



the RUI AITE monthly

E D I T O R I A L

Greetings Readers,
We are immensely pleased to present before you this Civil Services special edition of the Monthly! Haven't these careers always fascinated us? If you are one of the aspirants we have a treat for you! For this month we have interviewed not one but two civil servants, from Indian Administrative and Indian Foreign Services. Read about their journey in Op-Ed and Careerwise as they give you glimpses of their lives, tips, and tricks to crack the exam, read their experiences and be inspired!

Colors are an expression of life, aren't they? We think so too! Read the Insight column to explore the myriad shades and their representations. (Red for love,

anyone?). Let's go embark on the journey of love in the Fictionally Yours Column. After all, valentines is here! Sleep, 5 words of heaven for all the tired souls, are you one of them? Then delve into the World of sleep in the Science of Everything, or just be bedazzled with some amazing facts about the universe. Still hungry for information? Then go read the Tech-Tricked column to know about Chinese AIs, Android Q and CES. Heroic Outlaws, those law-breaking-but-heart-of-gold kinds of characters have always had a special place in our heart. That is why Open Forum decided to explore these guys. You'll be smiling as you read about these anti-heroes. The long-standing debate of best Indian city gets fiercer, it

is no longer Mumbai vs. Delhi only, all hail the new competitor Chennai. Awestruck? Then you must read Safarnama to get the details. Someone once rightly said, with polls come promises. As all the political parties indulge in the promise-game, we explore the so-called master-stroke of 10% reservation to the socially backward. This one is not to be missed folks! And to all the Art lovers, we have special coverage of India Art festival, along with the choicest of artworks! Enough with the treat-dangling, it's time you left all your exam worries aside and escaped into the magazine. A realm of leisure awaits you, so make haste! Happy Reading!



REPORTS

विष्णुशास्त्री चिपळूणकर व्याख्यानमाला

अनेक थोरामोठ्यांची मेहनत आपली मातृसंस्था आणि महाविद्यालय उभारण्यामागे होती. त्यातील एक मोठे नाव म्हणजे विष्णुशास्त्री चिपळूणकर ! त्यांचे कार्य नेहमी स्मरणात राहावे म्हणून १९७४ साली तेव्हाचे मराठी विभागप्रमुख वसंत बापट यांनी विष्णुशास्त्री चिपळूणकर स्मारक व्याख्यानमालेची सुरवात केली. अशीच आपली 46 वर्ष जुनी विष्णुशास्त्री चिपळूणकर स्मारक व्याख्यानमाला यावर्षी २३, २४ आणि २५ जानेवारी रोजी रोज सायंकाळी ६:३० वाजल्यापासून G12 मध्ये पार पाडली. गांधीजींची 150वी जयंती असल्याने त्यांच्या विचारांशी निगडित व्याख्यानाचे विषय ठेवण्यात आले होते.

तीन नामवंत विचारवंतांनी आपल्या विचारांनी व्यासपीठ फुलवले. पहिल्या दिवशी न्या. हेमंत गोखले यांनी, 'महात्मा गांधी आणि मानवतावाद' या विषयावर आपले विचार व्यक्त केले तर दुसऱ्या दिवशी रजनी बक्षी यांनी, 'गांधीजी और मतभेद की कला' हा विषय मांडला. डॉ.चैत्र रेडकर यांनी, 'गांधी आंबेडकर संवादाच्या वाटा' यावर आपले विचार मांडले. श्रोत्यांनी या व्याख्यानांना उत्तम प्रतिसाद दिला. न्या.गोखले हे महात्मा गांधी आणि मानवतावाद हा विषय मांडताना म्हणाले की अहिंसेचे मूर्तिमंत रूप म्हणजे गांधीजी. त्यांनी नेहमीच जातीभेद आणि धर्म यांच्या आधारावर लढे नको असं सांगितलं. म्हणूनच टागोर त्यांना 'दुसरा बुद्ध' म्हणत.

परंतु आज गांधीजींचं वस्तुकरण होऊन त्यांचा विचार मारला जात आहे. आज कुठे तरी माणसातल्या माणूसपणाला पुढे नेणारा गांधी विचार समजून घेऊन तो आचरणात आणला पाहिजे असेही ते म्हणाले.

24 जानेवारी ला 'गांधीजी और मतभेद की कला' या विषयावर हिंदीतून मत मांडताना रजनी बक्षी म्हणाल्या कि गांधीजींना वाटे कि मतभेदापेक्षा मनभेद होणं अधिक वाईट. कारण मतभेद काही काळाने मिटू शकतात मात्र मनभेद नाही. आज कुठेतरी मतभेदाला मनभेद समजून, विचार समजून घेण्यापेक्षा ते संपवले जात आहेत. त्यामुळे मतभेद आणि मनभेद यामधला फरक समजून घेतला पाहिजे हे त्यांनी अनेक अंतरराष्ट्रीय आणि राष्ट्रीय उदाहरणांसह स्पष्ट केलं.

डॉ.चैत्र रेडकर यांनी गांधी आंबेडकर संवादाच्या वाटा या सारख्या अतिशय सुंदर अशा विषयावर बोलताना गांधीजी आणि आंबेडकर यांच्या भूमिका स्पष्ट केल्या. तीन दिवस तीन वेगवेगळ्या विषयांवर आपलं मत मांडताना वक्त्यांनी विषयाला न्याय देत श्रोत्यांना विचार करायला भाग पाडले. खूप सारी नवी माहिती आणि वेगळा दृष्टीकोण देऊन ही व्याख्यानमाला संपन्न झाली ते पुढच्या वर्षी असेच नवनवीन विषय घेऊन नवीन विचार गुंफायची आशा देऊनच !

LOOK BEYOND WHAT YOU SEE

PERCEPTION 2018 - 19

The Department of Psychology conducted its departmental festival "PERCEPTION" on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th of January 2019, which involved various workshops and competitions. The students started off with two online competitions - meme-making and short story writing - which required participants to submit their entries based on psychological aspects online.

Wednesday the 23rd of January commenced with a workshop based on nonverbal communication, which gave the participants an idea about body language and various other nonverbal elements as a method of conveying information, as well as interpreting it. The department also organized a guest lecture on Art Therapy, succeeding the workshop. A movie named "To the Bone" was screened on the same day to sensitize students about anorexia nervosa, an eating disorder.

The next day witnessed another workshop on hindrances to problem solving. It very interestingly informed the participants about various mental blocks an individual might have and put forth strategies to get over those blocks in a very creative way. The second day

of the festival was full of competitions like the quiz, crossword, etc. Participants enjoyed presenting their views at the Just A Minute contest, where they had to think and speak on how the world is related to psychology.

On the final day, a workshop on conflict management was conducted to educate the participants on effective conflict resolution and management techniques through various activities. It was followed by a short film screening and panel discussion, again an attempt to sensitize individuals on various psychological disorders. All three days of the festival were open for students of all departments. Various tests for personality, selfie addiction, emotional intelligence, and cognitive styles were conducted by students of the Psychology department. The department's motive was to spread awareness, break the myths, and sensitize individuals. For this purpose, the students started a campaign tagged #breakthemyth on their social media handles. The fest was a great success, and a terrific platform for students to present the various facets of psychology.

TILT SHIFT - ALCHEMY OF COLORS

BMM DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL FEST 'TILT SHIFT' TURNS INTO A MEMORABLE EXTRAVAGANZA

Students of Ruia's Department of Communication and Media (DCM) toiled hard for months to make their annual event 'Tilt Shift', conducted on January 18th and 19th, a grand success - marking yet another fruitful year! Tilt Shift 2019 flaunted the theme 'Alchemy Of Colors' so amazingly that it justified the unmistakable vibrancy and zeal that was palpable at the DCM. This edition witnessed a varied range of events conducted across the span of two days. But what stood out the most was the flagship event, '60 Hours Short Film Festival', which formed the highlight of the show.

The troop consisted of various teams, including Performing Arts, Fine Arts, Literary Arts, Protocol, Public Relations, Celebrity Management, Hospitality, FA Digital, Camera Crew, Logistics, and Security truly portraying the colors of unity as they worked together to bring the

fest to life. A variety of competitions were conducted, from singing and dancing to an open mic event and creative writing. Each was judged by an acknowledged expert in the respective field.

The second day was undoubtedly starry as it was graced by renowned personalities from the entertainment industry, namely Sunny Kaushal, Sara Hashmi, and Lakshya Raj Anand who turned judges for the '60 Hours Short Film Festival'. Here participants had to create a film with the common theme of "color" while also using the genres assigned during the auction. It culminated with Gaurish Murkar and group emerging as the winners! These two days brought everyone fun, cheer, creativity, new connections, bonding, and indelible memories to cherish for a lifetime!

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATES TRADITIONS

30 JANUARY 2019

RAMNARAIN RUIA AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE,

Ramanarain Ruia celebrated the 69th Republic day of India with high spirits and emotions by adding the complementary touch of the annual traditional day festival to it. However, it was executed uniquely this year with the innovative idea of traditional day competition drawing beauty of different cultures.

When it comes to festivities and celebrations the college is always makes an effort to set a high standard. This year Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, Ruia student council, organized Traditional day with Republic Day on the 26th of January along with yet another novel idea of Traditional Day Contest. From the very start of the year, the Ruia Student Council has initiated many different events for the sole purpose of student enjoyment and college prestige. The Traditional Day contest consisted of students participating in the event representing various different cultures of different states of India in the amalgamation of today's pop culture. The judges of the competitions were Dr. Dhanashree and Dr. Navjit from Bioanalytical

sciences. The competition was conducted in three rounds which consisted of a fashion show, talent round, and quiz on the same theme respectively. Students from all fields, that is Arts, Science, and Vocational courses participated in the event. Five teams representing the culture of Gujrat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu participated in the event. The participants showcased the attire and costume with the effective cultural beats of the state tradition in the first round. In the second round, they portrayed the dance style tracing from past to present with the fusion of pop culture. Lastly, they were quizzed on cultures they represented on the stage.

The most fascinating part of the event was that on one single day students witnessed the beauty and variety of many different cultures. They were enlightened with the new as well as forgotten knowledge of these states. Not only did the questions cover the geographical aspect but also touched various socio, political, economic, historical and cultural aspect of these regions.

The host of the show kept everyone delighted. Starting from the meaning of Garba to today's fascination for it, the entire annual Maharashtra calendar, the Bhangda, and the Bharatnatyam dance were effectively portrayed by the talented students. International songs were translated to regional languages maintaining the funk, rhythm, and mask of the song. In the end, a fair Judgement was made and team Gujrat was awarded the first prize. Ramnarain Ruia is known for its cultural activities and unique talents. The high spirited students indulge themselves in many different activities. Thus events like the Traditional Day contest turn successful with shining colors.

The Traditional Day contest has now been a mark for the celebration of a new tradition in college itself after its grand success. The Ruia Students Councils has constantly been taking care of student's enjoyment and cultural development from the very start of the year. With this event at the end of the academic year, the college has maintained the legacy of prestigious cultural adoration.

Student reporter: Vaishali kanekar

BUZZ AROUND

10 % quota for the Economically Backward -A Reality or an Election tactic?

Reservation is a sentimental issue for all Indians. The 10% quota for the economically weaker sections (EWS) belonging to the general category was passed by the Parliament on January 10, 2019. The communities to be benefited are - Brahmins, Rajputs (Thakurs), Jats, Marathas, Bhumihars, several trading castes, Kapus, Kammas among other higher castes. It is part of the Constitutional (124) Amendment Act amending articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution. The Constitutional Amendment was made by inserting a clause which allows states to make "special provisions for the advancement of any economically weaker sections of citizens.", introducing reservation for economically weaker sections in educational institutions and government jobs. Under the new law, those who earn less than Rs. 8 lakh a year and have less than five-acre land qualify for the quota. However, this will not affect the existing reservation enjoyed by the other communities such as SC, ST, OBC etc and hence it is said that the reservation will cross the 50% mark, which was set by The Supreme Court. But, however, after a 10-hour long debate the bill got a green signal from the Rajya Sabha. The

Prime Minister has hailed the passage of the bill as a 'victory for social justice.' Many opposition parties have called it an 'election gimmick.' During the process of the passage of the bill, many opposition leaders had demanded to increase the reservation for the OBC and SC in sync with their population. A petition was filled by the Youth for Equality organization and Kaushal Kant Mishra seeking the quashing of the bill, saying that the economic criterion cannot be the sole basis for reservation. According to the plea, it violates the basic feature of the Constitution as a reservation on economic grounds cannot be limited to the general categories and the 50% ceiling limit cannot be breached. The petitions also say that the apex court's Mandal Commission verdict in 1992 had "specifically" stated that the economic criteria cannot be the sole basis for reservation under the Constitution." The Supreme Court has stayed it presently. Gujarat Government was the first government to implement the 10% reservation and many states are also considering to implement this law. Many states are considering that to accommodate the 10% reservation but for this, the seats have to be increased in

the educational institutes. As of now each and every community such as the Jats, Gujars, and the Patidars are asking for a reservation, the general feeling among the people of the general category was that they would be at a disadvantage in the future and hence they felt that the poor families in their community needed a reservation. However, the timing at which the legislation was passed i.e. at the time of the elections has given rise to speculations. Many say that in consideration of the population the reservation offered is too less. The Supreme Court has sent a notice to the Centre but has not put the scheme on hold. The court's decision means the quota is unlikely to be either scrapped or kept on hold before the national election due by May. The Centre has to get back to the Supreme Court within three weeks on the move that was introduced as a constitutional amendment, passed in parliament and enacted in a matter of days. Thus an ambiguous atmosphere is prevailing over this law and everyone is now awaiting The Supreme Court's decision.

-Swati Achwal.

SIMPLY PUT: Sedition charges against JNU students.

Kanhaiya Kumar and JNU have been in the news for a long amount of time till now. Let's have look at the Sedition case charge sheet filed by Delhi Police on him.

—> What is Sedition law in India?

- Sedition is covered under section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code which says "whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in India, shall be punished with imprisonment for life... or with imprisonment which may extend to three years."

—>Why this case has been filed against JNU students?

-On February 9, 2016, Kanhaiya Kumar and other JNU students raised slogans against "Occupation of Kashmir by the Indian State". In that context, Delhi Police on January 14th filed the charge sheet against Kanhaiya and others for allegedly shouting Anti-India slogans.

—>Who all are involved in the case?

-Apart from Kanhaiya Kumar, several other former JNU students such as Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya have been named in the case. Also amongst the 77 witnesses, there were 14 student witnesses from JNU, all of whom had links with ABVP (the Right Wing of JNU).

—>How did the case proceed?

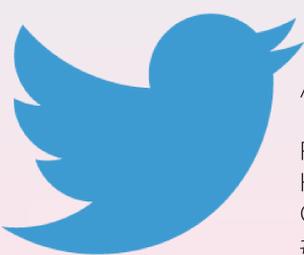
-The court refused 1200-page chargesheet for it being filed without approval from Delhi Government. Delhi law minister Kailash Gahlot issuing a notice to the principal secretary (law) for sending the ministry's opinion directly to the home department, without placing the related file before him. In the show-cause notice dated January 21, the minister cited rules, saying no decision could be made to any other department without his prior approval. Delhi police have sought 10 days time to get the approval and next date of hearing is February 6th.

- Chinmay Parulekar.

TOP TEN NEWS:

1. Congress doesn't have strong leaders, depends on Kochhar, others named in FIR chocolatey faces for poll glory: Kailash Vijayvargiya
2. Train-18 fares likely to be 40-50% higher than Shatabdi Express: Report
3. Pakistan violates ceasefire along LoC on Republic Day
4. 18,000 ft. Minus 30 degrees. ITBP keeps the tricolor flying high on Republic Day in Ladakh
5. Pranab Mukherjee, Bhupen Hazarika, Nanaji Deshmukh awarded Bharat Ratna, PM Modi heaps praises
6. ICICI-Videocon loan case: CBI likely to summon Chanda
7. ISRO successfully launches Mirostat-R with student-made Satellite onboard
8. SC to examine validation of 10% quota to poor in the general category
9. Nepal's Rohit Paudel Breaks Sachin Tendulkar's Long-Standing Record In International Cricket
10. Indonesia Masters 2019: Saina Nehwal Beats He Bingjiao In Three-Game Thriller To Enter Final

- Adya Shreya



Twitter tweet:

Amish Tripathi

From the Vishnu Purana: The country that lies to the north of the ocean, and south of the Himalayas, is called Bhārat. And there dwell the descendants of Bharat. India. An ancient Civilisation. A young Country. Bharat Mata Ki Jai! Jai Hind! #HappyRepublicDay2019 #RepublicDayIndia

-Pushkar Bhatlekar.

CAREERWISE

Special February edition on Civil services.

This fast paced life comes with fast changing opinions and a society that is constantly jumping from one powerful leader to another. Spiderman's uncle was right when he said that with great power comes great responsibility. Leaders are the driving force of our society and hence, columns Op-Ed and Careerwise have a treat for the budding leader in you.

A career in civil services is fascinating, it provides endless opportunities. We came across many UPSC aspirants in our survey, who felt that there is a dearth of proper and truthful guidance for them. According to the survey, only a few of the students who wish to apply for UPSC have focussed strategies. Most of them rely completely on newspapers. Careerwise gathered some frequently asked questions from our survey and interviewed Dr. Ashwini Joshi, an IAS officer of 2006 batch, Maharashtra Cadre, who had an AIR 13. She currently holds the post of State excise commissioner. Here are the excerpts of the interview:



1) When did it all begin? When did you decide that administrative services were your calling?

UPSC was my savior. During the initial years of dentistry in the Government Dental College, I realized that this career was not for me, that I could not practice dentistry my entire life. The question was what else if not dentistry? The answer became clear after some self-reflection, UPSC.

2) What role do an individual's educational background and degree play in the UPSC preparation?

A professional degree not only makes you secure but also more confident. Having a humanities background especially is helpful because you already learn many topics of social studies.

However, students without a humanities background too can ace UPSC exam. The most important thing is that one should choose the subjects and strategies carefully.

3) What about optional subjects? What should be kept in mind while selecting those?

I selected Marathi literature as my first optional as I was fond of literature. It helped me relax from all the GS Study stress. Sociology interested me a lot; hence I chose it as my second optional. I think what matters the most while choosing the optional is that you should like your subjects. The availability of study material too should be kept in mind.

4) What was your strategy for prelims, mains and the interview round?

I believe that through reading and preparation is absolutely necessary, there are no shortcuts to success, you have to read from the original sources. Maximum utilization of time is a must. For example, I used to read in the train on my way to C D Deshmukh Institute in Thane.

For Prelims, NCERTS are like bread and butter. One should read D D Basu for polity as well. Reading newspapers with informative and analytical content like The Hindu, and Indian Express is crucial. Stay away from popular newspapers. Take the hard route, it will pay.

The next step is the Mains. One must practice a lot of answer-writing and get someone to evaluate them. Apart from the reference books, I prepared my own notes in bullet points and a concise manner (no more than 3-4 words for one point!). For essays, magazines like Frontline, editorials in newspapers like The Hindu, etc. help.

The final round is the interview. 'Express your opinions, stand by them and value them.' This is the only slogan that you must remember while facing the panelists. Do not try to lead your interview. The panelists are experts who have worked in the field of civil services for 30-35 years, they can see through bluffs. The interview is not about what and how much you know, but what you are. UPSC is looking for candidates with good analytical skills, thought processes, personality, and vision.

Be yourself, be honest, it is okay if you do not know answers to some questions. Be honest enough to tell them that you don't know the answer. You can also breach the preconceived notions; I used to hear a lot of advice that one must wear only light color or pastel color sarees for the interviews. I wore a red colored Orissa saree for mine.

5) What are your fondest memories of the LBSNAA?

My most cherished memory has to be Bharat Darshan, where they take you to the tour of entire India. You learn about different cultures, observe intergroup behaviors, decision-making. It prepares you for future challenges.

6) According to our survey, nearly 7 out of 10 children go for classes. What role do the coaching institutes play in the preparations? Are they necessary?

Coaching institutes are not necessary, it is an individual choice, they at the most provide you guidance. I personally never went to any classes but joined the guidance centers like SIAC & C D Deshmukh.

UPSC looks for fresh and positive minds, vision and principles. It isn't looking for people who have just mugged up the data.

7) When we took the survey, we found that many students who are from vernacular background wish to appear for UPSC. Any advice for them?

In UPSC, it is the power of expression and expression itself that matters and not the language. There is no need to choose the vernacular medium for answer writing, just because you have studied in it. Keep in mind that more resources are available in English than in any other language. It is a uniform language and demolishes scope for any element of regional biases.

8) There are many aspirants who have failed at various stages. What message would you give to them?

Failures are bound to happen; it is the part of UPSC preparation. I had to give three attempts to get through. One must have tremendous belief in one's dreams and oneself. The power to regain and comeback should be within.

9) How did you keep yourself motivated during the preparations?

I had the advantage that I was a working woman, I had my dental practice part-time, which provided a diversion. I was very clear that I didn't want to go back to dentistry. So, I kept on studying.

10) What do you think sets the preparations of the toppers apart from other aspirants?

I would advise the following things to get the best rank in UPSC:

- No compromise on preparations. Cut yourself off from distractions and focus.
- Have guts enough to do self-study. Have tremendous belief in yourself.
- No group discussions and the likes. Perspectives cannot be copied.

11) What changes do you think should be done in the UPSC examinations?

UPSC tries to balance between the subjects; it implements changes as and when necessary. For example, the 2-compulsory options have now

been included in the prelims, so science students get an edge over their human counterparts. The negative marking system brings quick results but does not necessarily check thoroughness of the candidates.

12) We would like to know something about the actual job as well. How different and difficult is the on-field situation than what is portrayed in films and other media?

The situation is vastly different than what is being shown by the media. In the real world, the mettle gets tested. You have to handle a lot of pressure and still shine.

13) What are the pros and cons of an administrative career?

This career gives you an opportunity to interact with a vast number of people. No other career would give you an opportunity to change and influence people's lives at such a young age.

But there is also a strict work life, regular transfers, and difficulty managing work-life balance.

14) How, according to you, can the officer help usher in social change?

Officers have both opportunity and power to usher in social changes. When I was a CEO in Akola, in 1 day I provided employment to nearly 60 farmer widows as Anganwadi workers which was a big and prestigious change for them. In Thane, I revamped the Town hall and opened an Amphitheatre which had minimal charges and provided an affordable platform for artist groups. The sheer number of events happening there bear testimony to how small changes can help in a long way

15) What qualities do you think are essential in an officer?

An officer should be courageous, upright in thoughts and deeds and ready to face any problem for the people. Only if a person has all these virtues, he can face the pressure of the work.

16) What advice would you give to all IAS aspirants?

Think before opting for this career, as success cannot be guaranteed. It requires a lot of efforts and also some grace. Having a backup career helps. Take failures in the right spirit. Remember that there is no alternative for self-study.

- Tapasya Iyer (Interview)

- Prajakta Patil and Prachiti Jadhav (survey).



OP-ED

IFS, the Indian foreign service, has always been considered different than the more commonly opted public services like IPS and IAS. What makes it stand out is the beauty of diplomacy that it is laden with. OpEd has interviewed Mr. Swapnil Thorat, an IFS officer, currently posted in South Korea. Excerpts from the interview-

1. Can you brief us about your work?

I got selected through Civil Services Examination in 2017 and got into Indian Foreign Service. I finished my Basic training in the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi. Currently, I have been posted in the Indian Embassy in South Korea as Third Secretary, Language Trainee. So I am learning the Korean language which will help me to interact with local people here in South Korea. The language will enable easy dialogue with locals and in the long term, will help me frame a policy framework thus strengthening and deepening our relations with the Republic Of Korea.

I am handling the IT and Public Diplomacy wing in Embassy. Its main aim is to reach to maximum people through social media platform and website.

2. What are the challenges and difficulties associated with this role?

One of the major challenges is to stay away from your family and friends. To live in another country with a different language and culture, it is difficult to adapt to the change. Personally speaking, it was very difficult for me to stay away from my family and embrace this change. So after joining this service, one needs to come out of this comfort zone.

3. Are there any misconceptions regarding IFS in the masses?

Yes. Many of our countrymen are not aware of the role of Indian Foreign Service officers. Many think that it is just a wine and dine service. But it is more than that. To change this perspective, Ministry of External Affairs is trying to reach to common people through its programs like SAMEEP (Students and Ministry of External affairs engagement programme). To create awareness about this service, to make people understand how our foreign policy affects the daily lives of common people is another challenge.

4. What drew you to get into civil services?

There are two reasons which drew me into civil services:

Firstly, I would say my personal ego. I had never appeared for any competitive exam anytime in my life before appearing for Civil Service Exam. So when I heard about them, I found it challenging and decided to go for it.

Secondly, I was born and brought up in Kalyan, which is a satellite town near Thane. Kalyan has always faced problems in getting basic facilities like water, electricity, roads. I have personally seen and faced these problems. People blamed the government for that but I felt that if all people will blame then who will rectify it? This thought provoked me to join government system and civil services examination gives such a good platform where you can become a part of the government system on basis of your merit and sheer hard work.

5. How difficult it is to create a healthy work and family balance?

Frankly speaking, it is just a start for me. So I haven't faced such a situation yet. But by looking at a few examples, I personally feel it is very important to maintain both family and work life. Because in life, achievement is not everything. There are few people who are successful in their lives in many spheres but still, they are not satisfied. They are facing loneliness. Therefore if one needs to enjoy success there should be your family, friends with whom you can enjoy it.

6. Mental health is not looked upon as a serious issue in India. What are your views on this?

Many of us have faced problems like loneliness, depression, and get negative thoughts. But we do hesitate to share these mental problems with others. In the era of virtual civilization, this problem has increased a lot. Because though we are connected artificially with each other on social media, a face to face discussion, daily interactions which could enable us to share problems has reduced. I am witness to superficial show off on social media. Posts and uploads are not parameters to assess the life of others. Having discussions, conversation with friends and family is the best solution to cure mental health issues.

7. How much do you believe in the impact of media on society?

Media does have both positive and negative impact. I feel it's the people who decide what the media shows. Nowadays people do blame media for showing relegated news which won't create any impact on common man's lives. We watch that news. It means we create demand and that's why media shows us such news. If tomorrow people stop watching Bollywood news, media channels won't show it.

On the other hand, media holds the power to bring people together. For instance social media platforms like facebook, twitter were responsible for building many mass movements.

8. Society is influenced by leaders like you. Do you feel that such influencers need to be wary of what they speak on public platforms? Can we attribute their controversial opinions to the lack of diplomacy and responsibility?

Yes absolutely. It is truly applicable for leaders. But I believe the people should see that they follow worthy people. I would like to quote Dr. B. R. Ambedkar here. He used to say, 'Bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to degradation.' Though he used it in the context of politics, we can also use it in the context of increasing heroism in different spheres. It may be cricket or Bollywood or any other fields. Before following anyone one should be well aware of his or her background.

At the same time, it is also the responsibility of leaders, to be honest. I personally feel for all these issues, education is the best medicine. It is such a weapon which can change the perspective of an individual to look at things.

- Mrunal Saple, Jui Mande



Thus Mr. Swapnil Thorat gave us insights into the lives of IFS officers and spoke about the need for diplomacy and responsibility in current leaders. Are we lacking the basic filter in choosing the right role models for ourselves? We have something to say regarding this...



ROLE MODEL



The online universe is taken up by storm as yet another YouTuber stirs up controversy by venturing into offensive territories. The YouTuber responds with a half-hearted token apology video while making snide ill-concealed remarks about "butthurt" people. The fans in the comment section tear down the people who took offense, usually with more venom than that of the original remark. This makes us wonder how responsible do we need to hold social media influencers for affecting the mass psyche?

Having a good mentor is a sign of healthy development. There's a phrase, 'Bet on the jockey, not the horse'. A great jockey is a great role model.

Yet we're in the 21st century where teens look up to Instagram models who walk around with layers of makeup and can credit a huge portion of their popularity to photoshop and still are considered as the ideal of perfection. A single tweet from an idol is enough to subject an innocent topic to an onslaught of trolling. After this mess, none of us should be surprised seeing an egg taking over Instagram.

Some personalities defend 13-year-olds smoking and drinking

on live chats by inciting freedom of action. The immediate consequences aside, nother 13-year-olds end up thinking it's "cool".

Being in a position that they are, grudgingly or not, celebrities have a responsibility and the power to influence minds. Even the dumbest things that they put out there holds a huge meaning for their followers.

Another train of thought would be those creators shouldn't be subjected to the pressure of being role models since they never signed up for it. Instead, they should choose the right people to look up to, except that it never happens. Influence is an aspect of popularity that just can't be ignored.

Role models are the trailblazers of inspiration for the people that look up to them. Living legends like Malala Yousafzai, Mithali Raj, Mahindra Singh Dhoni, Michelle Obama, Cristiano Ronaldo, Sachin Tendulkar excel in their fields of work as well as inspire others to be better people. Let's choose our role models wisely and leave the bad ones to memes.

-Mithila Kudalkar, Shabduli Shinde.

As citizens of a culturally as well as scientifically developed country, we need to not only reap the benefits of the struggles that our forefathers undertook but also serve the country to its glory for our future generation's betterment. One such way is by officially serving the country by taking the UPSC exams. It brings discipline, responsibility, hard work and perseverance to one's character. But most importantly, it gives the opportunity to serve the nation and bring massive changes for the betterment of our country.

Op-Ed edited by
Disha Shanbag, Lekshmi Prakash.

BEHIND THE SCENES

The Halt(?) at Filmistaan

Bollywood's lively masala fares evoke enthusiastic wolf whistles in cinemas in the East and West. Today, Bollywood is the only global challenger to the popularity and clout of the mighty Hollywood. Although, we still face the astonishing fact; that every movie in the circle has the same plot, music, story (sometimes) and yes, of course, the loved and in-demand 'item' numbers. But have you ever wondered why it is so and why is it that movies these days fetch box office numbers rather than focus on problems in the society? The popular movies support objectification and corrupt the mind and body, no matter whether it is of a man or a woman. They sometimes even evoke strong feelings among the masses on certain issues that they deeply care about which brings about unrest in the society. In this article, we focus on the impact that Bollywood cinema has on the various spheres of our society. The clash of release dates in the movie

industry is not a new phenomenon. Almost every Friday when a new movie comes out, there are at least two others being released with it. Most of the big budget films choose strategic dates that include long weekends which might help them garner more business. An example would be Raees clashing with Kaabil on 25th January 2017, just a day before the 26th of January - Republic Day. This is not only seen in India. Abroad, movies are strategically released throughout the period of summer. The type of movie released depends on what part of summer is on. Blockbusters are released during early summer. Smaller films, somewhere towards the middle which takes advantage of the 'blockbuster fatigue'. The end of summer is practically a dead zone. Besides this, recently, a lot of political movies hit theatres. This could be because of the election season coming closer. These include 'The Accidental Prime Minister' which had

accusations saying that it portrays the Gandhi Family in a bad way. Both BJP and Congress had their own opinions on the film; while BJP backed the film, Congress criticized it under the pretext of a purposeful election-period release. 'Thackeray', a biopic on the late Shiv Sena chief Balasaheb Thackeray has Nawazuddin Siddiqui playing the titular role. 'Uri: The Surgical Strike' is based on the September 2016 strike against Pakistan when Army troops crossed into the country and smashed four launch pads under the guard of a Pakistani post. Despite these strategic releases, according to Anupam Kher, 'releasing a political film during elections is the same as releasing a patriotic one during national festivals.'

Films are said to be an art form and art is infamous for creating all sorts of controversies. Bollywood has also had a large number of controversies surrounding movies over the years.

The causes of these altercations range from political, moral, religious and even deserved or undeserved public outrage.

Initially, the offending issues were mostly about excessive nudity or otherwise bold scenes. Movies like 'Khwahish', 'Murder', 'Hate Story', 'The Dirty Picture' got into trouble for their content or even posters. 'Julie', a 1975 film attracted controversy because of its portrayal of pre-marital pregnancy and inter-caste marriage.

Films causing strife for political reasons are more in number now than they ever were. 'Aandhi' based on the life of Indira Gandhi, 'Black Friday' based on the 1993 Mumbai bomb-blasts, 'Madras Café' which revolves around the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi and the Indian intervention in the Sri Lankan civil war, 'Aarakshan' which portrayed the caste-based reservation system, 'Firaaq' based on the 2002 Gujrat riots all received flak from various political groups. 'PK' and 'Oh My God!' caused outrage in religious groups because of their portrayal of religion in India. The

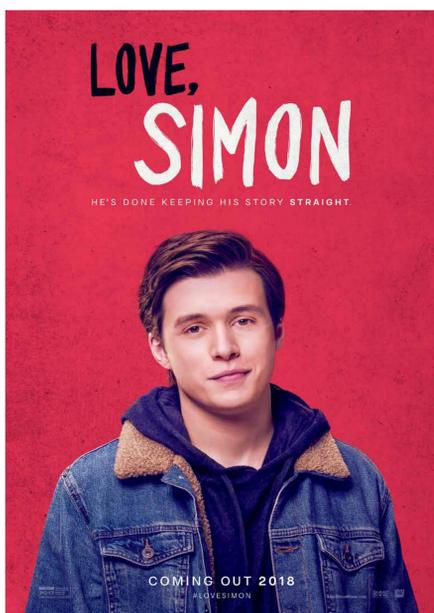
controversy of 'Padmaavat' is the latest of these.

The only conclusion that can be drawn from all these endless controversies is that our society is still a long way away from being tolerant and inclusive. People still refuse to give up on pre-conceived notions and acknowledge the truth or even the existence of a different way of thinking when it is presented to them.

While the initial intent behind censorship of films by the Censor Board might be pure, a lot of directors have often come to the forefront and expressed their general disapproval of the Board and the loss in the essence of their stories. Along with a bunch of considerate decisions, unnecessary decisions also have been taken by the Board which has received a lot of negative reviews. In the end, decisions need to be made taking the audience and their general perception into consideration. Here are a few movies on their ban list:

2) Kama Sutra - A Tale Of Love

This movie, despite being based on a treatise of Indian origin, faced the wrath of Censor Board which hypocritically termed the movie 'explicit' and 'immoral' for the Indian audience.



3) Fifty Shades of Grey

Based on an E. L. James novel, this BDSM centric love story got a flat thumbs down from the Censor Board which was clearly against releasing a film that depicted something that they felt harmed Indian values.

4) Love, Simon

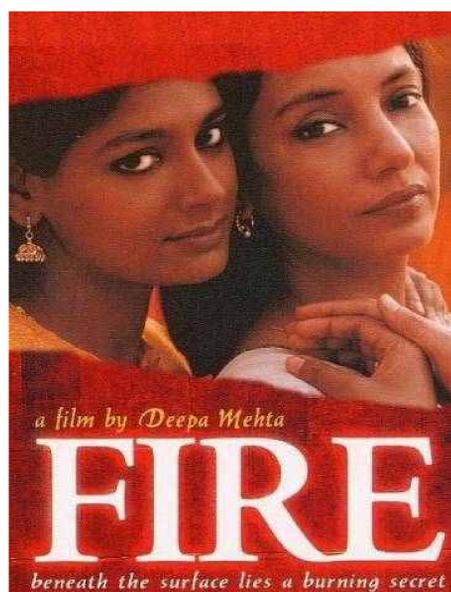
Considered a landmark film getting rave reviews in general for its realistic depiction of a gay teenager, this film wasn't approved by the Board. The LGBTQ+ community has stepped up against this move questioning the Board about the reason why this film is unfit for viewing when it simply addresses the issues of the LGBT.

Movies are a mirror that delineates the society. But, it's not all good stuff always. This medium also has some not so good stereotypical portrayals.

Movies have created a lot of awareness towards depression, but at the same time some people got the wrong message that "It is alright to be depressed, moreover, it's a cool/trendy

1) Fire

'Fire' was one of Deepa Mehta's most critically acclaimed films worldwide. But in India, it was heavily criticized due to its subject, which dealt with a lesbian relationship between two sisters-in-law.



thing" whereas the actual message was "It's alright if someone is depressed, no need to hurt them further, but help them instead". We have some people who walk around saying that they are depressed when they are clinically not, which has lightened up the issue and sadly people don't take "depression" that seriously now.

Many a time, movies glorify extramarital affairs. The gender-specific stereotypes are influencing social norms. People normalize such things without even realizing them. This is harmful to society as a whole. Many Bollywood movies promote eve teasing and unhealthy flirting. These acts are shown as something desirable. Many times the things are exaggerated in such a way that people would want to imitate them as soon as possible. They also set very wrong examples of the expression of love.

One commonly showcased thing in movies is the item songs. The female is objectified in every possible way, she instantly becomes eye candy. They are added even when they are irrelevant

to the plot. Such songs shape the mentality of people in a very hazardous manner. Unfortunately, almost all top notch actresses have acted in many such item numbers, who are so-called feminists otherwise.

The young generation starts thinking and acting in the way their favorite actors do in movies. Things are changing gradually, but there's still a long way to go. We need to be very cautious about how we perceive movies and movie makers have to be aware of their responsibilities.

We watch movies for relaxation. It is actually a mode of entertainment. For two to three hours we get shifted to another world and then come back. But there are a few movies which keep lingering in our minds even after that. Sometimes we just can't stop thinking about the story. The 21st opener has witnessed many such eye-openers till date. Released in 2004 'Swadesh' was

highly successful in dealing with the brain drain issue. It even highlighted the problems migrated Indians face in the western world. In the same year, we had 'Phir Milenge' that successfully created awareness about AIDS which was the need of the time. It even brought to light the negative side of the corporate world. Then we had 'Dor' giving voice to widowed women and even subtly underlining the power of forgiving. '3 Idiots' was an insight into the engineering world and an overview of the Indian education system. On the same lines, in 'Taare Zameen Par', the dyslexic Ishan appealed to each concerned parent and teacher to recognize the needs of each child differently.

We had movies which dealt with so many diverse dimensions. 'Vicky Donor' was based on sperm donation, 'Lunch Box', on the concept of moving on leading to happiness, whereas 'Oh My God' giving a completely different

perception of the Indian God. 'Queen' brought out the disguised middle-class mentality and explored the journey of an independent woman. 'Ghazi Attack' gave us an insight into the life of soldiers while 'Padman' helped in normalizing menstruation. All such thought-provoking films are remembered for a reason.

The youth of today need to distinguish between entertainment and cinema. The more we lean towards the idea of mere entertainment, the more meaningless art will be offered. Demand for good cinema should be raised by every movie (art) lover, as they surely deserve more than just Sajid Khan and Honey Singh creations. Let us be a Honey Singh audience and consciously think and encourage the right kind of movies, be it good or bad, the choice is always on the viewers. There are great movies wherein inspiration can be taken from. At the same time, there are commercial movies, wherein people just enjoy them.

INSIGHT

OH, THESE HUES!

Colors! They are everywhere! Whether we are awake or dreaming, we see them. So much so that they just blend into the background sometimes. Here's Insight appreciating the colors in our life and all the things associated with them.

Monochromatic Mélange

It sinks into your bones at times like these: the way the world leeches of shades when you are sad, the way it takes on a rosy tint when you're flushed and nostalgic, the bright yellow sunbursts when you're joyous and the dark velvety red on a heartbroken night. It creeps on you with the auburn scent of autumn, drifting in with the burgundy warmth of the breeze leaving behind the grey stagnation of a life half-lived. It lives in the way the touch of a little puppy is galaxy gold and in ice cream which tastes like a hot pink skirt on a bright sunny day. In the way chartreuse sounds like a deep, dark crimson but that turns out to be a filthy lie as it is in truth, a disgusting vomit green.

It is in this way that colors and the feelings we associate with them, color all of our experiences. It is impossible for you to completely rid yourself of the various reminders that colors carry with them. You cannot think of sepia without nostalgic flashes of the '40s and there is no lavender without memories of terror and trauma. And so, it goes: we grow up making certain hues our subconscious safe spaces and adrenaline rushes. In the beginning, we are just children reaching out for the blue to fill in the lines of the waves, smelling the ghost of sea-salt spray in the wax stains on our fingers. Then we are adults fearing the sharp sting of white walls because we dread the possible scent of antiseptic lurking underneath. We live our lives against the picture-perfect backdrop of white picket-fences and dark green lawns with the distant scenery of an orange-yellow sun, ignorant of the blurred lines of perceptions that make up their outlines.

What one may see and perceive as 'red' could be a light mauve reminding them of starry nights and bonfires and warmth; whereas what another may see and perceive as red could be the color of blood bubbling between fingers clasped over a wound leading them to think of the icy calm of a battle.

Perhaps a person who hasn't been made aware of the way blue flows into our lives in the form of a limitless sky or the ocean bellowing in fury will never quite learn to see it.

But the variations aren't just in our perception of things visually available to us. Sound and taste and smell too, can hold certain hues and leave their imprints on us. This is what some people think they experience when at times their sense of sound triggers their sense of sight and they can see colors in musical notes. This is what makes it possible for them to taste certain colors on their tongues, a sugar-sticky mess at the back of their teeth. At times these imprints bleed across synapses, crawling through your veins till your senses collide—till you can see magenta in the sound of f-minor, taste the sour carmine of candy apples, feel the cobalt in your chest when that one song plays. At times they paint the people you meet, turning your memories vivid, filled with strangers that were yellow-purple, till they gained the sea-green of familiarity.

The effects of color are as many and as varied as it's shades. At times, it brings alive memories of being a playful child, with feet that barely touch the ground and at times, it brings you warmth and healing like a smiling nurse with

laugh lines and affection to spare. It heals you spiritually when different colored lights are shone on the ailing parts of your body. It cradles you like a concerned parent and brings you peace. Green which is always overflowing with delight and young life harmonizes the flow of Prana. Yellow, the color of sage wisdom should be concentrated on the back of the neck. Bright and joyful orange stimulates growth and Violet, like a cooling breeze on a hot summer's day, will bring you relaxation. They soak into your body, paper-thin skin stretched over like a blank canvas, letting the spilled shades paint their own picture, letting them mend.

Strange that the shattering of white light can inspire such emotions in us. It is the blinding white raising dread in the pit of our stomach and the dark violet of the night sky on a moonless night which brings memories of curling up in our bed and listening to bedtime stories in a room with faded blue walls that carry a hint of innocence and the memory of a childhood half-spent colouring within the lines.

- Lakshmi Kalarikkal (FYJC)
Anushka Nagarmath (FYBA)

The Little Game of Nature and Light

The bushes on the mountains of Darjeeling were looking doleful when the sky cast its gloom before the rainfall. The biting chill in the air and the clouds which had descended down the valley promised a shower. The deep green color of the happy looking trees by the side of the winding mountain roads instilled a feeling of sadness in me. The place looked different than what I had found it to be the previous day. Darker shades of nature were oozing out from the forest, making the place look bereft. Interesting, how the mere darkening of the sky determined how the place looked like, changing the amazing shades the leaves donned every day.

The interplay of light and colors adds character to a place, determining how

it'll look, and which mood it will induce in an individual. A reader would like a place which has a perfect ambiance, with light falling on the page which is being read. Sunlight entering in corridors, making symmetrical forest seemed like it was singing and dancing with happiness yet again when the sun kissed the leaves, turning it from dark green to bright green again. The place looked lively, emanating vividness from it. Something I longed for. Funny, how light determined what the place looked like, changing the shades the leaves donned yesterday.

Gayatri Godbole (TYBA)

Chalo Kuch Rang Bhare...

Let's add some color to our lives. Nah, this is not an Asian ad which makes you go mush with gay pictures painted of happy lives, but a humble request to witness the colors of life at play in nature. Water is colorless yet so precious. However, water can be colored, painted. One drop of ink and it's an ocean of canvas, at rest in peace, lurking underneath its surface.

Colors do form a huge part of every culture, religion, context, our lives. The world is a piece of art where such color combinations are in work that we often overlook them.

Colors speak, they mean something. They are the symbols waiting to be decoded and coded! Today, we expect certain things to be colored a certain

way. It is almost implicit. black-yellow taxi, the green light-go to signal, the red sign of danger. Whoever said green means motion, while red is at rest. Colors become a background sight just like the music of the universe is background noise. But just as there is no silence at all, ever, there is no sight uncolored.

Yet certain colors are still gray areas because so much is dependent on context. The white bride, a symbol of chastity and fertility, also reminding us of the white doves of love as a symbol of mourning and grief in Hindu culture.

Often black and white are blindsided as not being colors. Alas, art wouldn't have reached us did we not mix the

black and white that made us understand our grey shades and areas of life. But, alas, we have become conditioned to colors as well. The rosy-eyed colors are the ones we seem to choose. Our life is so colored, we often can't sift the white from black and the black from white.

I wonder how would it be if air, breath, smell, sound, touch had a tinge of color to it?

If we were to mix colors in them, it could only be through our imagination. To add a quality of our sound and smell, that's the most beautiful melange; our piece of life, Earth.

Tanvi Padia (SYBA)

OPEN FORUM

APPEAL OF THE HEROIC OUTLAW

A luxurious transatlantic journey with the “infinite sky and the boundless sea”. Smartly dressed millionaires and gorgeous silk-clad ladies lolling on the deck. Everything on the cruiser Province seems picture-perfect...until the telegram “Arsène Lupin on board your ship...” arrives. His mere mention strikes terror into the hearts of all aboard. Arsène Lupin! The gentleman burglar with a thousand disguises who robs only the rich and powerful, leaving them with naught but his calling card in his wake...

Maurice Leblanc wrote the first Arsène Lupin stories in 1905 - around the time Sherlock Holmes prowled the fogs of London. Yet the breed of hero our charming thief belongs to is surely far, far older. The ballads of Robin Hood and his Merry Men have been sung all over the world; Prometheus of Greek legend stole fire from the gods for mankind's sake. Let's be honest, we all love a dashing rogue who spits in the face of lazy, bumbling law enforcement. Bonus points for sticking it to the corrupt guys with wealth and connections.

people in power are denouncing and attempting to thwart them at every turn. The characters are now loved across the globe, and the game earned itself a nomination for Game of the Year - another feather in the caps of the gentleman bandits. The ability to do what is right, no matter the personal cost, even if it means living a life of obscurity in the shadows that assist their work - that is probably these characters' biggest appeal. How many times have we wanted to rail against rules because we found them unfair? But without the means or sheer determination to do so, all we can do is watch - and hope someone with both of those traits turns up, so we can bolster them towards a shared ideal with everything we've got.

Are these charmers role models worth emulating? Perhaps not. Real life is rarely as clear-cut as fiction. We people in the real world are flawed and often misguided. Laws ensure that a personal sense of right and wrong do not cause anybody harm - a society filled with vigilantes would not really be a society at all. While we shouldn't let laws and authority figures stop us from doing what is “right”, we should do so knowing that

Stories about the Heroic Outlaw come in many flavors, but they have elements in common. The big one - a profound cynicism about authority. These guys look good breaking the rules of the game because it's been rigged from the start. Some of the sleazier types of outlaw are in it only for themselves. But many of them stand up for the little guy: for the poor farmers of England, or for their countrymen under the thumb of foreign oppression. At any rate, the folks who hold all the strings - the politicians, CEOs, nobles, etc. - are either fat and lazy or actively evil, so isn't it fun to see them being brought down a peg? There's also a certain code of conduct associated with most of these types. Oh, sure, they operate outside the pale of the law - comes with the “outlaw” territory - but they have principles and honor. And it is precisely this which separates them from your garden-variety mafioso or street thug.

So what makes these characters that conform to the chaotic good alignment so widely admired? Perhaps their moral

compasses, which swing only the way they want them too, and not necessarily in tune with that of society. A good heart and a free, rebellious spirit are a standard recipe for lovable rogues who immediately draw sympathy and support for them and their actions. Across history and all realms of fiction, the mutineers are the ones sitting on the throne of popularity.

Even video games aren't exempt. The highly popular Persona 5's titular characters are an eclectic bunch with widely different personalities and interests - but all bound together by a sharp streak of defiant intent to do what is just. The Phantom Thieves - as they call themselves - take it upon themselves to reform people's hearts, even if it means blindsiding social conventions to do it. They're not villains in the slightest, but they're not law-abiding citizens either, and the game does a fantastic job of portraying how public opinion sways slowly from doubt to conviction; from distrust to almost blind adoration of their 'true heroes', despite the fact that the

actions have consequences. The US school superintendent who committed insurance fraud to help pay for medicines for a student did it knowing that she would have to face the music; on a much larger scale were the civil disobedience movements led by Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. That is what being a “heroic outlaw” means for us denizens of the real world. Is it easy? No, but whoever said laws and ethics would be easy?

ADITYA NEGI, NATASHA DESAI

INSTANT CAPTURE

I was taking my usual evening walk in the park when a group of friends stopped me and asked me to take their picture. I readily agreed as camerawork is something I love. But when they handed me their camera I saw it wasn't what I had assumed it to be. This one was about medium sized, pale pink in color, and square shaped - one of those instant cameras. You click a picture and you get a physical copy in hand. You have to be really careful with these though. The moment you are trying to capture is really netted forever; there is no delete option to rectify your mistake. But then again, seize enough such memories, have enough snapshots, and you have a collection you can use as décor for your bedroom wall.

I handed back the camera to that group of friends and resumed my walk, but my thoughts continued to revolve around the comeback of instant cameras. The force of nostalgia is strong with these. Although almost every phone now is equipped with a camera, the feeling you get when you gather around while the photograph develops in front of your eyes and you

hold a physical copy of it in your hands is unbeatable. And the best part about these photographs is that they allow you to experiment with them - you can write and draw on them, cut them up and use them for another artwork - the list is endless.

In a world where everyone is in search for the perfect filter to look flawless for an Instagram upload, the resurgence of polaroids brings back the idea of capturing moments as keepsakes, along with their imperfections. The photographs you get from these are perfect for writing on. All you need is a marker and the memories and dates can be jotted down at the bottom. The importance of each Polaroid inspires users to stop caring about whether every strand of their hair is in place or whether their smile is perfect. The only concern is to capture a special moment in time and abandon the concern about whether the shot is perfect.

SAYLI MAYEKAR



THE HUMOR DISCOURSE

When asked about how far comedy should go, the late comedian George Carlin said, “It's a comedian's duty to find the line and deliberately cross over it.” Carlin, along with Richard Pryor, followed in the footsteps of Lenny Bruce, who used comedy to prod, poke and provoke audiences and society into some sort of reaction. For Bruce, the reaction included being arrested on obscenity charges for words he chose to use in his late night comedy acts.

Today, many look back on that and think it was ridiculous for Bruce to have been arrested for saying dirty words. And those same people may also think we have progressed a considerable distance from those conservative days. Comedians are no longer being arrested and jailed for material in their stand up acts and Bruce was even pardoned by Gov. George E. Pataki nearly four decades after being convicted of obscenity charges. But there is a new form of censorship rearing its head.

The documentary “Can We Take A Joke?”

focuses on comedians and the “outrage mobs” that attempt to control their speech. The documentary features an archive interview in which Carlin said, “I expect censorship from the right but from politically correct ... that took me by surprise.”

That's right, it's people — many working through social media, and not the government and the cops — cracking down on comedians, even those stand-ups who make it clear that their material is designed to offend. This kind of censorship is what the film refers to as “private” censorship as opposed to censorship imposed by the government.

Free speech comes at a cost and isn't always pretty. Free speech means that people can voice ideas and opinions and even tell bad jokes that you don't like; it can even be things that hurt or offend you. Of course, free speech is a two-way street and if a comedian says something offensive, he or she has to be prepared for others to respond. But is it fair for a comedian to be prevented from saying

something or shouted down by an audience member and not able to have his or her ideas or jokes heard? Who gets to draw the line? Some may counter that jokes that stereotype ethnic groups or make fun of women are hate speech or just plain wrong. But that's exactly what the film refuses to acknowledge because it sees a curtailing of free speech as more dangerous than that.

The film suggests that perhaps it's better to have comedians offend us with jokes that violate our comfort zones and in so doing make us think about the stereotypes or offensive ideas and where they come from, rather than to bury those things and pretend they don't exist because then we get something like President Trump.

The ideas presented are more complex than “Can We Take A Joke?” is able to fully address, but they are ideas that desperately need to be discussed. The film quotes a statistic that says 47 percent of Americans think the First Amendment goes too far. Now that's scary.

SHWETA FUNDE



TECH TRICKED

WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU CANNOT IGNORE CHINA

As we all know, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the world we currently know of. Till date, the United States remains the leader in AI technologies and its applications across various sectors. The US will dominate this field for quite some time, but at this juncture, we cannot ignore the heated competition in AI research and implementation coming up from China. China is making massive strides in research leading to the advancement of this technology and perhaps fulfilling its bid to be a global leader in AI by 2025. AI technologies coming from a unique culture and ecosystem in China will have an unprecedented impact on all nations, altering every sphere and making profound changes much sooner than expected.

Many AI experts believe that China's national support for research and development in AI technologies will put them in the lead in the AI race while also causing world-changing breakthroughs. The government of China and its authorities are working hard to provide every support necessary for full deployment of this technology. A very vibrant and progressive venture capital ecosystem has helped China to enjoy an enormous lead in AI over all other countries, but the US. The current government's approach to further improve this ecosystem is helping the country to close the gaps in research and implementation of this technology between the US and China. According to AI expert Kai Fu Lee: world class AI engineers to build algorithms, enormous data to train models, capital for deployment of AI technologies on a large scale and government support to accelerate this process are vital for successful AI businesses. China has been able to achieve all of this which has helped the nation to reach an astonishingly rapid pace in AI deployment. The government policies in China might be rigid and non-progressive for most of the social sciences, but when we talk about hard sciences, China is becoming more innovative than ever. China spends 2.6% of its GDP on R&D, out of which majority chunk is for research in AI technologies followed by the development of China's space programs.

China's Baidu, Alibaba, and Tencent which can be compared with Google, Amazon, and Facebook are China's top firms in the AI industry. Apart from developing AI technologies, they are funding AI startups across the globe from healthcare to education to smart cities to finance to logistics to media and to virtually every domain. These three companies combined, fund more than 50% of AI startups in China. This has created a highly competitive environment in China among the top three companies, which has resulted in the country's astronomical rise in being an AI superpower. This culture in China might seem an apt one for them being a leader, but it has its own disadvantages too. In such a highly competitive environment, many Chinese firms do not pay sufficient attention to the ethical side of AI implementation. In China, customers too prefer to trade privacy off in exchange for handy services. Poor rules and regulations for user privacy by Chinese authorities will stall them from expanding the AI capabilities to reach a much larger audience. For now, time will tell us who will become the leader in AI implementation with odds being much higher for China.

Smeeta Poladia



Year	Estimated size of targeted core AI industry (b yuan)	Estimated size of targeted industries (b yuan)
2020	150	1,000
2025	400	5,000
2030	1,000	10,000

Sources: Goldman Sachs, State Council SCMP



Comparison of the top ten AI employers in terms of core AI roles in China and US (Image credit: LinkedIn)

Lining up the top ten AI employers in terms of the number of staff in AI roles in the two countries reveals that while the US top ten are all homegrown companies, the China line up sees Microsoft in fourth place, IBM in sixth, Intel in seventh and AMD and HP in ninth and tenth.



ANDROID Q

Whilst many of us are still waiting for Android Pie to roll out to our phones, Android Q (or Android 10) is already in the works at Google HQ. Indeed, XDA-Developers has already managed to get hold of an early developer build, and having installed it on a Pixel 3 XL it has confirmed rumors of a potential Dark Mode, as well as DeX-like docking support for a new Desktop mode and a revamp of privacy options. This system-wide Dark Mode has already been tipped in recent weeks. Google wants to ensure that all preloaded apps support dark mode natively, which would help to save quite a lot of battery for AMOLED displays.

In terms of privacy changes, the Settings app now offers "an overview of permission access by apps and the ability to restrict certain permissions like location only while the app is in use". All the associated app and permissions screens have also been redesigned to optimize the provision of at-a-glance info.

Android 10 got its first mention in November 2018 during the Android Developer Summit when the company confirmed that the operating system would have 'screen continuity', which is native support for apps that work on foldable devices. Apps are able to transition seamlessly from a phone

layout to a more immersive tablet layout and vice versa. This perhaps shouldn't be too much of a surprise, given that several foldable phones are expected to launch in early 2019, including models from Samsung, LG, and Huawei.

Other new features coming to Android Q include 'multi-resume', an update to split-screen that lets two apps not only be viewed but also run simultaneously; and warnings about installing older apps designed for an earlier operating system.

Android Q will also bring native support for more elaborate facial recognition, also to natively accommodate sensors like the iPhone XS' infrared camera, dot projector, and flood illuminators. The facial recognition setup menu will be similar to that of the fingerprint scanner and will be separate from the current trusted face menu.

Apart from these, it is also predicted that Google might launch the redesigned Android sharing menu in this Android OS version when it gets a final release in August 2019. These Android 10.0 features, as a whole, will take the War of best Android OS version, which is right now between Android Pie and Android Oreo, to a newer level.

Rishabh Vishwakarma



THE GRAND EXHIBITION FOR CONSUMER TECH!!!



From Left to Right: 1) In 1967, CES took place in New York City hotels; 2) The first Consumer Electronics Show was held in 1967 in New York City, attendance at the event was just 17,500 and over 100 companies came to show off their latest products. Sony, Sharp, Motorola and Toshiba were all in attendance and have come to every CES since. Picture: CEA/International CES; 3) After the inaugural show in 1967, CES was back to show off the latest in consumer electronics. The 1968 show displayed radios, turntables and the most innovative television technology.

Technology is never outdated... you will never hear someone say, "Oh, technology, what is that?". Technology is that field which is always trending. If you want to stay relevant you must come up with something new! But for all the new innovations and gizmos there must be a platform to present. Amongst enthusiasts, this platform is what is known as Consumer Electronics Show (CES). It has served as the proving ground for innovators and breakthrough technologies for about 50 years. It is announced as the global stage where next-generation innovations are introduced to the marketplace. It is owned by the Consumer Technology Association (CTA).

CES showcases more than 4,400 exhibiting companies, including manufacturers, developers, and suppliers of consumer technology hardware, content, technology delivery systems and many more. It also has a conference program with more than 150 conference sessions and more than 182,000 attendees from over 160 countries. Also as it is owned by CTA, the technology trade association representing the \$398 billion U.S. consumer technology industry, it is the center of attraction for world's business leaders and pioneer thinkers to a forum where the industry's most relevant issues are addressed.

The first CES took place in New York City in June 1967. Since then, thousands of products have been announced at the yearly show, including many that have transformed our lives e.g. Video Cassette Recorder (VCR) -1970, Camcorder and Compact Disc Player - 1981, Digital Satellite System (DSS) -1994, Digital Versatile Disk (DVD) -1996, High Definition Television (HDTV) - 1998, Blu-Ray DVD - 2003, OLED TV - 2008, Android devices - 2010, Ultrabooks - 2012, 3D Printing - 2014, 4K UHD, etc. All the examples mentioned above are the lifestyle changing breakthroughs which were possible because of the platform of CES.

The Consumer Electronic Show of this year i.e. 2019 was also no different and was filled with geeky devices and what not! It took place in Las Vegas like it has been for quite a while now. CES is actually a showcase of what products one should expect in 2019. The most important tech-pieces people use most of their lives are TVs, phones, cars and various types of wearables. Most of the technology which is related to these categories is noteworthy from CES. It is also most of the times eye-catchy, to say the least. CES itself keeps an award ceremony known as the CES Innovation Awards. It is an annual competition honoring outstanding design and engineering. Some of the award-winning innovations of CES 2019 were AQUIO Bluetooth Waterproof Speaker Bottle, Atmospheric Water Generator, CoCoon, Harry Potter Kano Coding Kit, Lenovo Yoga Book C930, LG Sound Bar, NVIDIA GeForce RTX 20-Series GPUs, Qoobi ONE, etc.

The annual CES exhibition happens in the first or second week of January and goes for about a week. In 2021 it is going to be held from 6th to 9th of Jan. For a tech enthusiast, CES is like a vacation at heaven. We get to know about the trends in which technology is delving into and also the direction in which technological advances are headed. To get to know about all, the tech gizmos coming out every year and having a sneak peek at them or hands-on expression is only possible because of Consumer Electronics Show. It is truly nothing less than a blessing.

Suvin Mayekar



- Glossary:
- Gizmo- Gadget which has hi-fi name
 - Breakthrough- important development or discovery
 - OLED- Organic Light-Emitting Diode



Science of Everything



Let's just SLEEP!

What is essential for survival apart from food, clothing, and shelter? The answer to it is SLEEP. Sleep is an important part of your daily routine. It affects almost every type of tissue and system in the body from the brain, heart, and lungs to metabolism, reproductive cycle, mood, and disease resistance. Recent findings suggest that sleep plays the role of a housekeeper by removing the toxins in your brain that build up while you are awake. Sleep is a complex and dynamic process that affects how you function.

So now let's have a look at how you actually fall asleep!

Stages of Sleep:

There are two basic types of sleep: Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep and non-REM sleep (includes three different stages). Each is linked to specific brain waves and neuronal activity. Individual cycles through all stages of non-REM and REM sleep several times during a typical night, with increasingly longer, deeper REM periods occurring toward morning.



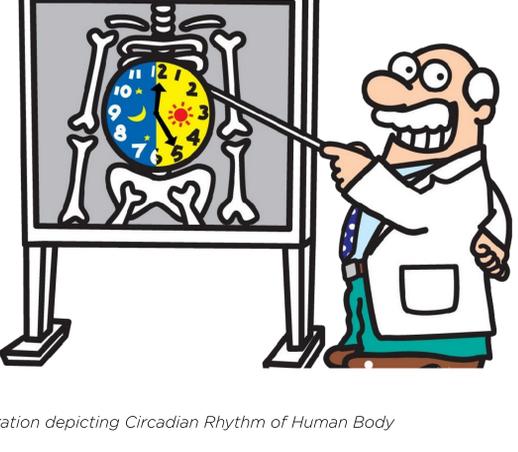
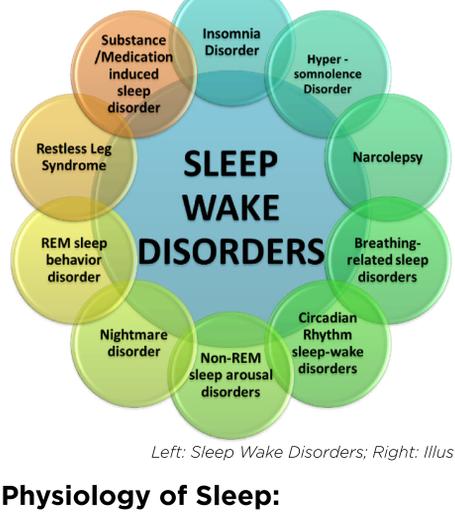
Stage 1: non-REM sleep is the changeover from wakefulness to sleep. During this short period (lasting several minutes) of relatively light sleep, your heartbeat, breathing, and eye movements slow down, and your muscles relax with occasional twitches. Your brain waves begin to slow from their daytime wakefulness patterns.



Stage 2: It is a period of light sleep before you enter deeper sleep. Your heartbeat and breathing slow, and muscles relax even further. Your body temperature drops and eye movements stop. Brain wave activity slows but is marked by brief bursts of electrical activity. You spend more of your repeated sleep cycles in stage 2 sleep than in other sleep stages.

Stage 3: The period of deep sleep that you need to feel refreshed in the morning. It occurs in longer periods during the first half of the night. Your heartbeat and breathing slow to their lowest levels during sleep. Your muscles are relaxed and it may be difficult to awaken you. Brain waves become even slower.

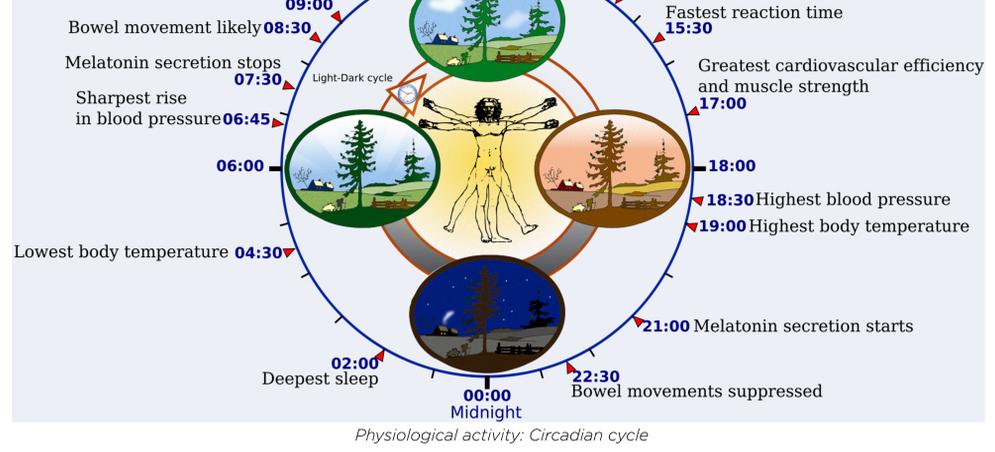
REM sleep first occurs about 90 minutes after falling asleep. Your eyes move rapidly from side to side behind closed eyelids. Mixed frequency brain wave activity becomes closer to that seen in wakefulness. Your breathing becomes faster and irregular, and your heart rate and blood pressure increase to near waking levels. Most of your dreaming occurs during REM sleep, although some can also occur in non-REM sleep. Your arm and leg muscles become temporarily paralyzed, which prevents you from acting out your dreams.



Left: Sleep Wake Disorders; Right: Illustration depicting Circadian Rhythm of Human Body

Physiology of Sleep:

Several structures within the brain are involved with sleep. The hypothalamus, a peanut-sized structure deep inside the brain, contains groups of nerve cells that act as control centers affecting sleep and arousal. The suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN)- a cluster of thousands of cells in the hypothalamus- receives information about light exposure directly from the eyes and controls your behavioral rhythm. The hindbrain communicates with the hypothalamus to control transitions between wake and sleep. Sleep-promoting cells within the hypothalamus and the brain stem produce a brain chemical called GABA, which acts to reduce the activity of arousal centers in the hypothalamus and the hindbrain. The hindbrain also plays a special role in REM sleep; it sends signals to relax muscles essential for body posture and limb movements so that we don't act out our dreams. The pineal gland, located within the brains two hemispheres, receives signals from the SCN and increases production of the hormone melatonin, which helps put you to sleep once the lights go down. The thalamus acts as a relay for information and during most stages of sleep, the thalamus becomes quiet, letting you tune out of the external world.



Sleep Mechanisms:

Two internal biological mechanisms- circadian rhythm and homeostasis- work together to regulate the sleep and wake cycles. **Circadian Rhythm:** It directs a wide variety of functions from daily fluctuations in wakefulness to body temperature, metabolism, and the release of hormones. Circadian rhythms synchronize with environmental cues and control the timings of sleep. **Sleep-wake Homeostasis:** It keeps a track of our need for sleep. The homeostatic sleep drive reminds the body to sleep after a certain time and regulates sleep intensity.

Thus, sleep plays an essential role in your health and wellbeing throughout your life. Getting enough good quality sleep has many benefits, including protecting your physical and mental health, quality of life and personal safety.



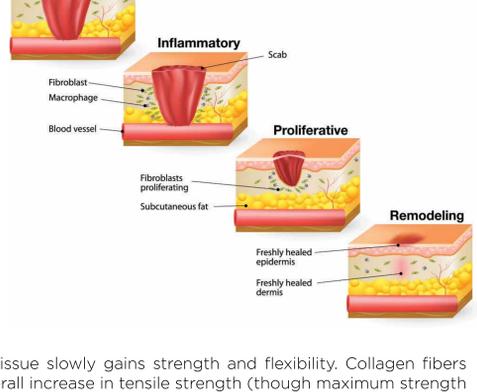
Prajakta Velankar and Sanika Upadhye, SYBSc

Wound Healing

In our childhood, we all must have fallen a few times while playing on the ground. Even at this age, we sometimes get a cut or an injury. But do we ever think about how our skin gets back to normal? This month we'll be knowing the complex cascade of events involved in wound healing.

WOUND HEALING

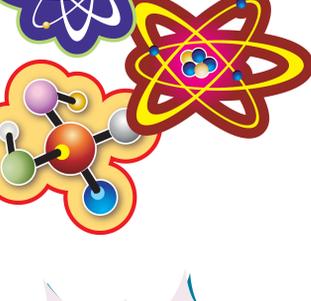
The whole process is divided into 4 phases. **1) Hemostasis Phase:** Hemostasis is the process of the wound being closed by clotting. It starts when blood leaks out of the body. During this process, platelets come into contact with collagen, resulting in activation and aggregation. An enzyme called thrombin is at the center, and it initiates the formation of a fibrin mesh, which strengthens the platelet clumps into a stable clot. **2) Inflammatory Phase:** It begins right after the injury when the injured blood vessels leak transudate (made of water, salt, and protein) causing localized swelling. Symptoms of inflammation include redness, swelling, pain. A type of white blood cell called neutrophils enters the wound to destroy bacteria and remove debris. **3) Proliferative Phase:** Once the wound is cleaned out, the wound enters the proliferative phase, where the focus is to fill and cover the wound. The Proliferative phase features three distinct stages: 1. filling the wound; contraction of three margins; and covering the wound (epithelialization). **4) Maturation Phase:** During the Maturation phase, the new tissue slowly gains strength and flexibility. Collagen fibers reorganize, the tissue remodels and matures and there is an overall increase in tensile strength (though collagen strength is limited to 80% of the pre-injured strength). Factors like age, diet, infection, hemorrhage, dryness, medical conditions like anemia, diabetes are the barriers to wound healing.



Keywords :
Fibrin - insoluble protein formed during blood clotting.
Collagen - main structural protein in skin.

Neha Raut, SYBSc

The Amazing World of Conductivity



We know that if we touch an uncoated wire, we would receive an electric shock. But why do we experience such a shock? Why is it that only metal wires are used in electrical circuits? And what is superconductivity all about? Get ready to explore these things in this article.

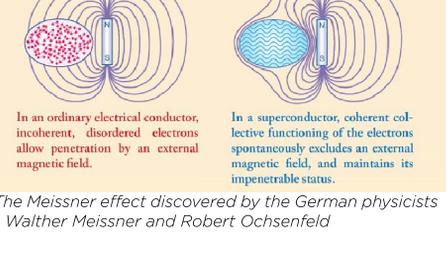


Conductivity

Objects having more electrons tend to lose electrons when they come in contact with objects having fewer electrons. Those who can donate electrons are called conductors. Normally metals are conductors as they contain free electrons, but this property of electrical conductance i.e. conductivity depends on some factors like the material used, the area of the conductor and temperature. If the material contains a large number of free electrons, has a small surface area and the temperature of the surrounding is low, then the conductivity will be higher. The opposite is true for electrical resistivity.

Superconductivity

Scientists had envisioned to create the state of zero resistivity or the infinite conductivity aka 'Superconductivity'. The main challenge to achieving the state of 0 resistivity was to create the medium which will offer temperature as low as 4K or -269 °C. When the then recently discovered liquid Helium was used as a refrigerant by Onnes on solid Mercury, first time in the history of physics, superconductivity was observed! One strikingly surprising phenomenon, the expulsion of magnetic field from electric conductors (also known as Meissner Effect) was observed in all superconductors. Each conductor has its own critical temperature, below which it allows electrons to flow with no resistance; to achieve the state of superconductivity. Such an extremely low temperature can be achieved only by means of liquefied gases such as liquid Helium, Nitrogen, etc. Superconductors are used in MRI machines, mass spectrometer, particle accelerator, etc. So far, 6 Nobel Prizes have been awarded to 15 scientists for their research in this branch of physics. A lot of research is still happening and engineers are working day and night to use the superconductors in various electrical instruments which will revolutionize the technology.



The Meissner effect discovered by the German physicists - Walther Meissner and Robert Ochsenfeld

Sushrut Mane, TYBSc

factfile

There is enough DNA in the average person's body to stretch from the sun to Pluto and back – 17 times. (That's pretty long).

It takes a photon up to 40,000 years to travel from the core of the sun to its surface, but only 8 minutes to travel the rest of the way to Earth. (Gravity, pff).

Killer whales are actually dolphins (Not scary now, are they?)

If Betelgeuse exploded, transitioning from the red supergiant stage to supernova, it would light our sky continuously for two months. It could happen anytime – within a couple of thousand years, tomorrow or now (a day that would never end?).

Scientists have discovered that developmental gene activity in a newly dead person acts in the same way as gene activity in an embryo. It's probably because of the state of the body right after death resembles that of the embryo. (The rise of the dead? Maybe).

many years. However, in 2017 a team of scientists considered Zealandia fulfills all the requirements to be considered a drowned continent. (That's a whole new level I guess).

For the first time in human history, gene-editing has been performed to fix a mutation for inherited disease in embryos. Using a powerful tool called CRISPR-Cas9, scientists successfully altered the DNA in defective embryos so they were no longer programmed to develop congenital heart failure. (That's like photostopped for genes).

Great apes, including chimpanzees and orangutans, have absolutely no appreciation of music whatsoever. Research has shown they can't tell the difference between Beethoven and Bieber, and that music is all just meaningless sound to them. (Thank evolution for your playlists).

Pandas are black and white because their patterns serve as a combination of communication and camouflage, according to a study published in Behavioral Ecology. (Still no explanations for why they are cute).

Pranav Nandakumar, SYBSc

SAFARNAMA



"The only absolute truth in this universe is that there is no absolute truth"

Have you ever asked yourself, how does wine actually taste? While some describe it to be a sweet drink, worthy of the gods, others find it sour, rotten and repulsive. Why is it so, one may ask? Why does the same glass of wine have such a contrasting effect on different individuals? We associate a certain place with the people and the experiences and these experiences vary based on perception which leads to different associations of the same place by different individuals. So join us in this edition of perception of places and traveling.

Dilwalo ki Delhi

I don't know if it's a coincidence or my love for traveling but it's a rare occasion that I've written any of my articles about my home.

This time instead of introducing a long lost beautiful place to you, I'd like to be part of the evergreen debate - Mumbai vs Delhi.

To me both the places feel like home and being a Mumbaikar I would like to break the bad impression of Delhi that some of us harbor. However unsafe and shady this city may seem to us, it has its own magical life. From delicious chaat to the shopper's paradise 'Sarojini', Delhi has it all. Judging a city from a tourists point of view is very different from staying there as a local and this article is just about that.



Since my childhood, I've spent most of my summer vacations in Delhi. Staying in their 'khotis', eating 'Aloo ke Parathe' with makkhan every morning, craving for chowmien, hogging on momos, playing with monkeys, drawing water from the pump, chasing the aloo tikki wallah down the gully, I've experienced it all.

In Mumbai, we are so busy with our lives that we sometimes miss out on experiencing the culture but Delhites know just the perfect way of making the most of every festivity.

For example, weddings in Delhi aren't just a celebration of togetherness but a long get together of 50 people for 10 days under the same roof overlooking luxury and comfort.

It's these small differences that make the two cities differ.

The best way to experience the local life of Delhi is by traveling in the metro. In case you forget your earphones, a lot of gossip and stories await you.



Despite the pros of this city, the one thing for which I prefer Mumbai is its comfortable dressing, because wearing pajamas for grocery shopping is a rare occasion in Delhi.

Delhi is not only known for its welcoming nature and culture but also for its beauty.

The Mughal monuments, from Red Fort to Humayun's Tomb, are a delight to the eyes and a paradise for aesthetic pictures. Some are falling down. Others now serve as a home to itinerant laborers. The government is sitting on a tourism gold mine. But for now, you get the joy of discovery, without the pesky guards and ticket takers.

Delhi is also a heaven for foodies. Paranthi wali galli, dhabe, chandi chowk - you crave it and it's there.

I think the only barrier stopping you from exploring a city as magnificent as Delhi is its safety. For me it's never a place that's unsafe, it's always the people, and if you yourself are strong, no one can break your walls. Don't let a small fear and numerous myths stop you from experiencing the treat that Delhi is. It isn't a city but a tashan that grows on you no matter how hard you try to resist it.

So travel yourself and feel the magic!

-Rashi Gulati

Delhi versus Mumbai. This is a debate that is as old as time. Okay, I might be exaggerating a bit with that. But, this has been a bone of contention for a long time. In drawing rooms and offices, the Delhi vs. Mumbai debate is an old one and rages on relentlessly, providing much-needed amusement to the dwellers of these two urban metropolises. This debate is like the curious case of who came first - egg or hen.

It's particularly hard to resolve this issue - mainly because one is the political capital of the country whereas the other is the financial capital of the country.

Now, I cannot really comment on this and give an unbiased opinion on which city is better - partly because I haven't lived in Mumbai for long and partly because I have never been to Delhi. So then the logical way to solve this conundrum is to do some research and take the help of numbers.

The Neutral ground

As they say, numbers never lie. But there's only so much research can do.

Delhi is one of those places blessed with seasons. Winter, summer, rainy and a tiny bit of autumn & spring as well whereas in Mumbai - it's a constant cycle of heat, more heat, rains, and then back to heat. When the talk is about food, it seems that Delhi is a gastronomic paradise. However, I think even Mumbai has a lot to offer in terms of food, what with all the vada pavs and bhel puris and sev puris.

If Mumbai has sea, Delhi has a 'sea of monuments'. Marine Drive and its queen's necklace give Mumbai an urban feel & the city exudes an aura of luxury. Mughal and British monuments in Delhi are classic; an absolute treat to eyes and gives the walled city that 'rich' heritage feel.

However, on getting to things that matter, Delhi scores on better infrastructure than Mumbai and is also touted to be greener and cleaner. Some recent figures show that Mumbai has a higher literacy than Delhi. Mumbai also offers a sense of security to women that is missing when one goes to Delhi, often dubbed as the

crime capital of India. Mumbai has a higher cost of living when compared to Delhi.

Now since numbers don't lie, I could safely come to the conclusion that Delhi scores more than Mumbai on a lot of things. But what numbers don't take into account are the things that cannot be expressed in words but can only be felt in person. Mumbai is considered to be far more welcoming than any other city in India. Everyone who wants to make Mumbai their home is wrapped in a warm embrace by this hot humid dirty mess.

About preference, it also depends upon one's sensibility and circumstances rather than just the statistics that we have been piling on since years. There is still no convincing answer to say that Mumbai is better than Delhi or Delhi is better than Mumbai. You could like both, like one, hate one or hate both.

- Shreya Nair



"A great city is not to be confounded with a populous one." -Aristotle

Chennai is the 43rd most visited city in the world and the 3rd most visited city in India after Mumbai and Delhi. During the four years between 2010 and 2014 Chennai outranked Mumbai and Delhi to be the most visited city in India.

This metropolitan city definitely gives you a break from the crowds of Mumbai and Delhi. Chennai offers you the same exciting city life as the political capital and the financial capital but with comparatively cleaner breathing air according to WHO's survey. Chennai also excels in terms of literacy ranking with a 90.18% literacy rate to Mumbai's 89.73% and Delhi's 86.21%.



Chennai: Land of heritage



Chennai gets an additional point for being the Medical Capital of India. The public health care system of Chennai is brilliant. It attracts about 45 percent of health tourists from abroad and 40 percent of domestic health tourists.

This medical capital also emerged as the safest city for women according to the Female Security Index of India.

There admittedly are a lot of ways Mumbai and Delhi are better than Chennai, like cheaper public transport, better night-life, variety in street food, better job opportunities, more universities, stock exchange, etc.

But when it comes to heritage and culture, Chennai is not far behind.

Chennai is among the UNESCO creative cities network for its musical contribution and the city got this recognition during the annual Margazhi season. During this Carnatic music and classical dance season, we see singers, musicians, and dancers flocking to Chennai to participate in various music and dance festivals all across the city. The sabhas of Chennai come alive to the ragas and rhythms of music as performers invoke Gods, Goddesses, and Saints through myriad compositions. The air is so thick with talent and ethnicity that it will make you feel overwhelmed but in a good way.



You can hear Flute, Violin, Nadswaram, Chitravina, etc played with mastery and the music from these instruments blends perfectly with voices of the vocalists. All the performances illustrate such beautiful stories that will enchant you so fully.

Apart from music and dance, there are many other points of interest in Chennai that will leave you speechless. One of which are the beaches of Chennai. We all know about the Marina Beach, but one should not miss beaches like Besant Nagar beach and Thiruvannmiyur beach.



The one kilometer serene stretch of Thiruvannmiyur beach is not commercialized or crowded yet and therefore will appeal to peace seekers.

The old churches, mosques, and temples represent the eventful history of Chennai and its many rulers.

In Chennai, on one side you see the Madras High Court with its secular amalgam of Moorish, Islamic, Hindu and European styles of architecture and on the other side, you can visit the typical south Indian temples like Kapaleeshwarar temple in all its Dravidian glory.

Kapaleeshwarar temple was built in 7th century CE by the Pallavas. The original Kapaleeshwarar Temple was built where

Santhome Church is located currently in Chennai. This original temple was demolished by the Portuguese and the present temple was built in the 16th century by the Vijayanagar Kings. So, this one temple alone portrays the shift in power and influence since the 7th Century.

Chennai is similar in some and different in many ways than Mumbai and Delhi. But it doesn't fail to provide you a relieving change in scenery from the other metro cities.

-Disha Shah





A BOX OF SECRETS

"Ma, please. I don't want to wear a dress."

"But you're a girl! You look beautiful in dresses. And the color suits you so well!"

I rolled my eyes. "I can get a shirt in the same color."

Mom's face immediately twisted into a scowl. I knew she had run out of patience.

"You don't want to act like a girl at all. Everyone else is out shopping, comparing colors and materials, and then there's you. Stinking in the same shirts day in and day out. At least take an interest in looking nice!" She folded the dress and threw it back on the shelf.

So I need to wear dresses to look pretty?

She walked out of the shop while I flopped quietly. Her anger radiated off her in waves. This was usual — she knew how much I hated heels and long gowns. But this was just Valentine's Day, not prom.

We stepped into the rickshaw. After

two minutes of silence, Mom continued her rant. "All you do is complain. On one hand, you don't want to make an effort, on the other hand, you complain about how no one likes you at college. Next time I'll take you to straight to the men's section. You'll find good shirts there." She glared at a passing truck as she mumbled, "I can get a shirt in the same color. Sure."

I stared at the back of the rickshaw's head. He was bald, and he looked generally bored with our discussion through the side view mirror. Meanwhile, my heart sank deeper into my stomach, unable to swallow my mother's harsh tone.

Lakshmi was going to wear a saree. Khushi and Jui too. Praveena lived a little far, so she decided on a simple anarkhali. Vipasha was wearing a burgundy dress that ended just below her knees and within college rules. They all sent pictures on our group. They looked amazing.

And then there's you.

"What if I just don't go?" I muttered.

*

The last one to send her outfit on the group was Trisha. She had picked out a pretty grey pantsuit. She looked positively gorgeous. The color really brought out her eyes. She stood awkwardly against the mirror of her cupboard, looking unsure of what to do with her hands. She's so cute.

Y'all, does this look okay? I'd rather not come than wear a dress, but I have someone to give a box of chocolates to ;)

She has a crush.

On a guy.

My heart sank for the second time that day, and I didn't even know why.

I typed back before I could think. Yes, definitely. You look beautiful. Go for it.

Trisha was always a pretty girl. She had deep-set eyes and curly hair. Short. Cute. She was the sweetest of them all, and I'd like to think she spoke to me more than anyone else in the group, but obviously, she acted like that with everyone.

One word floated around in my mind.

I pushed it down and swept it under the carpet before I could think any further. I'm not. I'm not. It's just a phase. This is a fad now.

I flopped backward on the bed. A strange feeling of nausea swirled in the space between my ribs. Everyone was going. I didn't even know what I would wear. Mom conveniently gave up on finding me an outfit.

Is that what will happen if I say it?

The girls at college make jokes about it. But that's just because it's an all-girl college. It doesn't help when there's an all-boys college straight across the road.

I pulled my hand across my forehead. My eyes burned in embarrassment.

Suddenly, I didn't feel like going at all. Damn it to hell. I couldn't do it. I refused to.

"Anusree! You're here!" Jui shrieked as she hugged me. "Thank God. I thought you would bail last minute!"

And risk social annihilation?

I laughed awkwardly. "How could I? All of you were here and I wouldn't miss the pictures for anything."

I wasn't even looking nice. I knew it. It was Valentine's day and the best thing I could find was a shiny, much-hated beige top and black trousers.

"Yeah, who needs a Valentine?" Lakshmi said absentmindedly as she adjusted the pleats of her saree.

Trisha does.

I sighed exasperatedly as I wiped my sweaty palms to my trousers and told my brain to shut up.

"Speaking of Valentine's," Khushi said, "Who's this mystery guy? I haven't heard of him, like, ever."

"Yeah, I don't know either," Lakshmi spoke, still fiddling with her saree. "I mean, I tried to text her and find out, but she just kept mum."

I could imagine it. She'd just smile sweetly and not say a word. She knew how to keep secrets, especially her own.

"Anusree, could you call her? She's the only one left to come."

"U-uh, sure."

I dialed her number. She cut my call after the first ring.

"She cut my call," I mumbled.

"That's because she's here — look!"

I watched as Trisha walked in with small steps, her small heels on the verge of breaking. She smiled and waved at us.

"Who is the guy, huh?" Jui wiggled her eyebrows suggestively.

"Oh, just someone," said Trisha. I looked down and shuffled my feet.

"Hey, Anusree," she said softly, moving next to me. "Can I speak to you for a minute?"

"Sure." Confused, I followed her a few steps away, my mind going a thousand miles a minute.

Is she going to tell me? Who could it be? From St. Francis? Or someone we know? What if it's a teacher?

I scowled at myself for a split second before straightening. Trisha smiled as she held my wrist.

"Listen," her voice was even softer. My ears burned. Stop it!

"I know you've had a hard time deciding the outfit, but it looks great. We're actually overdressed for this thing, it's not worth the pain of a

saree and a hundred pins."

I laughed a real laugh this time. Look at you, Trish. Genuinely trying to make me feel better.

"But that's not my point. I bought this for you..."

She handed me a small box of chocolates with a link note on top.

What?

WHAT?!

"Trisha?" I questioned, utterly confused and embarrassed.

This isn't happening. She's not...oh, my god. We're not...that. We're just friends. We can't. What is she implying? I'm the person?

"This isn't a Valentine's gift, idiot," she deadpanned, before smiling knowingly. "This is from a friend — she shoved the box into my hands, — to a friend. Promise me you won't open the box till you get home."

"Huh?"

"I said, —"

"Yes, yes. Okay, I heard you. But why all of a sudden?"

She shrugged. "Because I can. Now let's go back and have fun!"

She interlocked arms with me and dragged me back to our clique. Thank God she didn't notice the red creeping up my neck.

*

I sat on the bed, the box in front of me.

From a friend to a friend. Stop being overdramatic. This isn't a proposal.

"From a friend to a friend", I repeated. Taking a deep breath, I opened the gift with shaking fingers.

It was just a regular box of chocolates. Actually, an assortment of my favorite ones — KitKats and Snickers.

She did this on purpose.

I smiled in the silence.

As I sifted through the wrappers, my eyes fell to the note. Anxiety curled around my throat again.

I opened it.

Hey Anusree,

This isn't a love note, but I'm pretty

sure you already know what I feel. I understand how you feel about it too. But I want you to know that you're not alone, and I'm here if you want to talk. I've been through it myself. Don't hesitate.

This gift isn't me telling you to love me or accept me as a partner. This is me telling you to accept yourself.

Lots of (platonic/romantic) love, Trisha :D

I lay down on the bed and cried.

RHEA PRABHU (FYJC ARTS)



THE BEAUTY OF LOVE

Valentine's day is one of the most awaited days for all the blooming couples and flowers of love around the world. It is celebrated in the memory of two saints named Valentinus by spreading the idea of love, romance, and deep affection. We all have sorted many places of our hearts for the loved ones be a life partner, our family, our friends, our neighbors and sometimes even strangers. The specialty of the day is its arrival, that is in the start of the spring when nature itself is weaving the most romantic atmosphere with scenic beauties and fragrant flowers and we end up saying 'love is in the air'.

Love is too crude to be defined in a filtered manner especially for someone who is romantically involved with someone. The feeling is undefined and knows no limit. However, it can be metaphorically compared to a stream, turning into a river and eventually it gets congressed with the sea. The initial stage of seeing someone, the moment itself takes our breath away. We follow it, we hunt it, we try to read it like an open book. We change directions in accordance with our judgment and finally we catch it as the waves raft us away. There is a time when everything turns still, but we all know still water runs deep, the mysteries are disclosed, the truth is revealed and finally, the day of decision hits our realization. There are two ways, one in which emotions bursts like a colorful spectrum and fall down the mountains of hurdles and merge with the sea as if it is free and saturated. This is the moment when life feels complete and you are ready to end on a positive note.



But sometimes love knocks on our door, the stream faces the challenges of weather, it is tested, but it fails. Here is where the best part of every story begins and this legend is called a tragedy. Consider him as an old ex who never wants to leave you, makes you want to taint every decision you make, forces you to ignore who you are and at the end drowns you in your own regret. What's fun in a story when there is no villain, of course? Only if you remember in the end that you are the hero. Be it a minute or a span of a lifetime, love is what teaches us to grow and when you feel that somewhere you are stuck or you feel bothered and restrained because of it then surely you need to look back cause its track is long lost. Being loved or loving someone never meant being caged in fact it is the liberation of going miles straight with someone to have your back. When you lose it while walking please don't stop is all it asks, for it is the one who wishes to see you move on. Life is all about walking a marathon and when you stumble and fall it is love that makes you strong enough to live on. Don't wait for it if it is long gone, don't stop when it asks you to, don't run for it because it is behind you and don't ever doubt it because it is what you are truly walking for.

A very Happy Valentines to all may love be showered upon you.

VAISHALI KANEKAR [FYBA]

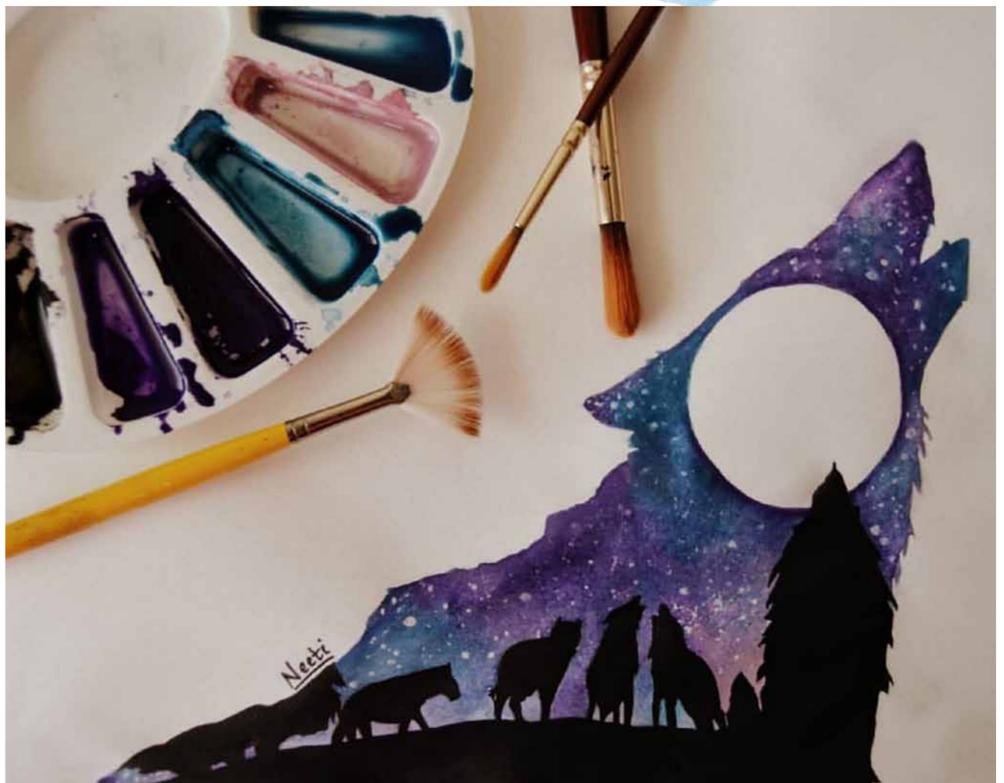




Celeste Gonsalves



Neeti Patel



Roaming Around The City

India art festival

An art fair is a wonderful exploration of one's artistic interests. For some, it is an inspiration to start filling their lives with art, while for artists it's a wake-up call to fill their canvas. It's a breath of fresh air to see the intricate, abstract, aesthetic lines and paint coming together to create a masterpiece.

India art festival is an art exhibition which is held every year in Delhi and Mumbai. It includes several pavilions of exhibits by galleries and solo projects by several artists and it showcases products from gifts & handicrafts industry which include paintings, sculptures, ceramics etc. Each artwork exhibited by the artists have variations which include the use of different textures, color palettes, tools, and other materials. Different forms such as Madhubani, abstract contemporary, origami can

be seen. It is a surreal experience where every gallery and every solo artist has something different to offer to the visitors. Exquisite art changes a person's perspective towards the social causes and some historical aspects that have been used as a theme for the artworks and this proves to be a good way to express thoughts through them.

The interaction and communication between the art collectors and artists of the contemporary times give rise to new and innovative ideas and that's what makes the exhibition new and innovative every year. India Art Festival brings forward the importance and value of modern, fine and contemporary art in recent times. The significance of art development and innovations which are taking place in the sector of art and craft is highlighted in this event.

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