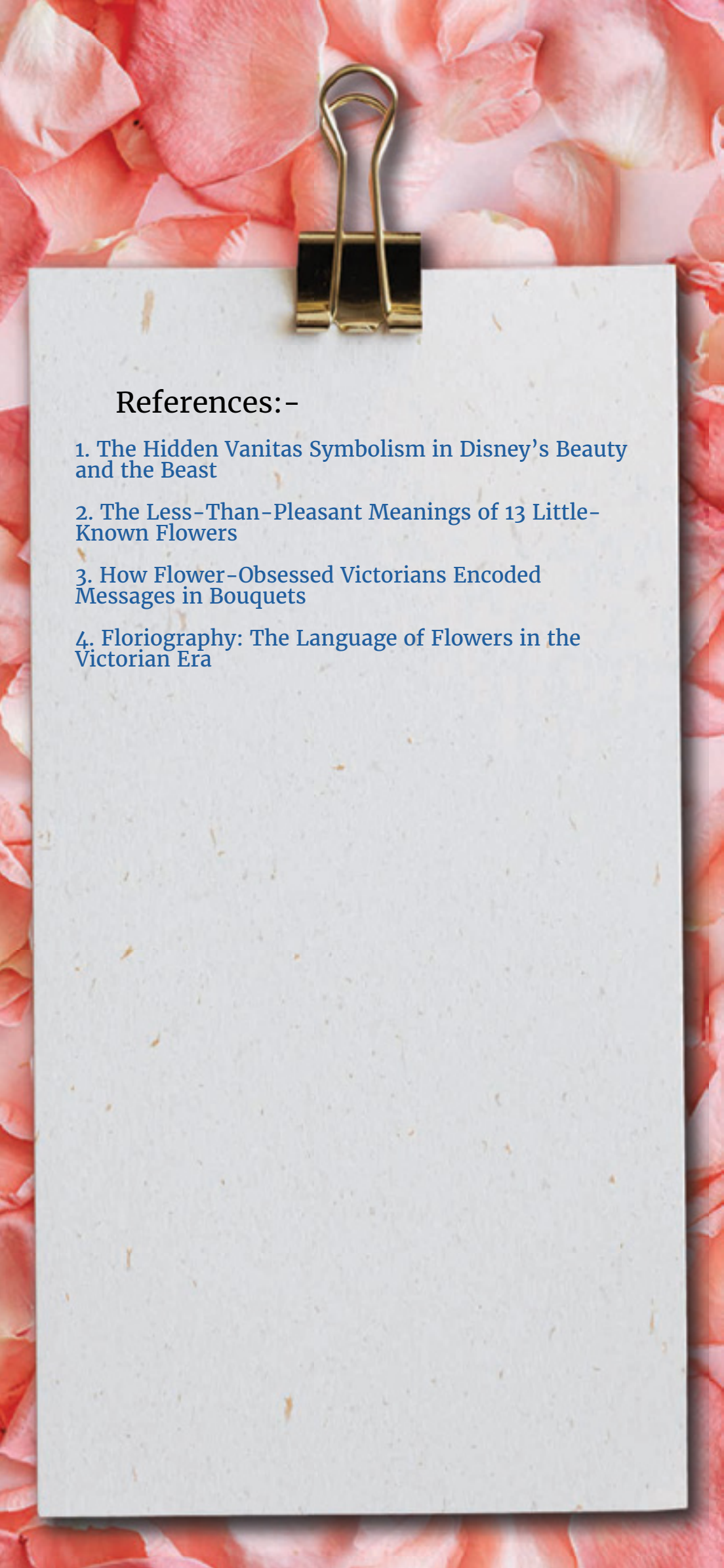




shame, etc. Botany was an immensely popular science in England, especially in the Victorian era. If we are given flowers today, our first instinct is to find a vase for them. Back then, it was to rush to a flower dictionary to decipher the meaning of the bouquet. You could be sent acacia symbolizing hidden love or hyacinths to ask for forgiveness.

Floriography in the Victorian era served as a secret language which allowed its speakers to whisper their love and friendship in an emotionally repressed age. Nevertheless, flowers will continue to be a means of communication in literature and in day-to-day life as long as people will have feelings too strong to express in words.

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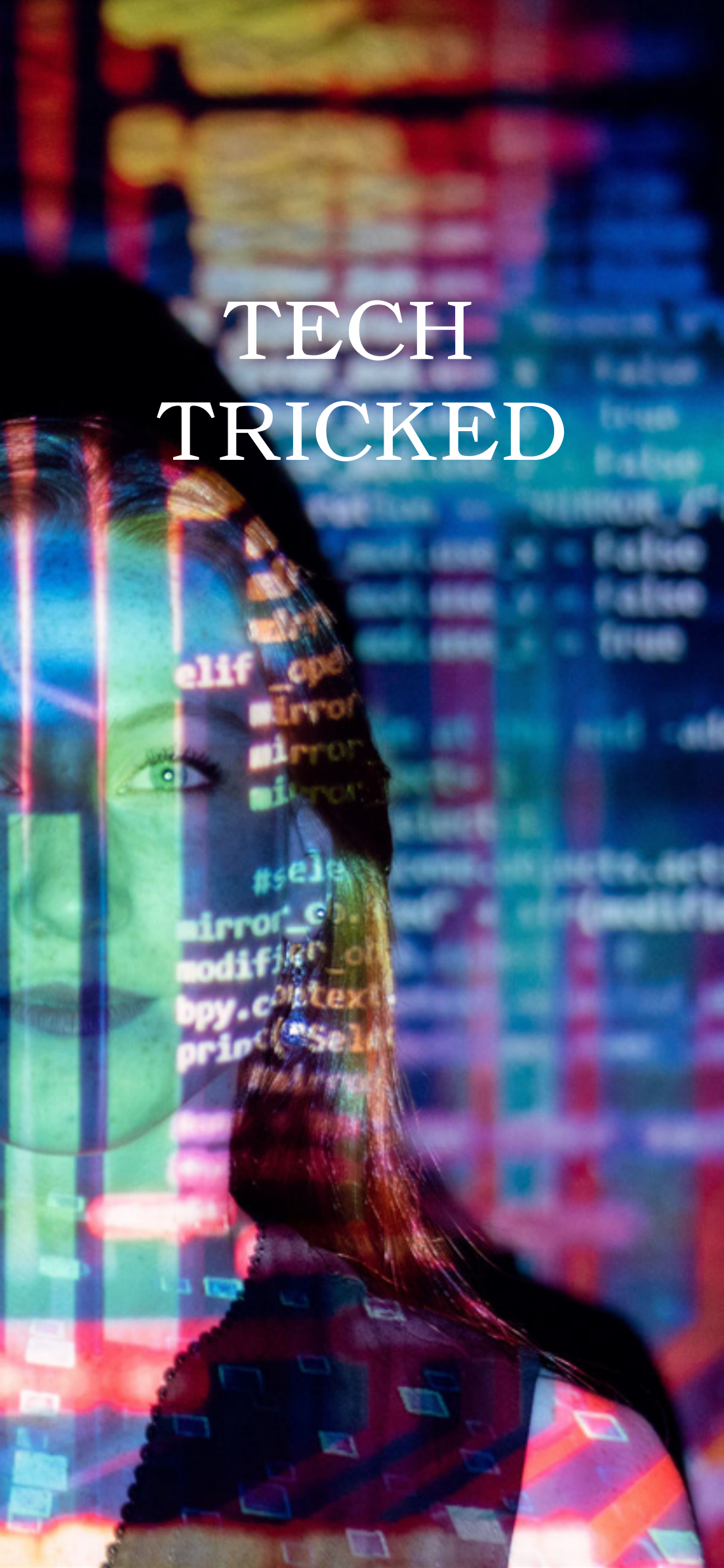


## References:-

1. The Hidden Vanitas Symbolism in Disney's Beauty and the Beast
2. The Less-Than-Pleasant Meanings of 13 Little-Known Flowers
3. How Flower-Obsessed Victorians Encoded Messages in Bouquets
4. Floriography: The Language of Flowers in the Victorian Era



# TECH TRICKED



# IBM's Summit "solves" CoViD-19

Prasad Mokal | TYBSc  
5 minutes read

Regardless of whether you have watched Krrish or Terminator 2, you have surely fantasized about an evil conglomerate building a Supercomputer/AI to take over the world. But far from their nefarious portrayal in pop culture, the actuality surrounding supercomputers is pretty wholesome. In today's day and age, Supercomputers exist to execute tasks that are far beyond an ordinary unit's capabilities. And as of June 2020, one of these so-called wonder machines, has cracked open the modus operandi of the Coronavirus pathogen.

## Summit Supercomputer



IBM's Summit is currently the second fastest; and was released in June, 2018. At 200 petaFLOPS speed, it outperformed its predecessor TITAN by 8 times over. 'FLOPS' here stands for Floating point Operations Per Second and is a common parameter for measuring supercomputing speeds. To contextualize, the Kryo 585 CPUs in most of the flagship Androids of today can reach upto 8 FLOPS each. The construction of the Super machine was funded by the US Department of Energy and IBM's Open Power Foundation situated at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, USA. Summit's architecture consists of a staggering 4608 nodes each containing 2 IBM POWER9 22-core CPUs and 6 NVIDIA tesla GPUs giving it a mind-numbing cumulative of 9,216 CPUs and 27,648 Graphic Cards! Each POWER9 core further consists of 4 to 8 64-bit single-threaded processors called 'Slices'. Each node also has over 600 GB of disk space and 800 GB of non-volatile RAM that can be extended as buffer storage, totalling to a humongous 250 Petabytes of Storage capacity at 2.5 TB/s. The system runs on a customised Linux OS built by Red Hat Enterprises.

Summit's scientific impact includes modeling plasma via virtual fusion reactors, advanced fluid dynamics, computational stellar Astrophysics, deep learning for Cancer research, among others. In 2018,



by tweaking certain GPU cores, Summit broke the exascale barrier during a genomic analysis, clocking 1.88 exaFlops - nearly 10 times its max speed.

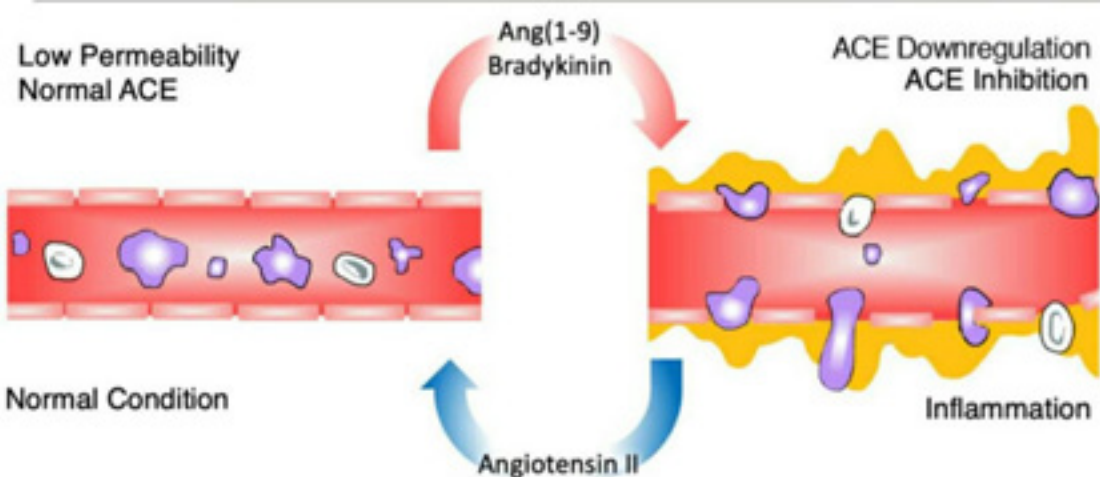
Earlier this Summer, its deep learning abilities were applied to understanding Covid-19 genetic samples. Despite the pandemic crossing 28 million cases worldwide, the molecular mechanism of SARS-CoV-2 was still unclear. Summit began crunching data of about 17,000 genetic samples taken from the Lung fluid of 9 coronavirus patients in China. It took the World's second fastest computer, a week to analyze all 2.5 billion combinations. After which a new mechanistic model for Covid-19 was proposed. The analysis was published in the eLife journal.

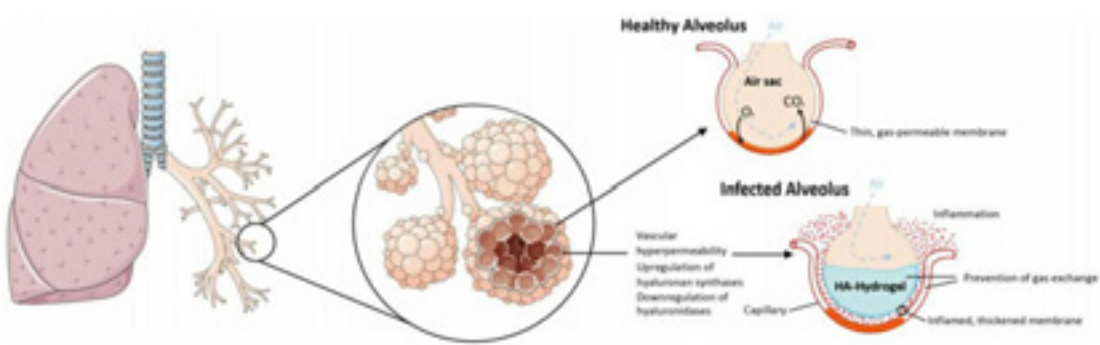




## The Bradykinin Hypothesis

Bradykinin is a vasodilator found in blood. It dilates blood vessels to ease blood flow. Based on the gene differential analysis, the SARS-CoV-2 enters through the nasal passage and uses a human enzyme ACE2 to sneak inside host cells. Now, ACE and ACE2 function as increasing (hypertension) and lowering (hypotension) the Blood Pressure respectively. The ACE and ACE2 receptors are in turn mediated by the Renin Angiotensin System (RAS). When the virus attacks the body, it not only uses ACE2 to bind to host cells, but also later hijacks the RAS system to cause upregulation of ACE2. As such, when ACE level becomes very low (~8 fold). Bradykinin receptors BKB2R and BKB1R become exponentially active (x207 and x2945 times respectively). What follows then is what researchers refer to as 'The Bradykinin Storm' - an onslaught of Bradykinin rampaging through vessels, causing inflammation, pain sensitivity and vascular permeability.





The Bradykinin theory given by Summit satisfactorily explains all of the bizarre symptoms of Covid-19. Right now, the paper says, a tight framework for conducting clinical trials along the RAS-BK theory is crucial for fighting the pathogenesis of SARS-CoV-2.

The relentless innovation, path-breaking tech and the monstrous capacity to combine everything have come to define Supercomputers. And as things get exceedingly dynamic in the future, we can only look

## References:-

1. Summit
2. A Supercomputer Analyzed Covid-19 — and an Interesting New Theory Has Emerged
3. A mechanistic model and therapeutic interventions for COVID-19 involving a RAS-mediated bradykinin storm



# A Colour Conundrum

Athira Patkar | FYBA

6 minutes read

If I were to ask you to imagine a new colour, the answer would be a resounding “That’s not possible!” But what if I tell you that yes, we can imagine new colours! A mantis shrimp has sixteen colour-receptive cones in its eyes, compared to the measly 3 of ours. This means that these little underwater creatures can see more colours than humans, and are also capable of seeing infrared, ultraviolet, and polarized light. What if the colour ‘green’ we have defined, is an entirely different colour for them. There is also a possibility that it is not just a color but a whole spectrum!

Try to imagine the colour, reddish-green. A piece of paper not fully red nor green, and certainly not the shade of brown you are picturing right now! Why does it seem more difficult to do this than imagining other colour combinations like blueish green or reddish yellow? The reason for this is, the colours red and green trigger opposing responses on the colour-receptive cone cells in our eyes. Red light stimulates the neurons in our retinas, which in turn stimulates our brain and tells it that it is looking at something red. Whereas green light inhibits the



same cells, but, causing an absence of brain activity instead and thus making us believe it is green. The same reaction is caused with the colour combination yellowish blue. Yellow light excites a particular set of neurons, whereas blue light dampens the same set. This means that humans cannot perceive these colours at the same time, but scientists beg to differ. According to them, we can train ourselves to look for new colours! And, this phenomenon is termed as 'forbidden colour'.

This was discovered by Hewitt Crane and Thomas Piantanida. They wrote about it in the journal Science in 1983, entitled 'On Seeing Reddish Green and Yellowish Blue'. For experimentation scientists made images with strips of red-green or yellow-blue and held it in front of the subject's eyes, targeting specific sets of neurons which were stimulated or triggered by those particular colours using an eye tracker for retinal stabilisation. After a while, the volunteers noticed that the difference between the two colours blurred altogether because of the colour opponency. In process creating a new colour. It was mentioned in the paper that even though many volunteers were able to understand that they were looking at a different colour than the ones they had started with, they were unable to name or describe it. Even an artist with a rather large colour





vocabulary failed at this!

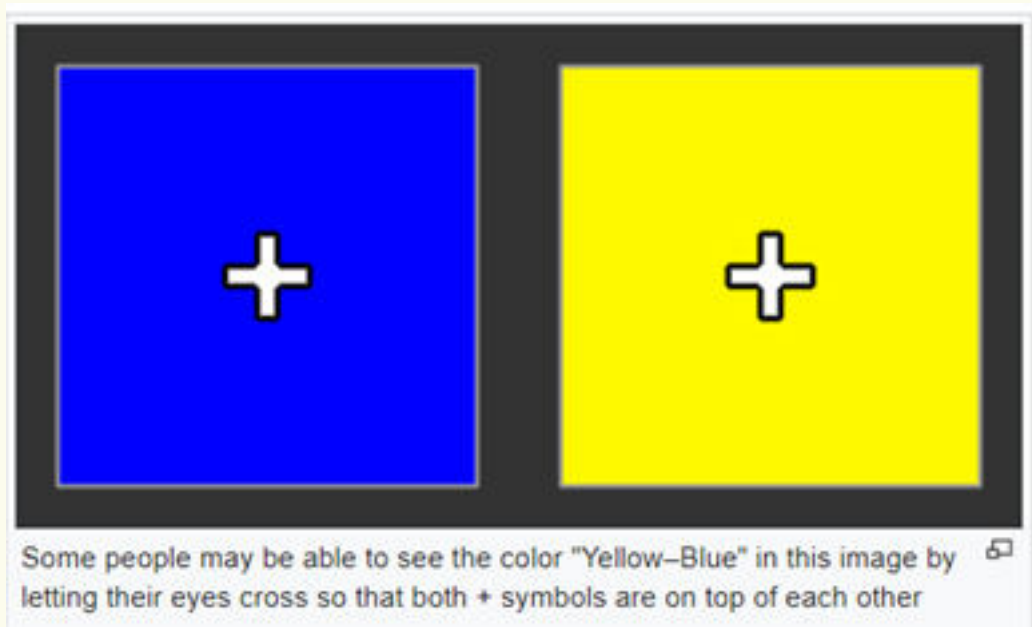
A 2006 study by Po-Jang Hsieh on the same topic but, giving the volunteers a colour map found out that when the participants were asked to subjectively describe the colour, they were unable to do so. But when told to point out the colour on the map, they were immediately able to state that the colour was muddy-brown. Which in fact is not a forbidden colour and is easily recognisable!

Why weren't the 1983 volunteers able to name the colour? According to Hsieh, "There are infinite intermediate colours ... It is therefore not surprising that we do not have enough colour vocabulary to describe [them all]. However, just because a colour cannot be named, doesn't mean it is a forbidden colour that's not in the colour space." A slight change from the original experiment changed the entire scene! Hsieh, in his experiment did not use the eye trackers. As a result, the volunteers could not see the forbidden colours!

In conclusion, no one is sure whether we can see forbidden colours or not, or even if forbidden colours do exist. But if they do, we might be a step closer to finally understand what the world actually looks like to mantis shrimps. If you want to check for yourself, if you have this ability to see the invisible colours?



Follow the instructions given below!



## References:-

1. Red-Green & Blue-Yellow: The Stunning Colors You Can't See
2. Impossible Colors and How to Train Your Eyes to See Them
3. Impossible Colour
4. On Seeing Reddish Green and Yellowish Blue



# The Rudimentaries of Consumer Robotics!

**Suvin Mayekar** | TYBSc

5 minutes read

When talking about robots, we easily define them as every other machine. I.e. something that is controlled by a computer. But when the same is asked to Marc Raibert, who is founder, former CEO, and now Chairman of Boston Dynamics, a pioneer in robotics, the answer you would get in return, is what he calls his "robot-religion". According to him, yes, a computer does give instructions to a robot. But in reality, the computer is just making some suggestions. On the other hand is the interaction with physics of the world, involving gravity, friction, bumping into things, etc. That's the actual game changer. In order to have a successful robot, you have to come up with a holistic design inclusive of hardware, software and behaviour where all three are in harmony with each other.

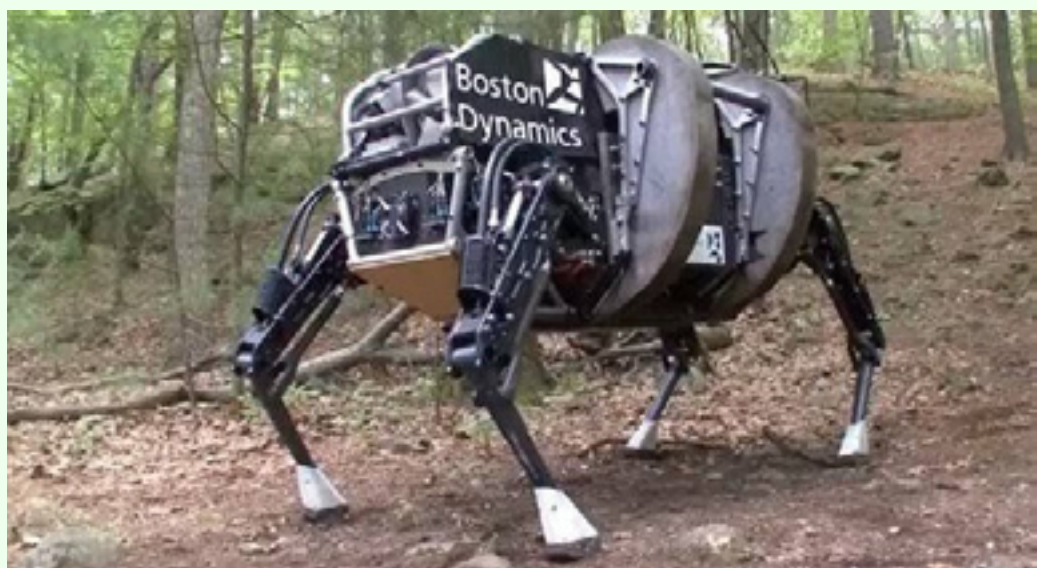
Boston Dynamics is known for the development of dynamic, highly-mobile robots, like BigDog, Spot, Atlas and Handle. The company has a single aim, of building robots that can do what people and animals do. For this, they focus on three things in particular.



Which are balance and dynamic mobility, mobile manipulation or dexterity and mobile perception. All this is achieved involuntarily in living beings. But the same proves to be quite a challenge that employees here face every time designing a robot.

### **BigDog:**

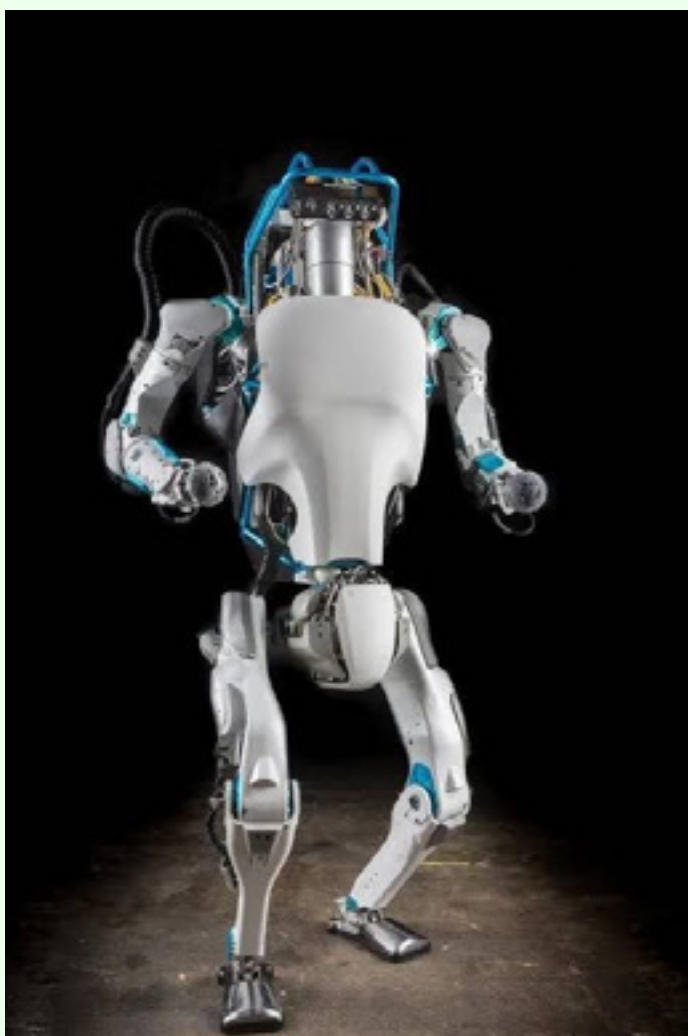
Is a dynamically stable quadruped military robot that was created in 2005. It's four legs allow it to move across surfaces that would defeat treads or wheels. It is capable of running at 4 miles per hour, carrying 150, and climbing a 35-degree incline. Approximately 50 sensors are located on BigDog like, joint position, ground contact, laser gyroscope, stereo vision, etc. These measure the acceleration of the body and attitude, motion, force of joint actuators as well as engine speed, temperature and hydraulic pressure inside the robot's internal engine.





## Atlas:

Atlas is a bipedal humanoid robot developed with funding and oversight from the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and was unveiled in 2013. The 6 feet robot is designed to perform various search and rescue tasks. Atlas is derived from an earlier design called PETMAN and is equipped with two vision systems, namely a laser rangefinder and stereo cameras. It also has hands with fine motor skill capabilities. Its limbs possess a total of 28 degrees of freedom. It can navigate rough terrain and climb independently using its arms and legs, do summersaults, handstands, etc.



## Spot:

Spot is the 25 kg canine inspired robot which is lighter than any other design by Boston Dynamics. Spot rose in popularity due to videos uploaded to Boston Dynamics' Youtube in 2018. On May 11 of the same year, Marc Raibert announced that Spot was in Pre-production and preparing for commercial availability in 2019. But in September, it was decided that Spot will not be sold but only given on lease. Since January 2020, Spot's Software Development Kit (SDK) is available for anyone via GitHub. Later this year, Spot became the first-ever commercial robot by Boston dynamics priced at US\$74,500.

### *Organic Design*



Boston Dynamics sets itself apart in avant-garde robot designs. Where other manufacturers use the same old blueprint of rigidity and nuts and bolts everywhere; Boston Dynamics uses 3D printing to make the components like an anatomy drawing,



inclusive of all needed traits. Right now the visionary Marc Raibert is focusing on package delivery and making it possible so that these robots can be of use in inaccessible terrains and difficult situations. But he also believes that robots like Spot will be part of our household, they will be of help for the aged and invalids. And his faith in this dream is becoming even more firm each passing day.

## References:-

1. [Changing your idea of what robots can do](#)
2. [Boston Dynamics](#)
3. [Boston Dynamics](#)



A full-page photograph of a young boy in a green t-shirt and blue shorts jumping high into the air in a grassy field. His arms are outstretched towards a brown, textured ball suspended in the air above him. In the foreground, another child in a red shirt and blue shorts is also jumping, reaching up. The background is a soft-focus forest with tall trees. The text "Fictionally Yours" is overlaid in the upper left in a white serif font.

# Fictionally Yours



# सत्य

Sakshi Theek | SYBA

Illustrations: Malhar Damle | SYJC

9 minutes read

बंटी, मोन्या, पक्या, राजा, आणि गण्या ही खट्याळ चाळीतील खट्याळ मुलं. दिसायला जेवढी प्रेमळ, निरागस, तेवढीच खोडकर सुद्धा. शाळेतून घरी आली, की संपूर्ण चाळ डोक्यावर घेत असत. नुसती मस्ती. चाळीतील लोक त्यांना खूप वैतागायची. मुलं रोज चाळीतील लोकांचा ओरडा खात. मात्र शनिवारचा एक दिवस चाळ संपूर्ण शांत असायची. याचं नेमकं कारण कोणालाही माहिती नसे. त्यादिवशी प्रत्येक जण विचारत पडायचा. खरं तर, सर्व मुले शनिवारी शाळेजवळील बागेत फिरायला जात असत. आठवडाभर चाळीतील लोकांचा ओरडा खाऊन शनिवारचा दिवस इथे घालवत. अरबट-चरबट खाऊ खायचे, झोपळ्यावर झोका घ्यायचे. मग मजा-मस्ती करत संध्याकाळपर्यंत घरी परतायचे. मात्र यासाठी ते घरी खोटं बोलायचे. जो-तो आपल्या आई-बाबांना सांगायचा, “शनिवारी शाळेतील बाई अजून अभ्यास शिकवतात. त्यामुळे थोडा वेळ शाळेत थांबावे लागते.”

इतके बोलून लाडीगोडीने आई जवळून पाच-दहा रुपये घेत व यातूनच शनिवारचा दिवस मजेत घालवत. काल संध्याकाळी घरी परतताना समोरच्या चाळीतील काही माणसे सजावट करीत असताना त्यांना दिसली. कुतूहलापोटी बंटीने जाऊन त्यांना विचारले, “काका, तुम्ही ही सजावट कशासाठी करत आहात?” त्यांनी उत्तर दिले “अरे बाळा, उदया गांधी जयंती नाही का? त्याचीच तयारी चालली आहे.”

गांधी जयंती! मुले विचारात पडली. गांधी जयंती हा कोणता सण आहे? इतक्यात त्यांना चाळीतील मोहन दिसला. मोहन हा खट्याळ चाळीतील सर्वात खट्याळ मुलगा. पण स्वभावाने मात्र प्रेमळ व



मनमिळाऊ.

सर्व मुलांनी पटकन जाऊन मोहनला घेरा घातला व ओरडू लागले,  
“दादा, गांधी जयंती म्हणजे काय? दादा, गांधी जयंती म्हणजे काय?”  
त्यावर मोहनने उत्तर दिले, “अरे मुलांनो गांधी जयंतीला बापूंचा  
वाढदिवस असतो. जसा तुमचा सर्वांचा वाढदिवस असतो ना, अगदी  
तसाच!” यावर गण्या आनंदाने म्हणाला, “खरं! उद्या आपल्या  
समोरच्या चाळीत त्यांचा वाढदिवस साजरा करणार?” यावर मोहन  
म्हणाला, “हो मुलांनो. आपणही वाढदिवस साजरा करू या का  
बापूंचा?” हे ऐकताच मुलं ठीक आहे म्हणत आनंदाने नाचू लागली.

पुढे मोहन म्हणाला, “तर जा मग. आईकडून शंभर-शंभर रुपये  
आणा. आपण मस्त केक कापून त्यांचा वाढदिवस साजरा करू या.”



मुले पळत पळत आई जवळ आली व शंभर रुपये मागू लागली. पण  
आईला खरं कसं सांगणार! खरंखरं सांगितलं तर आई पैसे देणारच  
नाही, असे त्यांना वाटले म्हणून त्यांनी आईला खोटे कारण सांगितले.  
प्रत्येकाने आपापल्या आईला वेगवेगळे कारण सांगितले.

गण्या म्हणाला, “आई, बाईंनी शाळेत चित्रकलेची वही आणायला  
सांगितली आहे. माझ्याकडे चित्रकलेची वही नाही. मी दुकानात  
जाऊन आणू का?” आईने पटकन गण्याला शंभर रुपये काढून दिले.  
पैसे घेऊन मुले धावत-पळत मोहन जवळ आली. प्रत्येकाने त्याच्या  
हातात शंभर रुपयांची नोट ठेवली.





मोहनने सर्वाना सांगितले, “उद्या आपण खूप दणक्यात गांधीजयंती साजरी करू या.” त्या रात्री मुले आनंदाने झोपी गेली. मात्र सकाळी उठून पाहतात तर आश्चर्यच! वाढदिवसाची काहीच तयारी झालेली नव्हती! शिवाय मोहन दादा सुद्धा कुठेच दिसत नव्हता. सर्वांचे चेहरे हिरमुसले. ते आपापसात बोलू लागले, “मोहन दादाने आपल्याला फसवलं.” तशाच हिरमुसलेल्या चेहऱ्यांनी मुले पुन्हा घरी परतली.

गण्या घरी परत येताच बाबांनी गालातल्या गालात हसतं त्याला विचारले, “काय रे गण्या, आज तू इतका शांत का आहेस? आणि तुझी मित्रमंडळी कुठे आहेत? आज तुमच्या खोडकरपणाला सुट्टी आहे वाटतं!” गण्याने काही उत्तर दिले नाही. तो शांतच होता. इतक्यात बाबांनी दहा रुपयाची नोट गण्याला दाखवली. एरवी नोट मिळताच खिशात टाकणारा गण्या आज ती नोट निरखून पाहू लागला. त्याला नोटेवर एका व्यक्तीचे चित्र दिसले.

त्याने बाबांना विचारले, “बाबा, या नोटेवरचं चित्र आपल्या वरच्या माळ्यावर राहणाऱ्या गजानन आजोबांसारखं वाटतंय. त्याचंच आहे का?”

बाबा हसत म्हणाले, “अरे, नाही रे. हे महात्मा गांधीजींचे चित्र आहे.” गण्याला आठवले. ‘गांधीजी’ हा शब्द आपण कालच ऐकला. समोरच्या चाळीतील लोक गांधीजयंतीची तयारी करत होते. पण मोहन दादा म्हणाला, “गांधीजयंती म्हणजे बापूंचा वाढदिवस. म्हणजे आज आपण यांचाच वाढदिवस साजरा करणार होतो! त्याला राहवेना.



गांधीजींबद्दल अजून जाणून घेण्याची त्याची इच्छा होती. त्याने कुतुहलाने बाबांना विचारले, “बाबा हे नक्की कोण आहेत? मला यांच्याबद्दल अजून सांगा ना.” गण्याचे बाबा म्हणाले, “तुला यांच्या बद्दल जाणून घ्यायचंय, तर तू रामजी काकांकडे जा आणि हो; एकटाच जाऊ नकोस तुझ्या मित्रांनाही सोबत घेऊन जा. ते तुम्हाला योग्य ती माहिती देतील.”

गण्याने पटापट सर्व मित्रांना जमवलं व सर्वजण रामजी काकांकडे पोहोचले. गण्या म्हणाला, “काका आम्हाला गांधीजींबद्दल माहिती सांगा ना.” रामजी काकांनी होकारार्थी मान हलवून माहिती सांगायला सुरुवात केली.

ते म्हणाले, “बरं का मुलांनो, गांधीजी हे आपल्या देशाला स्वातंत्र्य मिळवून देणाऱ्या स्वातंत्र्यसैनिकांपैकी एक होते. सत्य व अहिंसा या तत्त्वांशी एकनिष्ठ राहून त्यांनी भारतीय स्वातंत्र्यलढ्यात मोलाचे योगदान दिले. म्हणूनच त्यांना ‘महात्मा गांधी’ या नावाने ओळखले जाते. तसेच त्यांना प्रेमाने सर्वजण ‘बापू’ म्हणत. एक गोष्ट नेहमी लक्षात ठेवा मुलांनो, खोटं बोलणं जेवढं सोपं असतं त्यापेक्षाही कित्येक पटीने सोपं असतं खरं बोलणं. पण जर आपण आधीपासूनच खोटं बोलत असू, तर खरे बोलण्यासाठी गरज असते ती हिंमतीची. सत्याची वाट कितीही कठीण असली, तरी हिंमत व आत्मविश्वास यांच्या साथीने सहज पार होते. मुलांनो, खोटं कधीही बोलू नका. कारण तुम्ही जेवढं खोटं बोलाल तेवढीच तुम्हाला खोटं बोलण्याची सवय लागेल व ही सवय कधीही तुमची पाठ सोडणार नाही. त्यामुळे नेहमी खरे बोलावे, खरेपणाने वागावे, प्रामाणिक राहावे. चुकूनही आपण जर कधी खोटे बोललो, तर ते खोटे कबूल करण्याची हिंमत स्वतःमध्ये असली पाहिजे. तरच त्याला एक सुजाण, कर्तव्यदक्ष नागरिक म्हटले जाते, असे महात्मा गांधीजींचे विचार सांगतात.”

रामजी काकांचे ते बोलणे ऐकून सर्व मुलांच्या मनात अपराधीपणाची भावना निर्माण झाली. आपणही आपल्या घरच्यांशी इतके दिवस खोटे





बोलत आहोत, याची त्यांना जाणीव झाली. आपण आज आपल्या घरच्यांना सर्व खरेखरे सांगण्याचा निर्णय मुलांनी एकत्रितपणे घेतला. प्रत्येकाने आपल्या आई-वडिलांना गच्चीवर येण्यास सांगितले. थोड्याच वेळात सर्व मुलांचे आई-वडील गच्चीवर जमा झाले व त्या सर्वासमक्ष मुलांनी आपल्या चुकीची कबुली दिली.

मुले चेहऱ्यावर अपराधीपणाचा भाव आणत म्हणाली, “आई-बाबा आम्ही आतापर्यंत तुमच्याशी खूप खोटं बोललो. दर शनिवारी आम्ही तुम्हा सर्वांशी खोटे बोलून शाळेजवळील बागेत फिरत असायचो. काल तुमच्याकडून घेतलेले शंभर रुपये सुद्धा आम्ही खोटे बोलून घेतले होते. खरं तर, मोहन दादाने आमच्याकडून ते पैसे घेतले व तो कुठेतरी निघून गेला. आम्हाला माफ करा. आम्ही पुन्हा अशी चूक करणार नाही. कधीही खोटे बोलणार नाही. नेहमीच खरे बोलू.”



मुलांचे ते बोलणे ऐकून आई-वडिलांना आनंद झाला. आपली मुले उशिरा का होईना पण आपल्याशी खरे बोलली. सर्वजण आपापल्या घरी परतले. संध्याकाळी मुलं चाळीच्या खाली गप्पा मारत बसली होती.

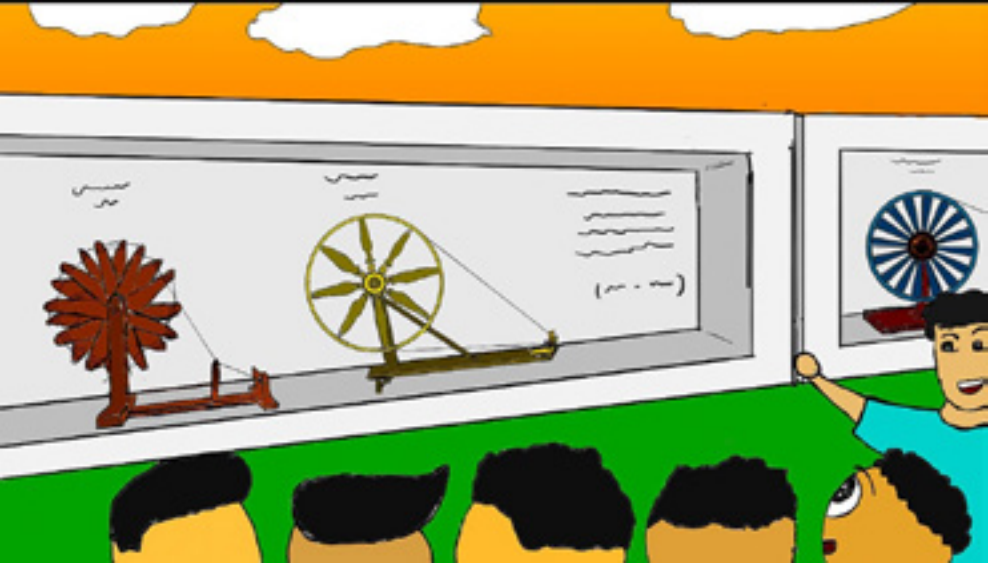
इतक्यात गण्याचे वडील तिथे आले आणि म्हणाले, “मुलांनो, चला मग आपणही गांधी जयंती साजरी करू या. मोहन दादा सुद्धा आला आहे. तुम्हा सर्वांचे पैसे घेऊन!” मुले थोडी गडबडली. थोड्याच वेळात मुले आई-वडिलांच्या समवेत चाळीच्या समोरील मैदानात जमली.



मुलांना मोहनदादा काम करताना दिसला.

ती आश्चर्यचकित होऊन मोहनला विचारू लागली, “दादा, तू सकाळपासून कुठे होतास? आम्ही तुला खूप शोधलं.” यावर मोहन म्हणाला, “मी तुम्हाला सांगितलं होतं ना! आपण गांधीजयंती दणक्यात साजरी करू या, त्याचीच तयारी करत होतो. चला तर मग, पहा तरी!”

मैदानात एक. मोठं स्टेज बांधलं होतं. तसेच गांधीजींच्या प्रिय वस्तू , जसे की चरखा व त्याच्या प्रकारात काळानुसार होणारे बदल, त्यांनी लिहिलेली पुस्तके अशा वेगवेगळ्या वस्तूंचे प्रदर्शन मांडले होते. जेणेकरून मुलांसमवेत चाळीतील प्रत्येकालाच महात्मा गांधींविषयी अधिक माहिती मिळेल. चाळीतील प्रत्येक व्यक्तीने गांधीजीबद्दल स्वतःचे विचार मांडले. कोणी गांधीजींवर कविता लिहिल्या होत्या त्या ऐकवल्या.



प्रत्यक्षात काय, तर गण्याच्या वडिलांनी या सर्व मुलांना शनिवारच्या दिवशी बागेत खेळताना पाहिले होते. त्यांना त्या वेळीच कळून चुकले की ही मुलं घरच्यांशी खोटं बोलून इथे फिरत असायची. मात्र त्यांची ही चूक त्यांना स्वतःला समजावी, त्यांनी स्वतः घरच्यांशी खरे बोलावे यासाठीच गांधीजयंतीच्या निमित्ताने त्यांच्या विचारांचे महत्व मुलांना समजण्यासाठी गण्याचे बाबा व मोहन यांनी केलेली ही युक्ती. आणि हो, मोहनने मुलांकडून घेतलेल्या पैशातूनच खट्याळ चाळीत आनंदाने गांधी जयंती साजरी झाली.



# The guests!

**Samruddhi Sawant** | SYBA

3 minutes read

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Lavish life in white silk,

Mr. Shah is a nice guy, he doesn't bilk.

More or less we are counted as dust, but to live,  
we braved.

As our owner hates cleanliness, so we are saved.

In the dark, woods or flats, anywhere we live,  
We are poisonous, creepy, can't help, that's how  
we grew!

No rent, no maintenance, no formalities,  
Mr. Shah is so kind, in the morning, only once,  
us he meets.

Hanging, climbing, swinging, we live,  
like a cool dude call us gypsy,  
Not your stereotyped itsy bitsy.

We, his tenants, don't wear pants,  
given a small place to live without any butts and  
can'ts.

We hang out, with our strings always attached.  
With 47 kids of our own, Yet on tinder my wife  
and I didn't match.



Our love still ponders in my heart,  
with our hairy arms and legs, we hug each  
other tight, and promise never to part.  
We spin around, shoot our shot not on  
ground,  
With our legs always busy, cornering every  
wall, we are found.  
we loom in gloom,  
of the temptation of our web of doom.  
Dangling in the air, it's not always fun,  
sewing different patterns, call me an  
engineer, work still undone.  
We decorated owner's house, perfect for this  
Halloween,  
But it's the time of Navratri dussehra, for  
which Mr. Shah is very keen.  
Others call us scary, but Mr. Shah don't,  
He doesn't care much about us, unless the  
guest arrives, he won't.  
We welcome all our guests, unlike him,  
Eventually, we need dinner, a little bit  
romantic with the light so dim.  
We love guests, only on our nest, not the  
pests.  
but our end is near, we can manifest.  
It's the time, that bad omen arrives,  
The lights turned on, our hearts scared, no  
more pity on our lives.





Wide spread lavish silky threads, untouched by  
the water,

Remembering every prey we had slaughtered.

We cried out, "home sweet home"

In one shot of broom, it was all torn.

Falling with our babies, on the wet sink,

We ran fast, to hide behind the mirror, in a blink.

Climbing and swinging past the dirty walls of  
bathroom,

What was the use of being so settled and well  
groomed?

Eight legs didn't help much, oh man!

Everything spoiled now, what about our future  
plan?

Stressed, depressed, impatient, hanging on our  
strings we survived.

We knew, after a long time the guests had arrived.

Now, we know we had to leave,

and find another lazy man's house, and should  
again start to weave.





ART WALL



# Artwork of the Month

Dreading green in pumpkin



– Vedang Thakur | SYBSc



# Photograph of The Month



Vaishnavi Kulkarni | TYBSc  
1 mintue read

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Across the horizon, the sky cast's its divine effulgence. The setting sun played along creating extended shadows. The air flowing there is mystic, for it steals the sorrows and repays it with unending calm and bliss. The dusky rays highlight the perfect features of smiling faces. Bereft of jealousy and frustration, it's a land with virtues of satisfaction and goodwill. At a distance, you hear the crystal blue waters crashing over beautiful rocks, as serenity washes over your soul. Looking around, you spot trees that are overloaded with fruits and flowers, almost touching the ground, teaching you to stay down to earth. Anything you wish to eat shall appear instantly before you. It is a land that will confer upon your soul, it's much-





needed rest. The perfect paradise.

I did not name it, but is this not how our ideal imaginative state and its culture would look like?

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# Student Submission



**Sakshi Sudhakar Patil | FYBSc**



**Esha Belekar | FYBA**



# Column Exhibition

Artworks: Challenged to use only Two colors



Kirthi Kamath | SYBA

Yellow  
&  
Pink



Shruti Hinge | SYBA

Blue  
&  
Brown

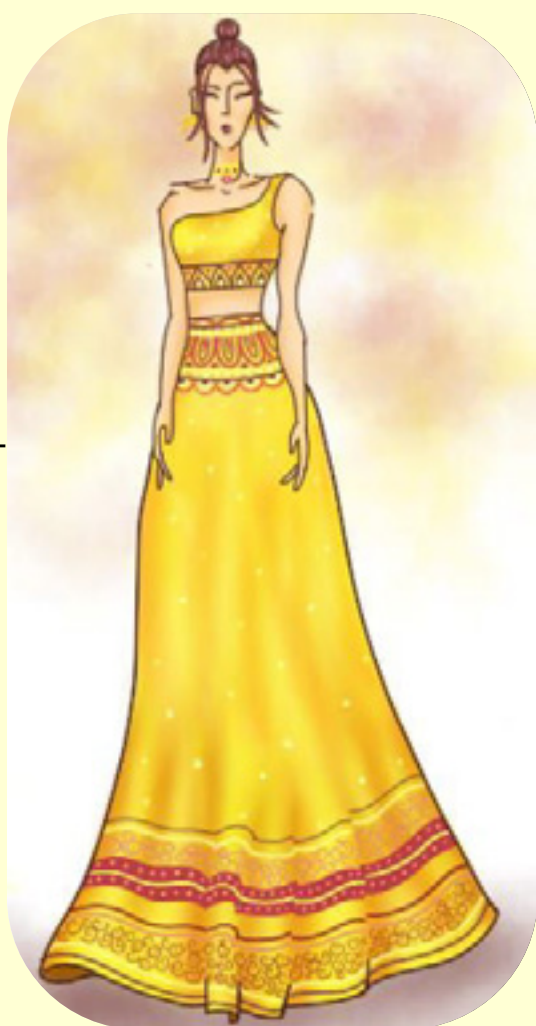






Maitreyee Sonawane | TYBA

Peach  
&  
Brown



Amruta Joshi | SYBA

Yellow  
&  
Crimson







Bhavini Thakkar | TYBSc

Red & Green



Violet  
&  
Orange

Vaishali Kanekar | TYBA



# Photographs

Challenge: Multi Pigmental Collage And 70:30  
One Color Ratio



Namita Gosia | TYBSC

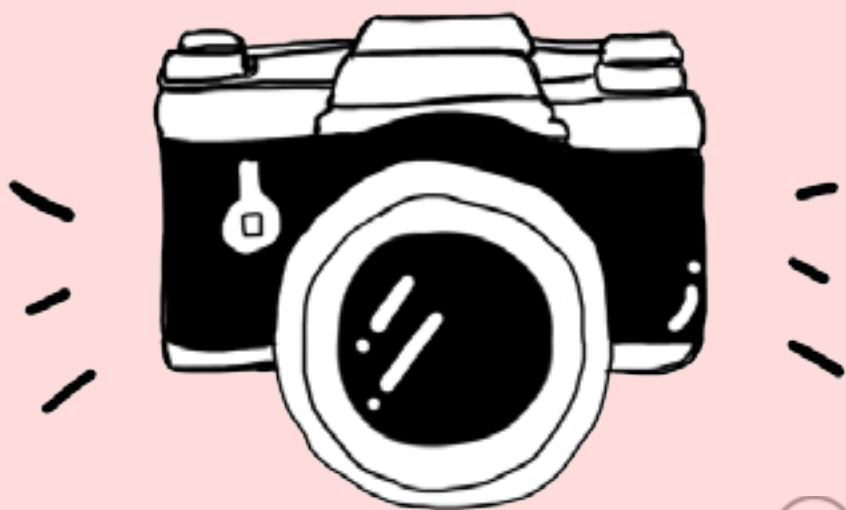
Asavari Shinde | TYBVOCTTM





Shreyasi Karapu | SYBA

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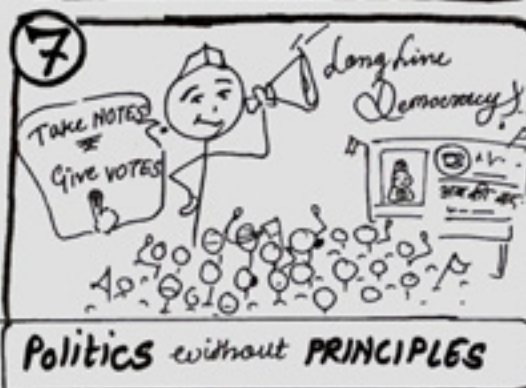
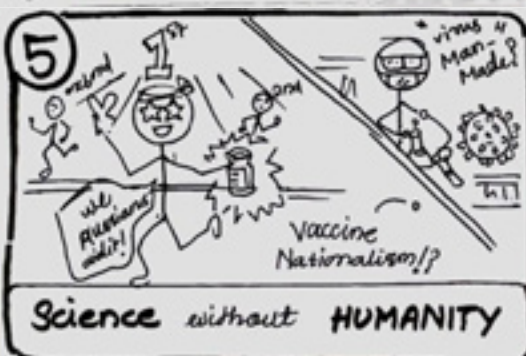
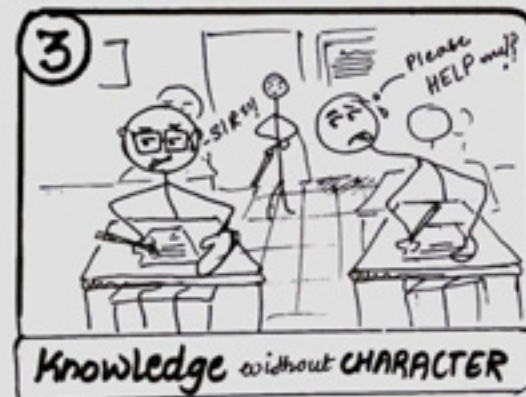
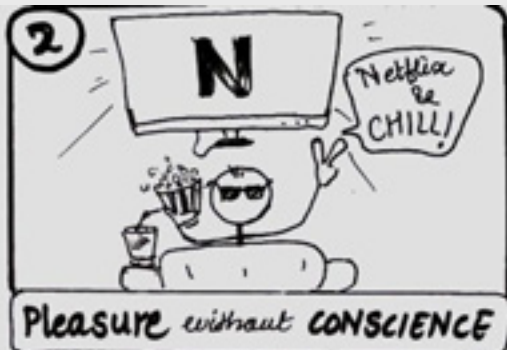


# Comic

Prajakta Jadhav | SYBA

Gandhiji gave us 7 sins to avoid...

here is the 8th sin of 2020!





# Colorful Wildlife

**Shubham Soni** | SYBA

4 minutes read

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## **Hail the Irate – *Calotes nemoricola***



The Western Ghats are one of the very unique biodiversity hotspots of not only the Indian subcontinent but of the whole world. These mountain ranges extend from the southern border of Gujarat right up to the southernmost tip of peninsular India i.e. Kanyakumari. The 150-million-year-old mountain ranges harbour one of the most beautiful and ecologically diverse life forms of the world. Montane forest of the Ghats has a massive impact on the monsoon weather pattern of India. The humongous amount of species and endemism in them makes it a UNESCO world heritage site. More than 325 globally threatened species call Western Ghats their home.





One of the endemics from here is the Nilgiri Forest Lizard or *Calotes nemoricola*. People usually relate change of colour and independent movement of eyes only to the Chameleons while overlooking many of the agamids, (Agamidae: A family of lizards) who are also capable of this. Even though we know about the existence of these charismatic species, a lot about their natural history still remains a mystery. One such instance of awe was when my fellow participants and I of the Reptile Classroom explored a forest area in Coorg. While heading towards our stay after a day of sheer leg work, looking around for herps (collectively refers to reptiles and amphibians), this gem awaited us along the beaten path. The lenses were unleashed and eyes wide open enjoying the beauty of the reptile. A few blinks of our camera flash probably agitated the lizard and in no time the colours changed; the light greens went dark and



faint oranges turned bright (Photo- documented provide here). The episode of not more than 360 seconds had left our jaws hanging.

The trip ended with a new revelation, and a jingle for the same - Hail the irate - *Calotes nemoricola*

## Art2

No great thing is suddenly created; as apt as it may sound. The Cicadas take about 2 years to 14 years to bring to life some of the most spectacular colours of the animal kingdom. The Cicadas emerge fresh after spending a long time underground, just to find a mate and ensure survival of its lineage by giving rise to offspring.



(In picture - A freshly moulted Cicada from, Agumbe Rain Forests, Karnataka)



The bright and iridescent hues of the cicada come with their own sets of pros and cons. Its beauty remains unparalleled, but seldom we know about the energy which is spent by the animal to obtain those colours. The colours make it stand out in the environment, perhaps giving it an opportunity to attract a mate. But, this also means that the cicada will look more prominent and also become more prone to getting spotted by a predator!

Hence it's undeniable that while trying to answer all such questions put forth by the curious mind, we only end up asking a few more!

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# RATC HOMEMADE

## CROCHET

Maitreyee Sonawane | TYBA



'Octo' from the word 'October' means eight. Hence, I made this crochet wall hanging in the shape of number 8 by using 8 colours. Each row is based on a particular colour and has its own existence. The rows are woven onto each other with the help of crochet hooks. After this process, this wall hanging is completed. We can also relate this to our life. This artwork can be seen as a diverse society in which groups within the society are woven with a hook of unity. We can develop the society with innovations and creativity of different groups of people. But in reality, we can observe that the unity among various groups of people is lacking due to inequality and discrimination. Hence, to have a beautiful and peaceful society like this artwork, let's come together and be respectful of each other.



# EMBROIDERY

Bhavisha Nakashe | TYBA(psychology) 2019-2020



I know it's difficult to process why isn't the sky blue or other things their typical colour but it's okay this way too, right?! We are conditioned to believe things in a particular way that we consider things that do not fit our criteria as abnormal, but if we could just accept that the sky wants to be red or the river wants to be purple so be it ! Even though it is difficult at first, we shall learn to accept different possibilities. There are people desiring to be like the mountain or the river or the sky ,wanting comfort in their own choice, wanting to be accepted so they too with pride could be part of the rainbow shining bright up in the sky.

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# RATC- CITY

**Vaishali Kanekar** | TYBA

4 minutes read

*Photographs- Abira Sinha | FYBA  
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The month of October is filled with festivities, as sometimes we celebrate Navratri and Diwali together while sometimes it's just the excitement related to Navratri. One of the more traditional ways to celebrate this festival – Durga puja, can be witnessed in West Bengal, Assam, and Orissa. The 8 days of Mythical transition from ahimsa to rudravatar resulting in Satya Vijay are not only an escape from reality but an eye candy in front of those boring,



overworked and stressful days. The idea of watching the beautiful Durga pandal in every nook and corner and the festive atmosphere used to brim me with joy. As far as I remember, Durga pooja in Kalyan city of Mumbai suburbs was greatly celebrated in Railway Quarters. Most of the Railway Quarters were filled with Bengali households. During the festival, we used to visit their pandals with a group of friends and family. The idols of the Devi Durga were heavily jewelled and they wore beautiful long white sarees. Even today, Kalyan Railway Quarters have Durga Puja based on theme. Ten years before, the decorations mostly consisted of haunted tunnels with mythological stories, and now they are mostly based on current affairs and global crises. The last three days of Durga Ashtami are celebrated with lots of activities, games, and are often accompanied by Bengali dances and traditional singing. Women wearing sakas throw Ivory powder as a ritual during the Arti. Tasty Sandesh is offered as siddhi prasad and many diyas are lighted across the idol. There are many Durga puja pandals in Mumbai, mostly in Goregaon and Bandra, but this Pandal in Kalyan has its own variant aura. People from all regions, caste and creed come here to watch the beauty of the festival. All types of Vedic and Tantric rituals are performed. The Devi ma is placed on the Thakur khaana – a platform, usually given by the family that sponsors the festival. Each year the sponsors are different and ensure the management of the festival.





The Abhik smoke is used during dancing and singing, giving the event a godly appearance. The stalls outside the pandals sell different kinds of goods along with Shake (ivory bangles) and silver jewellery .

Overall, the Ashtami, Navami, and Dashami are the days full of enjoyment and fun alongside Navratri and Garba. The final day of immersion of the Devi ,however, leaves everyone teared up marking the end of festivity, but also giving hope for next year celebrations.



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