

SEPTEMBER 2020

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monthly

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Credits

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Hey there, reader.



Welcome to the September edition of the **Ruiaite Monthly!**

Month one of college down. Speaking for just ourselves, it's been very strange and we're still in the process of adjusting. It's a whole new world of Google Meetings and muted audio -- and to anyone who forgot to shut off their microphone and got fifty messages from your friends to shut it, you're in very good company. But don't let us speak for your experiences! Why don't you tell us about how you've been holding up?

Write to us at: ruiatepr@gmail.com --
tell us your stories and we'll air them on our
Instagram page!





As usual, we're sure that we've got the coolest content for you. From academic piracy to adventures in France, we've got it all. As usual, we're all ears -- what would you like to see in our magazine's pages? Let us know; our email address is right there!

Have a ball!

The Editorial Team



Reporting



Friendship for a cause

Arya Nair | SYBSc
3 minutes read

Aug 2, 2020
Google meet

On the 2nd of August 2020, the NSS unit of our college, in association with MDACS and Think Foundation organized 'Mehfil-e-Dosti', an event to celebrate the friendship day with HIV-AIDS and Thalassemia patients, via Google Meet. Even though the digital event was arranged to celebrate friendship, it had a greater cause -- to remove the stigma from diseases like AIDS and thalassemia that were once considered a taboo.

An NSS volunteer, Samruddhi Dhamale commenced the celebration with a song, '*Hich Amuchi Prarthana*'. The peaceful ambiance created by the melody gave a head start to the event. The digital meet



proved to be the place to showcase all kinds of talents. Pooja Dolas recited poetry named Dosti, which conveyed the beauty of friendship successfully. Atharva Pawar, another volunteer, hosted an interesting game - Guess the City wherein the participants had to guess the city highlighted in the Indian Map, to make the game a tad bit easier, there were some clues. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the fun and clever game. As the game concluded, Advait presented a poem, '*Dukh confuse hotey*'. Through the poem, he illustrated how even sadness can be confusing at times. To lighten the mood, Samruddhi sang a few lines of the beautiful song of '*Aa Chal Ke Tujhe*'. Satyendra Singh recited a poem by the famous Hindi poet Irfan Ahmad Mir. Anupama Tamhankar presented the song, '*Itni si Hasi*' of the famous movie Barfi. The lack of energy in the event was fulfilled by an outstanding dance performance by Harshita and Akansha. Bhakti Sohani shared a poem by Guru Thakur on the importance of the relationship with self. Janhavi Sutar impressed everyone with her tuneful voice through the classic song, '*Kajra Mohabbat Wala*'. Atharva came up with yet another fun game, Guess the Movie from



famous dialogues. The game turned out to be more competitive than anticipated.

Samruddhi read a letter to Corona; it portrayed the guilt we all are facing because of the damage we have done to Mother Earth through our inconsiderate activities.

Before concluding the event, Anthony D'souza and Meena Maraskele from the audience shared how thoroughly they enjoyed the event. The wholesome event which was enjoyed by everyone came to an end with a formal vote of thanks by Iraa Chawla, an NSS volunteer.

Logon Ke Lokmanya

Vaishnavi Kulkarni | TYBSc
9 minutes read

Aug 1, 2020
Google meet

“Swarajya is my birthright, and I shall have it!”

This unabashed declaration of freedom was given to us by a person who was supremely excellent in maths and Sanskrit, the founder of Kesari, the initiator of Ganeshotsav, ardent promoter of National Education, an undaunted



freedom fighter: the one and only Lokmanya Tilak. The 1st of August, 2020 marks the start of his memorial century. In honour of this prominent occasion, S.P. Mandali's Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College, Department of Marathi collaborated with Marathi Public Awareness and Journalism Department to organize a lecture session titled 'Lokmanya Tilak and Journalism'. Dr. Rajendra Naikwade from Nagpur had the honor of being the spokesperson for the peerless experience. With words that praised Lokmanya, Mr. Koustubh Joshi initiated the session at a little past 11 a.m.



(Dr. Rajendra Naikwade)

"The fight for Indian freedom could have never been possible without Lokmanya." By stating this fact, Mr. Koustubh put forward the essence of the meet – TILAK IN JOURNALISM. Passing over the lead, Dr. Anushree Lokur further glorified Tilak from an educational point of view. She expressed her utmost reverence for Tilak by talking about his exceptional



perspective in the field of pedagogy. “Modern education is important to realize rights and therefore National Education is a mission India must undertake and accomplish itself!” she construed his beliefs as she quoted his saying. Ramnarain Ruia College is an institute under the banner of S.P. Mandali and she proudly mentioned that Tilak had a generous contribution in laying its foundation.

Concluding her talk, she venerated him with the following words - “It’s been a 100 years since his mortal departure, but his thoughts and beliefs have still not been outdated!” After such estimable words, Leena Kedare ma’am chimed in to introduce and ennoble the speaker for the day - Dr. Rajendra Naikwade . “A multi-faceted personality”, she started off, “after having completed his BSc., BA and MA were next in chronology. He, later on, completed his journalism course from an institute in Nagpur. But his educational qualifications don’t stop there. He also accomplished degrees in MPhil as well as a precious PhD!” As ma’am finished up the introduction, it was evident that Lokmanya Tilak and Dr. Rajendra Naikwade proved that they were jack of all trades and master of all as well!

After the pleasantries, the speaker was



respectfully invited to commence his much-awaited lecture. “Exceptional tasks have been accomplished by Lokmanya due to which there was overall notable progress. In his times, he opted for the extraordinary which evinced his majestic personality,” Dr. Rajendra proudly started. To express it in the speaker’s words itself, “Lokmanya had such an expansive character that you can’t compress his greatness in mere words; it’s like bottling the ocean.” He acknowledged the eminence of Lokmanya as he confessed about feeling nervous before giving his talk.

“ ‘Te hote jeeveeta’ (when he was alive), saying so Kusumagraj had worded a poem for one of Tilak’s statues. He was like the mighty lion amongst men, a great soul who framed modern India,” he further continued. Tilak had challenged the Britishers and won over all with his prowess! The speaker with a glint in his eyes advised the audience to take inspiration from Tilak and thus make their lives successful. Speaking in much depth, he continued; “Swarajya was his concept. Tilak dared to dream about it and also achieved it. The name KESARI was so appropriate because Tilak proved that he was literally Nar-Kesari (the herculean person between commoners). From being a lean friend



who pranked his mates to becoming a well-built adult, he transitioned from a naïve boy to a man with widened horizons!"

“Tilak chose two mediums to voice his thoughts, namely national education and newspapers,” Dr. Naikwade gave the gist of Lokmanya’s works. “Agarkar and Tilak together established a school and during that period of time the journalist within him awakened. Having accomplished his LLB degree, he was firm on achieving his goals that benefitted India at large. In pursuit of his ambitions, his life had started shaping itself into a selfless freedom fighter’s, and he soon found himself behind bars. After being released, people applauded him which ultimately resulted in his collaboration with the T.O.I. Later on, Deccan Education College and Fergusson College came into existence. It was a period of reforms, and Tilak was inspired and affected by various ideologies. The intensity of pressure in those troubling times was increasing.” While Dr. Naikwade was continuing his speech, every member could visualize those scenes! “Amidst all this, a plague had spread and the people’s morale had hit rock bottom. Taking the initiative himself, his effort spread awareness and raised people’s crestfallen state!” With every fact revealed, the



lecture got more intense and engrossing, and then Dr. Naikwade put forward the cunning suit of the Chapekar Bandhu. To pressurize Tilak, this wicked menace had been planned and set up. At that time, Tilak bravely responded, “Politics does not mean to seek revenge!”

“Tilak has contributed enormous heaps for the good of the society. He established national education and started various national festivities, one of them being the most adored Ganeshotsav. He wrote more than 2500 articles for Kesari.” Dr. Naikwade again praised him because Tilak had once written an introductory passage describing the prominence of Mahatma; he recognized the greatness of Gandhi at such a time, when no one else did. “As time progressed, he was jailed again and when people pleaded with him to apologise to the police officers, he courageously said, “If one decides to get into politics, he must be aware of all such strategies.” He was termed as the “Father of Indian Unrest” and yet Tilak was a person who was adamant on standing straight and never bowing down. It was Tilak’s understanding that the way Lord Shree Krishna was born behind bars, Geetarahasya -- based on Lord Shree Krishna’s ideology -- also came into existence behind bars! (He wrote his masterpiece



Geetarahasya while he was imprisoned.)

‘Punascha Hari Aum’ (Again Hari Om), saying these words he finally came out of the prison.”

With this incident, Dr. Naikwad gave a full stop to his marvelous talk. But in the hearts and minds of the students, a great sense of appreciation and patriotism was roused!

“However depressing a situation was, Tilak’s positive outlook surpassed it!” He hoped that students might have got a new perspective on Lokamanya’s life and that they would study about him in a more passionate manner. After such a dramatic session it was clear that everyone was inspired and motivated to do great deeds in their lives and also help their society progress. Although the lecture was the most dominant element of the session, it was a gesture from the speaker that took everyone by surprise. Dr. Rajendra Naikwade kept standing while delivering his talk. He only sat once he was done speaking; it simply portrayed how much respect and adulation he owed to Lokamanya. Author Nandita Saraf explains that the word ‘lok’ means public and ‘manya’ means accepted. Thus, lokmanya means a person who has been accepted by people. Truly he was Logon ke Lokmanya!



Buzz Around



राज्यपाल; समांतर सरकार ?

अनिकेत चव्हाण | TYBA

मिहीर देसाई | TYBA

4 minutes read

असे म्हटले जाते की एका म्यानात दोन तलवारी राहू शकत नाहीत. मग एका राज्यात दोन सरकारे कशी काय राज्य करू शकतील? म्हणूनच काही दिवसांपासून राज्यपाल विरुद्ध राज्य सरकार असा संघर्ष आपल्याला अनेक राज्यात पाहायला मिळत आहे. 'राज्यपाल' हे एक घटनात्मक पद आहे. राज्यपाल हे संबंधित राज्याचे प्रमुख असून केंद्र व राज्य सरकार यांमध्ये समन्वय साधणे हे राज्यपालांचे कर्तव्य असते. म्हणून राज्यपाल निःपक्षपाती असणे अत्यंत महत्त्वाचे असते. जेव्हा केंद्र आणि राज्यात विरोधी विचारांची सरकारे असतात तेव्हा राज्यपालपदाला आपोआप महत्व प्राप्त होते.

देशाचे राष्ट्रपती हे राज्यपालांची नेमणूक करतात. साधारणतः या पदांवर केंद्रात सत्तेत असलेल्या पक्षाचे माजी मुख्यमंत्री, इतर ज्येष्ठ, अनुभवी नेत्यांची वर्णी लावली जाते. म्हणून साहजिकच त्यांची निष्ठा केंद्राशी असल्याचे पाहायला मिळते. जुलै महिन्यात राजस्थानात बंडखोरी उफाळून आली. राजस्थान सरकारवर अस्थिरतेचे ढग दाटले असता मुख्यमंत्री गेहलोत यांनी विशेष अधिवेशन बोलावण्यासाठी राज्यपालांची परवानगी मागितली. पण सदर मागणी राज्यपालांनी फेटाळून लावली. यामुळे सरकार विरुद्ध राज्यपाल हा वाद पुन्हा एकदा ऐरणीवर आला आहे. पण ही गोष्ट आपल्या लोकशाहीला काही नवीन नाही. अशा अनेक घटना याआधीही घडल्या आहेत. १९८४ मध्ये आंध्रप्रदेशचे मुख्यमंत्री एन.टी.रामा राव उपचारांसाठी परदेशी गेले असताना तत्कालीन राज्यपाल ठाकूर राम लाल यांनी परस्पर मुख्यमंत्री



बदलला होता. भल्या मोठ्या सत्तासंघर्षानंतर राष्ट्रपती झैल सिंह यांनी राम लाल यांना राज्यपालपदावरून हटवले. शेवटी मुख्यमंत्रीपदाचा खेळ करणाऱ्या रामलाल यांना स्वतःलाच राज्यपालपदाचा मुकावे लागले.

देशात अनेक राज्यात राष्ट्रपती राजवट लादणे, सरकारे बरखास्त करणे, बहुमत नसताना सरकार स्थापनेची संधी देणे, अशा कारणांमुळे राज्यपालपद कायम चर्चेत राहिले आहे. हे प्रकार महाराष्ट्रालाही परिचित आहेत. सध्या कोरोनाने राज्यात थैमान घातलेले असताना अंतिम वर्षाच्या परीक्षांवरून राज्यपाल भगत सिंह कोश्यारी विरुद्ध महाविकास आघाडी सरकार यांच्यात संघर्ष सुरू आहे. राज्यपाल हे राज्यातील सर्व विद्यापीठांचे कुलपती आहेत.

त्यांचे मत परीक्षा व्हाव्यात असे असून राज्य सरकार परीक्षा घेण्याच्या विरोधात आहे. या राजकारणात नाहक भरडला जातोय तो आजचा 'विद्यार्थी'. मग आपल्या मनात प्रश्न येतो की राज्यपाल असा मनमर्जी कारभार करत असतील, तर ते हवेत कशाला? अनेकवेळा मतांचे राजकारण डोळ्यासमोर ठेवून काही प्रस्ताव सभागृहात मांडले जातात व कुठलाही सखोल विचार न करता ते मंजूरही केले जातात. अशावेळी राज्यपालांकडे जेव्हा हा प्रस्ताव स्वाक्षरीसाठी पाठवला जातो तेव्हा तो प्रस्ताव राज्यपाल फेरविचारासाठी पुन्हा सभागृहात पाठवू शकतात किंवा पुढे तो प्रस्ताव ते राष्ट्रपतींकडे पाठवू शकतात. कुठल्याही प्रस्तावाचे कायद्यात रूपांतर होण्यासाठी राज्यपालांची त्यावर स्वाक्षरी होणे आवश्यक असते. राज्य सरकार कोणताही आर्थिक प्रस्ताव राज्यपालांच्या संमतीशिवाय मांडू शकत नाही. राज्यसरकारच्या कारभाराची संपूर्ण माहिती राष्ट्रपतींना देण्याची जबाबदारी ही राज्यपालांची असते. एकाप्रकारे पाहायला गेले तर राज्यपालांचा सरकारवर अंकुश असतो.





म्हणून लोकशाहीत राज्यपालांना अनन्यसाधारण महत्त्व आहे. राज्याच्या उत्कर्षासाठी राज्यपाल आणि राज्य सरकारमधील संबंध महत्त्वाचे ठरतात. अशावेळी प्रकर्षाने आठवण होते पि.सी. अँलेक्झांडर यांच्यासारख्या निःपक्षपाती आणि प्रामाणिक राज्यपालांची. भारतीय प्रशासकीय सेवेतील प्रदीर्घ कारकिर्दीनंतर त्यांनी तामिळनाडू, महाराष्ट्र आणि गोवा या राज्यांच्या राज्यपालपदाची धुरा सांभाळली. स्वच्छ कारभार आणि समतोल विचारसरणीमुळे सत्ताधारी आणि विरोधक या दोघांशीही त्यांचे सलोख्याचे संबंध होते.

राज्यपाल हा राज्य व केंद्र सरकार यांच्यातील एक महत्त्वाचा दुवा असतो. २८ राज्य असणाऱ्या जगातील सर्वात मोठ्या लोकशाहीचा महाकाय जगन्नाथ रथ सुरळीतपणे वाहण्यासाठी सक्षम, अनुभवी आणि प्रतिभावंत राज्यपालांची आज प्रत्येक राज्याला गरज आहे.



Ruia Buzz

Hrithik Nirhali | TYBA

Shravani Mhaisale | FYBA

4 minutes read

In conversation with Mitawa Mukta Aneesh who is a volunteer with the organization, Lockdown Helpline Number.



1. When did you start this work?

– Prior to the lockdown, our group has carried out activities. We were willing to provide some help during this distressed situation. With lack of organizational and financial aid, we couldn't do much and hence we came up with '**Lockdown helpline number**'. Our actual work started from 27th



March.

2. What exactly is the scope of your work?

– We aren't a registered NGO but just an ordinary group of volunteers- '**Lockdown Relief Project**'. As the lockdown was imposed on a short notice, many people were in need of urgent help. Firstly, we prepared a database of NGOs working during the pandemic in various regions of Mumbai and then launched our helpline number. For instance, if I receive a call from Malad, I will contact the NGO of that region and inform them to provide the desired help.

3. Was this entirely a voluntary task?

– Absolutely! Gradually many volunteers joined us. After 4-5 days, it became clear that we needed funds to connect more people. We came up with a concept called '**Adopt a Dinner**' where you can adopt around 50 meals with merely 500 Rupees. We started fund-raising campaigns through social media posts and Keto. Initially, the local authorities couldn't reach all the places. For this, we would synchronize contact between grocery stores and the needy ones to provide them with grocery



kits (5 kg Rice, 5 kg wheat flour, 1 kg Dal, Oil, Salt, and Sugar) and then we transferred the amount to the grocery store.

4. Did you ever feel the need to provide some sort of psychological support to the distressed ones?

– Prior to April 15, daily wage earners' sole concern was how they could earn their livelihood and provide for their starving families. It became more alarming after May, as we received calls from the lower middle class people who had never lived such an undignified life before. How could they beg? Our helpful words may have provided some psychological support.



5. How much time did you spend daily for the cause?

– Our Lockdown helpline project was



working 24/7. Working hours would vary between 5-10 hours. Follow-up was also a crucial part along with receiving calls.

6. Any memorable experience during the entire journey?

– Oh! There are so many instances. One day, I received a call from a watchman from Kandivali at 11 p.m. His pregnant wife was about to deliver. Due to COVID-19, no government hospital was ready to admit her. We raised Rs. 15,000 and paid the fees of the hospital. After two days, he sent us a really cute photo of the baby. It was such a fulfilling moment. I received many calls expressing gratitude on Eid and Rakshabandhan. This wonderful experience has been etched in my mind.



Simply Put

Gayatri Madhusudan | TYBA

4 minutes read

'NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL POLICY' (NEP) 2020

HIGHLIGHTS & CONCERNS

What is the National Education Policy 2020?

The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) is India's third document on Education Policy; the earlier ones being in 1968 and 1986/1992. NEP 2020 is the legislation resulting from the approval of the Draft NEP, authored by the K. Kasturirangan Committee, by the Union Cabinet on July 29, 2020.

What was the controversy about the passage of the NEP?

The Congress, and the Left parties criticised the BJP-led Central Government for "bypassing" the Parliament on NEP. For example, Dr. Shashi Tharoor of the Congress questioned on Twitter why the NEP was not brought before the Parliament first for discussion. West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee said in a press conference



on July 31st, with reference to the fact that education is a subject on the concurrent list, *“I wonder how come they (Centre) thought of enforcing it without any discussion in Parliament and with the state governments. This is unilateral.”*

How is NEP 2020 praiseworthy?

- The policy envisages a broad, interdisciplinary, holistic system of education with flexible curricula, interesting combinations of subjects, integration of vocational training and introduction of multiple-entry and exit points with appropriate certification.
- It incorporates early education into the formal education system and extends the Right to Education for children up to 18 years of age.
- It increases government spending on education to about 6% of the GDP.
- It provides a comprehensive set of recommendations for promoting online education, including a dedicated unit for creating digital infrastructure and content, within the Ministry of Education to look after the e-education needs of school and



higher education.

- The policy promotes, 'holistic-based, inquiry based, discovery based and analysis-based thinking' based on pillars of access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability, states our Prime Minister.

What are some criticisms of the NEP?

- Dismantling of the autonomous UGC will erode the autonomy of Universities.
- The provision for Public Philanthropic Partnership will promote rapid privatisation of education, making it inaccessible to the poor and marginalised.
- Reservation would not be applicable to the foreign universities to be set up in India, which may lead to inadequate representation of lower caste students in such institutions.
- The use of regional languages as a medium of instruction till Grade 5 places at a disadvantage those students who have to frequently shift schools (such as children of migrant labourers and army personnel) as well as first-generation English learners, in the global job market.



Politicians like MK Stalin of the DMK fear the 3-language formula will lead to imposition of Hindi in the non-Hindi speaking states as 2 of the 3 languages must be native to India.

Professor Krishna Kumar, a former director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training and Priscilla Jebaraj, Deputy Editor of the Hindu are of the opinion that the increased spending on education will not be enough to cover the cost of the provisions to be introduced under the policy such as free breakfasts and converting affiliated colleges into full-fledged Universities.

Only the implementation of NEP will tell us whether it transforms India into a knowledge hub or proves to be a governmental hubris.

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Careerwise

“Education is the most powerful weapon
which you can use to change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela



The New education policy 2020 has not just revolutionized the learning process but has also brought major changes in the job sector. Among all, the teaching career has been affected directly. Let's analyse the changes in the school, college, and special education.

Back to school

Tapasya Iyer | SYBA
4 minutes read



In the midst of the pandemic, online education, and the new education policy, the educational sector has undergone massive changes to sustain and update with the technology. Even in this topsy-turvy situation, the schools are trying their level best to keep the spirits high and stick to the curriculum schedule. Let's look at these changes and their impact on the future of the teaching career.

Around 10-20 years before, the schools only focused on the main subjects. There was very little scope for the vocational subjects and co-curricular activities. However, today, the importance of practical knowledge has improved and the encouragement given to



extra-curricular activities has also increased to a great extent. This attitude gets clearly reflected in the new education policy 2020.

The impact of new education policy on the primary and secondary school level to shape the career is very high and much-needed. The three-language plan proposed at the school level will build a career graph from an early age. While the state board, presently, follows a similar pattern, NEP will standardise it among all the different boards. Under this programme, one can have the benefit to work within the state, country or anywhere in the world without any language constraints. The inclusion of another foreign language can give more scope to the individual career.

Along with this, the 5+3+3+4 model will lessen the board exam pressure among not just the students, but also the parents and teachers. However, the regular evaluation will be difficult without periodic examinations. It will be challenging for the teachers to assess the actual knowledge learned by the students.

The addition of an internship programme from grade 6 is desirable. But, the



implementation of this is tough as it requires a complete mentality change in the society.

What is the effect of the lockdown and online education on the schools?



It has been around two months since the online school education. But it is not a massive success. For the primary and secondary school children, the online explanation provided is not sufficient. While the traditional schools provided the opportunity for social interaction, the online meets restrict the student participation completely.

Though the government has provided online teaching training, it is demanding for the teachers to explain difficult concepts (especially in the subjects of math and science) to the kids without the one-to-one interaction and proper discipline.

Today, a career in teaching not just requires the common educational qualifications (degree + B. Ed or M. Ed) but also some additional knowledge about computers, website handling, designing presentations and new technology. A teacher is expected to

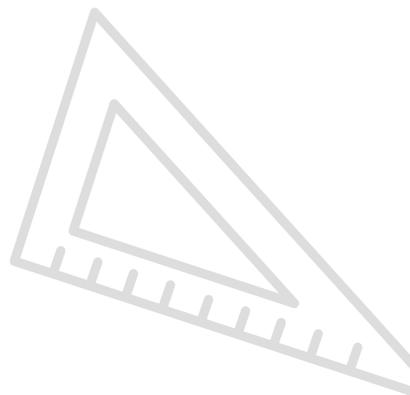


be passionate about the subject and up to date with the subject matter and current affairs. A career in teaching is no more just a government job with six hours duty. One has to be a good public speaker and teach beyond the classroom as well. To get an edge over others, an undergraduate or a postgraduate student can also do internships or part-time jobs in the teaching field.

In the period of lockdown, the online courses and the MOOCs have attracted many students. Though the trend of online education is trying to overshadow the traditional classrooms, the scope for a teaching career never diminishes. The online courses may run parallel to the traditional schools but it can never be replaced. The career in the teaching field is always a good and a flourishing one.



(Based on the interview with Mr. S. A. Ganapathi, Senior Teacher, Sri Vani Vidyashala High School.)



An Insight On NEP

Ankita Mukherjee | SYBA
2 minutes read

A career in teaching may sound tedious and challenging. But there are certain ways to excel in this profession as well.

“Communication skills, knowledge, creativity, enthusiasm, confidence, dedication, and organization are the key skills required to be a good teacher”, says Ms. Supriya Kale, HOD Biotechnology.

However, every teacher need not fit into the perfect mould. Every teacher can have their unique style.



How to become a teacher?

One can complete B.Ed. after graduation or D.Ed. after 12th to take up teaching as a career. Apart from these, there are many other online certificate courses available to enhance one's teaching skills. One must pass NET or SET exam to become a professor.

The educational field gets revamped from time to time. In recent months, the pandemic has brought about an entirely new form of education. Online classrooms have become a reality. Colleges have started to adapt to the



online world for the annual admissions as well. Though online education has the virtue of flexibility, the void of personal interaction is still prevalent.

The New education policy 2020 has led to a lot of debate and confusion regarding its implementation. Contrary to the popular belief that the 5+3+3+4 model will increase the stress among the students, Supriya ma'am believes that this will only prepare them for better. Though the M.Phil. has been scrapped, it will be possible to pursue PhD after the masters.

Education is a dynamic process and it has to go through changes in order to ensure the quality. Accepting and embracing the changes is the best way to adapt to the new times. The NEP can be a great policy if it gets proper implementation. However, those who aspire to be a teacher would not be deterred by anything. Teaching will still remain a noble profession.

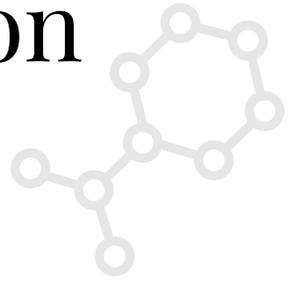


**(Based on the interview with
Ms. Supriya Kale, HOD
Department of
Biotechnology, Ruia
College.)**



Special Education

Madhura Soman | SYBA
4 minutes read



The people with special needs can be broadly classified into people with physical disability and people with intellectual disability.

Special education is an umbrella term for different courses and therapeutic measures to teach students with special needs which cannot be adequately handled in the regular educational institutions.

How can you be a special educator?



The requirements of a special educator depend upon the need of the educational institution they are joining. Many of them prefer either a B.Ed. or M.Ed. in Special Education. Some important subfields in the B.Ed. are: B.Ed. (Special Education - Learning Disabilities), B.Ed. (Special Education - Mental Retardation), B.Ed. (Special Education - Visual Impairment), and B Ed. (Special Education - Hearing Impairment). Apart from these, people expert in occupational therapy, speech therapy,



remedial teaching, and other forms of therapy like expressive arts therapy also help and contribute to special education.

Presently the demand for special educators is high. There are only 5-6 schools in Mumbai that are completely dedicated to intellectual disability. With rising awareness among parents, teachers, and the society the needs of specially-abled students are acknowledged. This has subsequently led to a rise in the demand for special educators.

The lockdown has made education online for everyone. It is hard to cope with this change, especially for younger students who are not adequately acquainted with the technology. Sometimes it is a struggle for the parents to develop aids and resources that are required to do a particular activity given by the school. But, just like there is a silver lining to every cloud, there is hope here as well. People are using technology in different ways to develop aids to support special education. For students with hearing impairment, videos with sign language and written documents are used along with online teaching. For students with visual impairment, audio recordings are used. Graphics help to present



content in varied and interesting manner for students with learning disabilities. Computer Adaptive method of teaching has been developed to help students with learning disabilities and slow learning abilities to learn at their own pace.

The New Education Policy 2020 also brings some hope for special education. The policy emphasizes inclusive education that will help the mainstream practice of students with special needs. The ICT integrated pedagogical practices that it stresses upon will enable students with special needs to grasp things better and aid in multisensory teaching practices. Under the NEP 2020, it is also decided to offer quality education to children with special needs. Provision of assistive devices and orientation to the



parents of students with special needs will go a long way in empowering parents and involving them as active partners in the education and overall growth of students with special needs. It will also help in aptitude-based learning and bring in flexibility in special education. Thus, NEP 2020 may play a promising role in the overall development of the students with special needs.

All in all, with the NEP 2020, we anticipate a good career opportunity being developed in the field of special education that can satisfy the dire need of special educators and the development of new technology-based aids for students with special needs.



Based on the interviews with 'Dr. Sangeeta Kamath' (HOD, Department of Psychology, Ramnarain Ruia College, Coordinator of Ruia College Self-Vision Centre) and 'Ms. Gayatri Pore' (Youth Leader at Special Olympics Bharat)



BEHIND THE SCENES



Suicide: A Public Health Crisis

Malvika Bhardwaj | SYBMM
2 minutes to read

Suicide continues to be a serious problem for many countries with there being a steady increase in overall global suicide death rate over the past few decades .

In 2003 the World Health Organisation declared 10th of September as World Suicide Prevention Day. Every year on 10 September, there's a flurry of activity and heated support from organisations and masses alike, for people with mental illnesses, urging people to reach out, get help. Within a week or month, it all fades out, as if it was all a trend, rather than an actual, serious issue.

India has the highest suicide rate in the Southeast Asian region, according to WHO's 2019 reports and this is discounting the scores of people whose deaths by suicide are never reported by family members, to prevent societal ridicule.

There is stigma attached to people with mental illnesses, which fuels a vicious cycle of suffering and isolation. Also, there is a lack of effective policy making with attempts to suicide only being decriminalized in 2017.

More importantly, India falls failingly short of the amount of mental health personnel and psychologists required for a country of our size.

As the world goes through a pandemic, these are times of distress with millions in India facing a staunch financial crunch. Also, there is a feeling of being homebound and the fear of getting infected. Students too are affected due to the uncertainty about their career and future.

The entire world is affected by the pandemic, and it is certain that though gradually, we all will get through this.

Addressing and getting treatment for our mental health issues is a responsibility all of us need to take up in order to ensure our own happiness as well as the happiness of our loved ones and more importantly, the effective functioning of our society.

Efforts by NGOs and the Government:

Janhavi Sathe | TYBA
2 minutes to read



Suicide Prevention
India Foundation

The Suicide Prevention India Foundation is one of the leading voices in the field of suicide prevention; their efforts at it being multi-pronged and seeking to collaborate with academia as well as the state. They focus on creating and disseminating content through blogs, social media and mainstream media regarding ways to deal with depression and anxiety besides also highlighting the importance of self-care and latest research as well as gaps in policy.

A very important aspect of their work includes training volunteers and professionals to cope with individuals who are dealing with suicidal ideation through workshops and gatekeeper programmes, that are both offline and online.

A major objective includes working with the government to create a nationwide suicide prevention policy, the momentousness of which the Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu, has also stressed upon, and a single toll-free number to act as a suicide helpline.

The Manas Foundation was involved in spearheading a digital campaign called #StopWhenYouSpot in order to shed light on the warning signs of suicidal ideation. Aasra and OneLife, NGOs based in Navi Mumbai and Hyderabad respectively, host 24x7 hotlines to help assuage people with suicidal tendencies, and to guide them through their thoughts.



The Government of India, passed the landmark Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 ensuring that programmes designed to reduce the stigma related to mental illness are funded and implemented and creating an apex Central Mental Health Authority, as well as State Mental Health Authorities in order to execute and overlook the administration of this Act. Most prudently, the Act overruled Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code which sought to criminalise suicide and provided that any person who attempts to commit suicide shall be presumed to be under severe stress, and such person will be entitled to receive care, treatment and rehabilitation to reduce the risk of the recurrence of any future attempts.

Speaking with a Samaritan

Sayli Mokal | TYBsc

Hiya Shah | FYBA

4 minutes to read

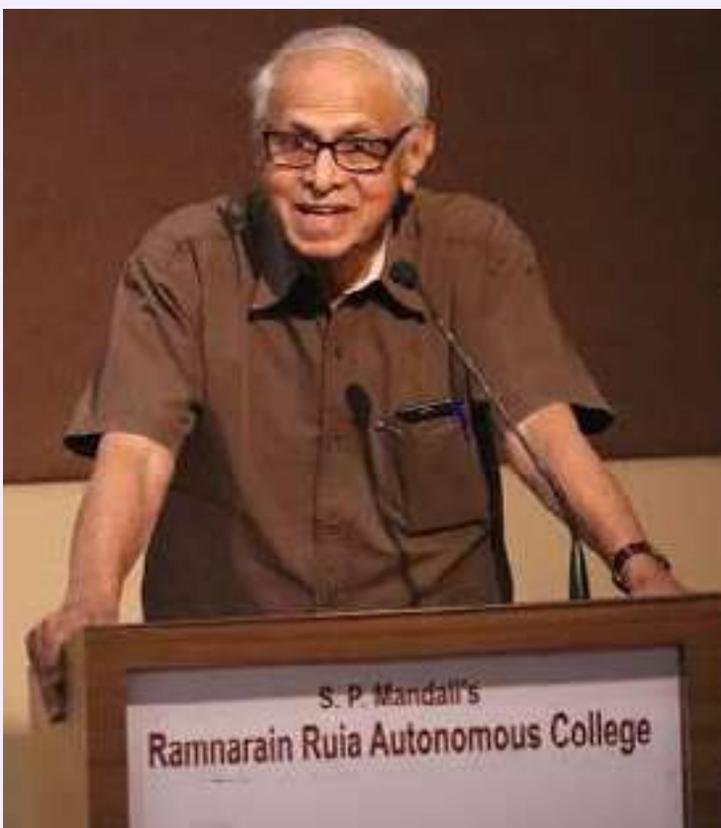


"Suicide is a culmination of many stresses and our main goal is to offer emotional support to people for any stress that they want to talk about."

says Sunitha Ramachandran, a senior volunteer at Samaritans Mumbai, an organisation that has been relentlessly working towards the cause of suicide prevention since it's establishment in 1960's.

Samaritan Mumbai, through their helpline, email and in-person meetings, provides a platform for people to share their distress and troubled feelings. By ensuring strict confidentiality and anonymity, people receive help when they need it the most. Their main goal is to reduce significantly the number of suicides by providing emotional support to those in distress, despair or even suicidal.

All the services and help they provide are for free. By talking on social media, blogs, outreach activities, celebrity endorsements, they have been effectively raising funds. Further, they hope to increase this through sponsorships and donations. In remaining consistent with their mission they face many challenges like raising awareness about their helpline. Since they do not have any marketing budgets, their volunteers have to work a lot through their own personal contacts with people in media, corporates, colleges, to set up events, collaborations, articles or even mentions in reportages.



The Assistant Director of Samaritans Mumbai,

Mr. Manohar Rangnekar speaking at

Ruia Conclave, event conducted at Ruia College

All the volunteers at SM share a deep passion for the cause of suicide prevention despite coming from different backgrounds and age groups. Sunitha herself is from a marketing background, and has been volunteering for organizations, that work for suicide prevention since 1998. She has even got a few diplomas in counselling and CBT.



The volunteers of Samaritans Mumbai.

"Listening helps, and can save lives," she says, speaking about the importance of the difference that an interaction can make. "She believes one can enjoy one's work even if it is emotionally demanding with uncertain outcomes."

Since our work is anonymous, we may never come to know the outcome of our efforts, but many times, callers have called back and thanked us for our time and support. When we get an email from a suicidal caller who has decided to live, with hope, it lends meaning to our work, " shared Sunitha, getting nostalgic about her memories of working in the organisation.



Sunitha Ramachandran speaking at an event conducted at the Psychology Department of Ruia College.

Ask her what keeps the team motivated for work, she answers "It's our shared passion to help people cope and feel supported." All the volunteers inspire and support each other, with conversations that are filled with laughter, acceptance and warmth.

Every befriender centre and helpline that works selflessly and freely is a role model for them, but they particularly look up to helplines that practice the important values and principles that are needed in this space.



Destigmatizing Suicide Through Popular Culture:

Tanaya Sheth | TYBsc

3 minutes to read

There are a number of songs, movies, shows and books that address the issue of suicide in a positive manner and have been effective in destigmatizing suicide to some extent.

Talking about suicide itself is a very delicate issue that needs to be addressed with immense care. Even a minute mistake in talking about a single aspect could have a disastrous effect.

However, some of these shows, movies and songs excel at addressing the mammoth issue that suicide has secretly become.

Here are some of the popular ones:

Music is a very impactful means of talking about an issue and adding a deeper meaning to it. One of the best songs that gained immense interest from the public eye was Logic's [1-800-273-8225](#). Yes, it is a song and also America's National Suicide Prevention Helpline. The song features Logic, Khalid and Alessia Cara in a medley of lyrics beginning from a person's point of view

who wishes to commit suicide and then switches to the point of view of a suicide helpline professional who talks the person out of it.

A pioneer in beginning a new era of talking about uncomfortable subjects, 3 Idiots not only shed light on the state of students' plight when it comes to education, but also spoke about mental health and the way it drives them to take this drastic step. The movie showcases two suicides, of which one survives the deed and how the pressures of the world may sometimes get too much. But, when you talk about your troubles with your loved ones and with those who care about you, you know you are not alone. This is a point that has been highlighted in the film.

Another great book that helps readers positively destigmatize suicide is 'A Long Way Down' by Nick Hornby. This book talks about four complete strangers that meet at the same suicide spot, trying to put an end towards their lives but somehow end up connecting with each other and decide to give life another shot.



INSIGHT



“Books are the quietest and the most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.”

– Charles W. Eliot

It is often said that good teachers are those who inspire their students to think, reflect and imagine, and to understand something beyond the textbook. They teach us how to learn rather than what to learn. In the truest sense, a ‘guru’ can be found in anyone and anything around us.

While the importance of our teachers who educated us since school cannot be ignored, in this edition, we talk about those gurus that silently became our friends, philosophers and guides. They taught us something without aiming to do so. They carried us to lands far beyond our classrooms to see something we would’ve never seen otherwise.

This month, we at Insight, celebrate Teachers’ Day by sharing with you, the teachings of our favourite books that inspired us.

I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World.



Esha Belekar (FYBA)

3 minutes read

When I say that books are in their own way my teachers, I do not mean to discredit my teachers at school and college or my parents. However, in my own little universe, books play a vital role. Books like the Harry Potter series or books by Enid Blyton that showed strong friendships and thrilling adventures or Agatha Christie's murder mysteries that kept you guessing until the end, were my childhood and I would often imagine myself in my favourite book's universe.



However, as I grew up, I found myself learning

to step out of my comfort zone. I began exploring genres other than fantasy and fiction. That's when I stumbled upon Malala Yousafzai's story. It was about an ordinary girl with exceptional courage, a child who loved her family and her homeland dearly and about the life of a teenager who was shot in the head for standing up against injustice! It was about a fight for survival and for basic human rights rather than sacrifice which captured my attention.



Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani teen, found within herself the courage to stand up for her love for education against the orthodox Taliban. She took up the pen name Gul Makai and started sending in entries to the urdu site of the BBC, however when her true identity was revealed, she was shot at while returning home from school. She, however, survived the attack and still continues to contribute to the society in her own way.

Up until then, I was uncomfortable with biographies and autobiographies but 'I am Malala' was a moving tale of a real life incident that really left an impact on me. For the first

time I realized how much I have taken my education and my freedom for granted. When she received the Nobel Peace Prize, I couldn't help but feel proud of being a girl. While I do not have the courage to stand up against a terrorist organization, I do hope to contribute a little to the development of society.

That's a long way to go... till then just like Gul Makai, I read, study and keep learning!



A Thousand Splendid Suns



Sanika Rajde | SYBSc

2 minutes read

This domestic fiction by Khaled Hosseini is truly riveting and pure to its every review. Initially, when I started reading this novel, I speculated it to be a bleak story about the hardships and suffering of two Afghan women, Mariam and Laila, during the Soviet war; who ultimately reflect to be the face and calling of feminism in worlds apart. But, as I immersed myself in these characters who are a generation apart, only then did I recognize how beautifully intertwined their lives and stories were. It made me realize how human connections can be unthinkable, and also commend the chance factor of meeting a particular person in the most arbitrary way possible without anticipating their remarkable role in the future. It is not often that one can absolutely predict the extent to which a person stays in one's life, but they sure can reconcile



each situation that comes forth with them.

The journey of reading this book made me cherish modest things in life, like family, friends, freedom, and young love, in a way I never deemed I could.



The most valuable asset I earned through this reading is how attached I could get to each one of the characters by finding a piece of them in myself. The degree to which I could empathize through all the emotional turmoil and heartbreak is deeply moving and is an art that not every author can crack.

So, if I had to express my emotions towards this book in a handful of words, I would say, it is an achingly soul-stirring experience through a gracefully redeemed reward of hopefulness. After all, isn't this what life is all about?



A Man Called Ove

Srushti Shetty, TYBA

3 minutes read

Swedish blogger Fredrick Backman's first novel, A Man Called Ove is a blessing in disguise. Its pages are filled with lively moments of laughs and tears, making it one of the most heart-warming books yet. Reading it opened me up to new perspectives and taught me some important lessons in its own subtle ways. I am very grateful to have read this book early in my life.

The first chapter may make the reader question Ove's annoying behavior, his snide comments or even his basic manners. But as we proceed from one page of his life to another, we not only understand him, but also begin to love him and his quirks- no matter how irritating they may seem. In a soul-stirring way, this book shows why Ove is what he has come to be and how he thinks. It lovingly nudges the readers for judging him too soon, without knowing his side of the story.

The novel also brings into focus the differences in how people convey love to each other. Sonja

shows her love by filling in Ove's silence with her words, his house with her books and his life with her bubbling laughter. Ove, on the other hand, showers affection in his own little yet firm ways; how he practically built a house for them, how he changes the colors of walls every year just because Sonja wants to, how much he cares for her by always doing little things to make her smile. Love doesn't need to have a single language and neither do two people need to convey it in the same way to be with each other.

However, the best part about this book is that it teaches us to live, live by our own principles, but at the same time being good-hearted enough to help others in times of need. It shows how one person can turn your life around and the second could give you a reason to live, more than you expect.

Mahashweta

Siddhi Paraskar | FYBA

2 minutes read

All of us have a fixed image in our mind when we think of a happy ending and then something happens and our perspective rotates 360°. My definition of a happy ending changed when I read MAHASHWETA by Sudha Murthy. I read this book when I was in high school and I have since then read and re-read this book multiple times and have learnt something new each time.

The story is about Anupama, a very kind, intelligent and beautiful girl from a small village in South India and how she contracted leukoderma, post marriage which ruined her marriage and family life. The journey of how she overcame all of it and rebuilt her life in Mumbai is truly inspiring. Sudha Murthy has managed to depict articulately the life in small villages in India. The characters felt life-like and it was almost as if I knew each of the characters personally.

Reading this book was like riding an emotional rollercoaster; I felt every emotion along with



Anupama. This story taught me the importance of self-esteem, it showed me that the fairy tales which end at "And they lived happily ever after" in reality take an ugly turn, which most often remains hidden. The book depicted the hypocritical behaviour of the so-called higher classes and of those who care a lot about social status. MAHASHWETA was an eye-opener for me, the book showed me nothing but reality, the truth which was around me all along but I was too blind to see.

A sense of feminist confidence and self-acceptance surged in me and Anupama as the story progressed. Books and stories have a way of affecting our lives, and MAHASHWETA has affected me and many others like me. MAHASHWETA gave me courage and hope when none was seen around me and I am eternally grateful for that.



अ-सामान्यत्व

समीक्षा दत्तालय धालगडे | FYBA
3 minutes read

**"स्वतः जळावे जग उजळावे, अखंड तेवे पणती या
व्रताने । असामान्यत्वाचा पाठ शिकवे, परि
सामान्यत्वाची साथ न सोडे ॥"**

स्वतः जळत जगाला प्रकाशित करणारी सानूली पणती! अशी सामान्यांतील असामान्यत्वाची अनेक उदाहरणे आपल्याला आजूबाजूला दिसतील, केवळ गरज आहे ती असामान्यत्वाच्या नजरेने सृष्टीला, व्यक्तींना न्याहाळायची! अशा वैशिष्ट्यपूर्ण दृष्टीने सुधा मूर्ती यांनी कर्नाटकातील सर्वसाधारण व्यक्तींचा अभ्यास करत त्यांच्यातील असामान्य गुण ओळखले आणि 'सामान्यांतले असामान्य' या अनुवादित केलेल्या पुस्तकात उमा कुलकर्णी यांनी नर्मविनोदी शैलीत व्यक्तिचित्रणात्मक लेख लिहिले.

हे पुस्तक म्हणजे दररोज आपल्या आजूबाजूला वावरणाऱ्या व्यक्तींच्या, नातेवाईकांच्या स्वभावातील असामान्यत्वाचा जणू पुष्पगुच्छच! आपल्या गुरुस्थानी असलेले ग्रंथ वाचायलाही आपल्याला अनेकदा वेळ मिळत नाही, मग माणूस वाचणं तर दूरच! या पुस्तकातील प्रत्येक व्यक्तीला दिलेले नाव हे त्याच्या स्वभावानुरूप समर्पक ठरते. तसेच कर्नाटकाच्या संस्कृतीशी आणि भाषेशी आपण जोडले जातो. असं म्हणतात की, माणूस हा चांगल्या-वाईट गुणांचा



पुतळा आहे. या न्यायाला अनुसरून, सुधा मूर्तींनी त्यांच्या परिचयातील व्यक्तींच्या सद्गुणांना वाव देत नकारात्मक गुण असणार्या माणसांबद्दल देखील लिहिले आहे; तसेच वाईट गुणांची दिशा बदलवून त्यांचे सद्गुणांत रूपांतर कसे करू शकतो? याबद्दल केलेले लेखन विचार करण्यास प्रवृत्त करते.

आता स्वार्थी सावित्री हे पात्र! भोगलालसी, स्वार्थी वृत्ती हे तिचे वैशिष्ट्य. परंतु सावित्रीच्या या नकारात्मक वृत्तीद्वारे "पैसा मोजून दमण्यापेक्षा लोकांना तो वाटून टाकणंच योग्य नाही का?", असा प्रश्न विचारत लेखिकेने निःस्वार्थी वृत्तीचे धडे दिले. माझे या पुस्तकातील आवडते व्यक्तिचित्रण म्हणजे कंडक्टर भीमण्णा! त्यांचे गुणवैशिष्ट्य म्हणजे चेहर्यावरील अखंड मंदहास्य. भीमण्णांचा जीवनाकडे बघण्याचा दृष्टीकोन म्हणजे रंगाविना असलेलं चित्र आणि प्रत्येकजण आपापल्या परीने त्यात रंग भरून निखळ आनंद घेत असतो; याप्रमाणेच कंडक्टर भीमण्णाही सदानंदी राहत असे. आयुष्यरूपी चित्रात 'आनंदाचे रांगभरण' शिकवून जातो.

असंच आपल्या आजूबाजूला वावरणाऱ्या व्यक्तींकडे वैशिष्ट्यपूर्ण दृष्टीने बघत त्यांच्यातील असामान्यत्व पारखून अनेकविध गुणांचा हार गुंफायला हे पुस्तक प्रेरित करते.

**“रत्नपारखीप्रमाणेच , व्यक्तीपारखी’
बनण्याचीदेखील संधी गमावून चालणार नाही!”**



OP-ED



A guide on how to opine healthily

1. Rationale.

Aakanksha Majumder | TYBA
3 minutes read



A fact is established and proven through rigorous experiments and/or research. A fact is set in stone and does not change unless contradictory evidence is found and proven. An opinion differs from person to person and is based on their experiences and exposure to information or the lack of it. They may also refer to suggestions by experts in the field regarding specific topics i.e. Second opinions.

Knowing the distinction between facts and opinions is of utmost importance before one can state or consume either. To state one's opinions may distort facts and figures for one's convenience and spread false information under the guise of facts. At the same time, treating facts as opinions creates space for disbelief.

Most of the news that we consume



nowadays, especially in the form of short bytes on social media, are rarely just facts presented as they exist. Instead, they usually are opinionated articles parading as factual ones. If we aren't able to distinguish between the two, then we end up believing the opinions as facts and our own beliefs and opinions are swayed in the same direction as those of the articles. Also, most of the sources that we follow, tend to propagate the beliefs we already have, thus further feeding into our biases.

The different media through which we get our news are primarily divided into 3 types—print, audio, audiovisual, and now social media. Print media had been slowly losing its popularity and the pace of this loss was hastened by the arrival of the Covid19. With the absence of print media, social media became the new and superlatively accessed source of news.

COVID has brought along with it a host of activities and situations which are all being clubbed under the “new normal”. In the initial phases of the lockdown when everything had shut down instantaneously



including jobs, academics, traveling, people suddenly had way too much free time that helped the consumption rates reach a new high. People were being bomarded by unverified news and they were consuming copious amounts of it to keep anxiety and stress at a distance. This, therefore, led to people taking to social media to vent out their opinions and to react to everything and fed into the larger narrative that every person needs to produce a subjective judgment to fit in.

2. Speaker's POV

Hritvi Acharya | SYJC
3 minutes read



The speaker drives a conversation; he is the one who steers and determines the nature of the conversation. For effective and smooth communication, the speaker must be aware of a few things.

First off, the usage of 'I' statements will significantly help in putting forward your point. By doing so, you establish a personal connection to the topic, hence making the



listener further interested, as your story is no longer just an example. It is an actual first-hand recollection.

Your goal as a speaker is to put forward your point. The way you do so will change according to your intention of the conversation. However, making the person in front of you feel attacked and threatened is NOT the way to go. This will only ensure a verbal spat or a very unfruitful debate where only time and energy would go to waste. Even while influencing someone's opinion, keep in mind that they are humans and it is completely fine of them to believe in something you don't.

Be aware of what you are talking about.

Reading the room is necessary as that will help you to decide the tone and voice which should be used for the conversation. Also, it is necessary to realize when things are funny and when are they just plain rude.

Remember that it is okay to take back what you said or alter what you said earlier if you truly do agree with it. It is humane to make mistakes and our opinions can and will change upon the extent of our researches,





our sources, experiences, and fundamental beliefs. Change of heart is often portrayed in a very negative light, whereas, many times, people change opinions to better ones! However, there is no need to feel obligated to say something you do not believe in, simply because your audience seems disapproving of it. Your opinion is yours and only yours to keep or change.

Do not threaten or pressurize anyone to align their beliefs with yours at any cost. Instead, try to keep an open mind and hear out their side too. This leads to an exchange in ideas, which is the exact goal of conversations. Do not insult or abuse even when things escalate and try to remain as respectful as possible to the listener's feelings, culture, and beliefs.

In the end, a healthy conversation is one where, both the speaker and listener gain something useful for the noggin.



3. Listener's POV

Vrushali Gadkari | SYBA
4 minutes read



As a listener, there are a number of responsibilities to be shouldered as well.

'Listen before you speak!' is your mantra.

Whenever one listens to a person's opinion, it should be kept in mind that the speaker comes from a set of beliefs and notions that may be different from the listener's. Their perspective is a cumulative effect of their experiences and influences which have resulted in a belief system that is unique and entirely their own. Thus, hearing a person out is of utmost importance.

Once you get a chance to put forth your opinion, do not do so condescendingly. Always understanding what one is saying and if need be to counter them, do so in an appropriate manner. Do not try to force your views on someone, or manipulate them into changing theirs. Understand the core of the concept of debate, and explain your stance with suitable justifications, such that the other person changes their view of their



own accord. One should not simply counter to prove their point. Misunderstandings must be addressed and both parties should be on the same page of discussion.

Before getting into a discussion, and charging through a debate with a one-track purpose of proving that they are right, one should take a moment to see the space that they are in. Always formulate your counter opinion such that it is appropriate to the situation. It should not trigger a tangent reaction but should be concise and precise.

If a listener is of a viewpoint that differs from the speaker, but upon listening to the speaker one is convinced of their perspective, one should not simply head barrel their former opinion for the sake of argument. It should be understood and cleared that accepting a conflicting viewpoint to one's own is completely respectable and takes away no dignity from an opinionated person.

A listener shouldn't be a quick judge; rather judgments should be on the back burner all along. It is vital that the listener create an environment where the speaker feels





encouraged to engage in their viewpoint rather than be hesitant to it.

If a speaker is a member of your group, it should be understood that one need not simply agree with them to appease them. If there is disagreement, it may be addressed cordially. On the other hand, one should not simply disagree or try to change the course of a discussion for personal gain and attention.

While debating or countering the speaker's point of view, one mustn't indulge in cultural appropriation or hurt the sentiments of the speaker in any manner for a malicious purpose. The purpose of debating should be kept in mind, and the listener should not hinder or go off-track by the words of the speaker.



4. Boundaries

Disha Shanbhag | TYBA
2 minutes read



We as a society have grown over the years by collectively accepting certain unacceptable mistakes of the past and present and conversations where one party abides or promotes or even glorifies such cases might end up with the party in question being judged or in worst scenarios boycotted.

Everyone has a different view on a given topic and hence every conversation is highly subjective and cannot be judged through the same parameters or lense. At the same time, in situations where the personal becomes political, questions like - should or is there a way to know what can be and what cannot be discussed? Is there a need for a limit and if yes will it be in conflict with one's freedom of speech and expression? And who gets to mark these limits? Individuals or the state? - need to be asked.

Theorizing issues of socialization are tricky



Conclusion.



and get complicated at times but each one of us is constantly taking up the role of a speaker and/or a listener in our daily lives with little to minor problems.

Conversations with oneself as well as the people around are needed for self replenishment and otherwise. One cannot think alone because one is never in the real sense alone, ever.

Hence, Healthy Conversations with the aim of learning pumped by mutual love and respect for the other half of the conversation can help in the development of a person's personality and his surroundings.



Open Forum



Bob Dylan, Instagram & The Evolution of Poetry



Saundarya Jain | TYBMM
Pavitra Jotisinghani | SYBA
6 minutes read

In October, 2016, a monumental event sparked discussions all over the globe concerning what precisely qualifies to be literature as the singer-songwriter Bob Dylan was announced as the next recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature “for having created new

poetic expressions within the great American song



tradition.” This inevitably compelled the devotees of literature, including Dylan himself, to re-assess the scope of poetry: an art form which, like all its other companions, is not impermeable to change with every social, cultural and technological shift in the world.

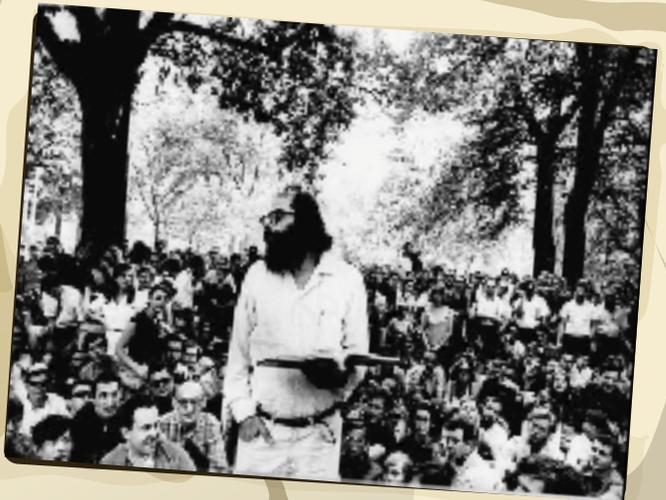
In the 20th century, as Modernist poets endeavored to transcend the conventions of poetry - preferring brevity over ornateness, universality of human experience over the intimate verses of the Romantics - revolutionary poets challenged the conventions of society, the status quo itself.



While Yeats and Frost charted a new course for American poetry, Tagore and Bismil composed verses of freedom for a new India. As consciousness surrounding human rights and civil rights gained momentum, voices of poets like Maya Angelou, Lanston Hughes, Audre Lorde soared higher and higher.

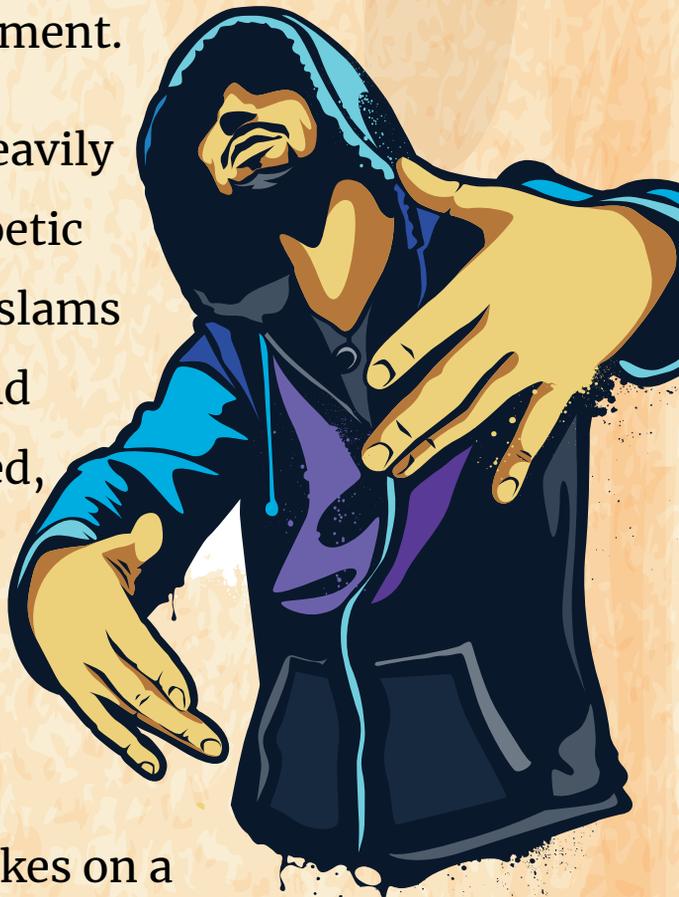
At another juncture in the advancement of poetry, not only did Allen Ginsberg and his contemporaries of the Beat Generation revive spoken word

– the dying oral tradition of memorizing and reciting poetry



which was snuffed by the invention of the printing press – but also speeches like “I Have A Dream” by Martin Luther King made the spoken word an important agent of social change. Perhaps, the honor accorded to Dylan – the human embodiment of America’s social mirror, “a poet in a the guise of a songster” as The New Yorker beautifully elucidated – was always pre-ordained, as the spoken word has, over the past few decades become an important vessel of social and cultural development.

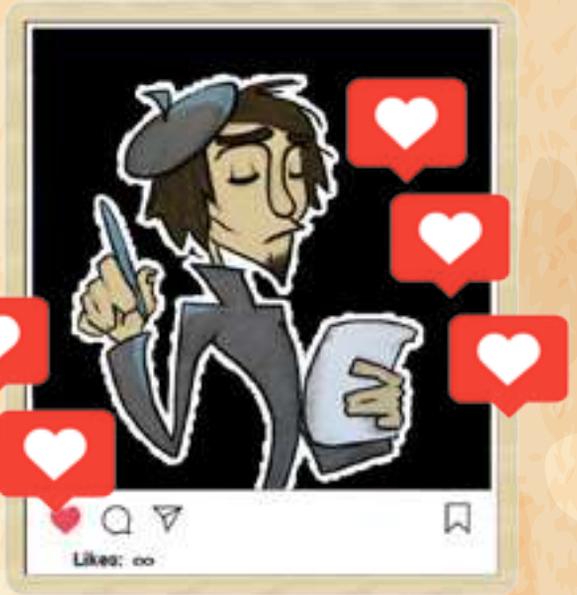
Rap songs get heavily influenced by poetic devices, poetry slams become more and more popularized, and in a beautiful cross-over between two art forms cinema takes on a poetic note as seen in the films of Terrence Mallick and Andrei Tarkovsky: it’s safe to say that poetry has evolved in a myriad of ways, ranging from pop-culture to high art.





Furthermore, poetry writing has been democratized with the advent of platforms like Instagram through which writers can reach out to a wider audience and can play around with graphics and illustrations to accompany their words. However, 'Instagram poets' escape the filters of a traditional publisher, posting anything for their readers to consume, regardless of its quality. Whence good poetry, with plain presentation, might get lost among the fancy graphics, corroborating Marshall McLuhan's theory of "Medium is the message" which states that the presentation of a message takes precedence over the message. While visuals are overshadowing words, some modern-day poets also ignore the rhythmic qualities of poetry in favor of free-verse. Critics of poetic devices argue that the

devices impede creativity, restricting what the poet wants to express. However, rhythmic devices challenge the poet's creativity to find ways to stick to a certain form and meter.



They also make a poem memorable for the readers. When the spoken word was the only way to pass down history from one generation to the next, poetic structures



were the way to retain and remember poetry. As lyricism began to wane in the 20th century,

modernists like T. S. Eliot made the free verse a norm. In the current-day, the free verse is often used to mask lines that are simply prose broken down at random. For example, let's take up a poem from Rupi Kaur's Milk and Honey:

“ the first boy that kissed me
held my shoulders down
like the handlebars of
the first bicycle
he ever rode
i was five

he had the smell of
starvation on his lips
which he picked up from
his father feasting on his mother
at 4am

he was the first boy
to teach me my body was
for giving to those that wanted
that i should feel anything
less than whole

and my god
did I feel as empty
as his mother at 4:25am

Rupi Kaur, *Milk and Honey*

Rupi uses simple statements with line breaks, without using any rhythm and disregarding punctuation altogether. Her poem is an archetype of the present-day poetry in which poets are abandoning form and going after catharsis, letting their emotions loose on the page. Oscar Wilde said, “All bad poetry springs from genuine feeling. To be natural is to be obvious, and to be obvious is to be inartistic.” The mantle of poetry must be carried on by deliberating

over different ways to express an idea and explore different facets of the human soul. Aesthetic visuals, erratic poetic structures, or journaling-like emotional release being sold under the guise of poetry can qualify only as social media content.

The New Yorker's coverage of Dylan in their feature elucidates marvelously what made him worthy of a Nobel Prize: “..his consummate literary technique—how to wield metaphor and make simile sing, how to sew his songs with rhyme and spin a whole uncanny scene from a perfectly worded image”. As poetry takes on a plethora of forms in the present-day, getting lost somewhere in the online and cultural whirlpool, it is through this “consummate literary technique”, this enduring truth of a dynamic art, that we should recognize and pursue poetry.



" All bad poetry springs from genuine feeling. To be natural is to be obvious, and to be obvious is to be inartistic. "

Oscar Wilde "Intentions" (1891)

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-

A Palatable Journey

Samyukta Shivshankar | TYBSc
Vidhi Dholakia | SYBSc
6.5 minutes read



Do you miss hogging out on street food with your friends? Or are you too busy relishing maa ke haath ka khaana at home? Whatever it may be, we always find our taste buds drawn to the irresistible, homely taste of our Indian cuisine. From chole bhature in the north to rasam in the south, pav bhaji in the west to delectable rasgullas in the east, India has a plethora of mouth-watering delicacies to its credit. Age-old recipes have been lovingly passed down from generation to generation culminating in the rich cuisine of India as we know it today.

Indian cuisine is a collection of rich and varied recipes developed over centuries, on medium flame; it is a living example of the ideas of secularism and



acceptance that run deep in the veins of our nation. That is why we present to you, some stories of the journey of food from the Persian plateaus and Arabian deserts to India; recipes from the royal kitchens of the Mughals and Marathas; and, of course, relished dishes which have been made for generations in the humble homes of the Indian subcontinent.

When was the last time you had a hot and crispy samosa right from the samose wale

bhaiyya's kadhai with a tangy mint

chutney? It is rare to find someone who doesn't enjoy a samosa! However, India originally had no potatoes to add to the lip-smacking dish. When the Portuguese came to India, they brought 'batata', a.k.a the potato, from the food pyramid of the Incas of South America, and this marked the commencement of the evolution of samosa



in India. It was then that the Turkish meat-filled 'sombusak', which complemented pulao in the meals eaten by the Mughals, transitioned into the more widely-accepted savoury. There had been precursors to the samosa made using indigenous tubers, known locally as 'kand', like arbi, yam and sweet potato.

Do you crave idli, vada, and sambhar from Mani's to indulge in with your friends whenever you get a free lecture in college? So do we! Often thought to be a dish of South Indian heritage, sambhar was originally created by Thanjavur Marathi chefs according to popular legend. Named as a tribute to the Maratha ruler Sambhaji, this dish was a variation of the Marathi lentil curry, amti, made by replacing moong dal with tur dal and kokum with tamarind, thus giving it a new, unique taste. Other legends suggest that a

Maratha king made this dish when he was



challenged by a chef that tamarind cannot be added to dal. However, the first mention of sambhar masalas is found in ancient Kannada texts, making the origin of sambhar an issue of debate among the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Let's continue with one of the many delicacies monopolised by the people of the North and relished all over the country.

If your first thought was of chole-bhature, then you're right! Chana or chickpeas, unlike

wheat and barley, were not indigenous to India. They came to India from the Arabian desert through the Silk Route. We adopted this foreign crop, and from it, we crafted chole and chana masala, a delicious blend of boiled chickpeas, onions, and tomatoes and enhanced it with spices like cloves, bay leaves, and cinnamon to name a few.

Popularised as street food in Delhi, chole is relished with bhature, kulche, tikkis, and even eaten alone. This dish was introduced as



street food in Delhi for the first time in the 1940s and has continued to delight our taste buds ever since.

Famous for the homely comfort it gives, khichdi is one of the most authentic dishes which came to being without any fusion of cultures. Derived from the Sanskrit word 'khicca', meaning a dish made of rice and pulses, the dish changes its flavour and appearance as you move from region to region.

Some famous variations of this delicacy include balae from Himachal Pradesh,

malai bhuni khichuri from Bengal, ven pongal from Tamil Nadu, bisi bele bhath from Karnataka, kedgerie, the anglicised version of khichdi famous in England, and many more. In many states, khichdi has been offered to God as prasad. There is a lot of folklore associated with khichdi in the Mughal era, like the khichdi Birbal 'cooked' to get Akbar to own up to his error, and Jahangir's beloved 'lazezan', which was



laden with pistachios, raisins, and other dry fruits. Indeed, like treasured folklore, each and every type of khichdi has percolated through generations to still be loved and cherished as the most comforting one-pot meal ever.



To end on a sweet note, it would be criminal to ignore desi desserts. Many chashni-dipped sweets like gulab jamun, jalebi, and imarti find their roots back in Persia. Bengali roshogulla and Odiya

rasagola, although similar, have been given separate



geographical indications for their respective states. The advent of globalisation has

made Indian cuisine famous

internationally and has set the stage for the invention of many more fusion recipes.

Calling food “spiritual”, Vikas Khanna rightly says that “food can bring the world together”, and we completely agree.



TECH
TRICKED

Bringing Down the House of Cards!

Athira Patkar | FYBA
3 minutes read

Playing various card games requires basic knowledge of the game, and a garnish of mathematical probability and logic for always having that upper edge. But, if we were to create a super-player, we would need to fulfill both the prerequisites, of him knowing all about the most popular game having 4 suits, and quantum entanglement. Yes, the one and only quantum entanglement, which is considered as the ultimate testimony of logic and science. It would create a player who would conquer all international championships. This concept of inclusion of quantum entanglement in a game of cards is what Quantum Blackjack is all about. Luckily for us and profit-making companies sponsoring these championships, Quantum Blackjack does not look like it will enter local casinos soon. Until then, let's take a look at how two phenomena so different from each other fit together perfectly to create this Herculean game.

Firstly, let's look at the two concepts on their own:

1. Blackjack –

A popular game of comparing cards, played between one or more players and the dealer, in which each player does not compete against each other, but instead against the dealer. The players bet that they have a better hand of cards than the dealer, and the player whose sum of cards is closer to but not more than 21 wins the round.



2. Quantum entanglement -

It is defined as 'a physical phenomenon that occurs when a pair or group of particles is generated, interact, or share spatial proximity in a way such that the quantum state of each particle of the pair or group cannot be described independently of the state of the others, including when the particles are separated by a large distance'.

A simple example to explain Quantum Entanglement would be:

Imagine Marie has a pair of gloves. If she finds the right-hand glove in her drawer, she can be certain that the missing glove will fit her left hand. The two gloves can be labelled as 'entangled'. As in one can make a strong hypothesis about similar and predictable important feature(s) of either or both the gloves and is not too random. Quantum entanglement has been used in quantum computing and quantum cryptography. It has been used in experiments related to quantum teleportation as well.

A scientific paper written by MIT and Caltech researchers, entitled 'Quantum Blackjack - or - Can MIT Bring Down the House Again?' talks about the theory of Quantum Blackjack,

and how quantum entanglement can help players win at blackjack, considering that the cards distributed by the dealer all come from a single deck of cards, and hence there is no overlapping. The authors, Joseph Lin, a graduate student at MIT, professor of physics Joseph Formaggio, associate professor of physics Aram Harrow, and Anand Natarajan of Caltech have created a theoretical situation in which two players working together to defeat the dealer can efficiently use a quantumly entangled pair of systems to coordinate their strategies. But, the downsides of this are that it gives the players a very slight chance of winning, and is more accurate if the number of cards in the dealer's deck is low.

Decades will pass by until we shall be able to carry quantum computers in our backpacks. But until then, we will have to look out for physical tells and sheer luck to win card games.



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Health Advice or Casteism Revised?

Aniruddha Dawane | SYBSc
4 minutes read

Ever since the days of the Human Genome Project, the ground-breaking attempt to map the entirety of the human genome which successfully ended in April 2003, the amount of genetic data available to researchers has drastically increased. Commercial services like 23&Me and Ancestry.com have led to a further boom in this data. This wealth of genetic information combined with modern computational capabilities is allowing researchers to predict a person's chances of contracting diseases like diabetes, arthritis, clogged arteries, and depression.

We've known about diseases caused by mutations to a single gene, like the BRCA breast cancer gene or the one-letter mutation that causes sickle-cell anaemia, for a while now. But it is only recently -- as of 2014 -- that researchers have recognised that many common diseases are affected by hundreds of locations in our DNA. For example, Type 2 diabetes, which was suspected to be affected

by 12 genes as of 2006, is now known to be affected by over 400 locations in our DNA, probably even more – each with only a small, hard to detect effect. While this dispersed nature of risk factors might make it a little more inconvenient to flag someone's risk for certain diseases, it is nevertheless possible to create templates, called polygenic risk scores, against which an individual's DNA can be cross referenced against to predict their risk for that disease.

To create these polygenic risk scores, researchers use 6.6 million positions in a person's genome. From big genetic studies, it is possible to see how much more likely a person with a specific nucleobase in a position is to contract a disease; by identifying and compiling these nucleobases, researchers create polygenic risk scores to predict individuals' susceptibility to diseases.

For example, when a model was built for coronary heart disease, researchers discovered that the top 2.5 percentile of the people tested had four times the average chance of developing blocked arteries. Similarly, by applying this method to other diseases it is

possible to flag someone from birth for a higher likelihood of developing heart disease, diabetes, respiratory problems, etc., so that they can manage and plan for such eventualities better. With this foreknowledge, heart diseases for an example can be prevented by healthy eating habits, exercise and cholesterol reducing pills.



These models can also be used for development of better treatments in the future. One of the problems with current Alzheimer's research is that despite billions spent developing drugs to combat it, there is



no way to test preventive drugs effectively. If we don't know who is likely to get Alzheimer's in the first place, it is difficult to tell whether or not the preventive drug is working.

Despite the massive leap in healthcare such an advance would bring, there are a few things to be concerned about. Alerting people to the risk they have to diseases might lead to excessive concern and might negatively affect mental health. In the case of Alzheimer's which is known to be a disease heavily affected by genetics, even an identical twin of a person with Alzheimer's only has a 50% chance of developing it during their lifetime. How many of us want to live with the fact that we'd have to worry about having a high likelihood of developing a degenerative disease later on in our lives, which in all likelihood might not even happen? The method of creating polygenic risk scores can also be applied to any metric that is affected by genetics. E.g. IQ, height, personality traits, likelihood of being addicted to nicotine, etc. This might lead to the development of a neo-caste system based on future life prospects. It is, however, hard to deny the

benefits that this 'Genetic Fortune Telling' technology provides us with, like to reduce loss of life to controllable diseases and to predict problems before they occur, etc.



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The Paywall Hurdle

Shrutika Sandip Javkar | TYBA

3 minutes read

Your Professor has given you an assignment for this semester. What do you do to find the information related to your topic? Needless to say, you'll Google it, analyze the information, and compose it into a paper. Perhaps, if the topic seems significantly interesting, you might even search more extensively and find interesting research papers on it. By the time you read the abstract of the relevant paper, you are obstructed by a paywall. Unable to shell out \$40-50 for reading a paper, you settle for information which is freely available on Google, however inaccurate and mundane it might be. Does the situation seem familiar to you?

As students, many of us have faced this problem. Same thing was also faced by a 22-year-old software developer and neuroscientist, Alexandra Elbakyan, who after studying in Russia, US and Germany returned to her native place in Kazakhstan, only to find out that the literature required for continuing her research is behind a paywall. With the



motive of 'providing knowledge to all, no copyright and open access' Elbakyan started Sci Hub on 5th September 2011 which (illegally) provides free access to over 83,439,023 research papers and more as of today. You can get almost any research paper hidden by a paywall, for free on Sci Hub just by typing the name of the research paper, its DOI (Digital Object Identifier) number, or simply entering the URL of the research paper.



Considered the 'Robin Hood(s) of Science', Sci Hub, along with LibGen, a piracy website, provides books and magazines for free,



commits academic piracy and provokes publishers to sue them. But their actions have helped researchers and students worldwide. This is seen especially in the Global South, where students or researchers wouldn't have gotten access to the literature required for their research due to the exorbitant rates charged by publishers -- despite the fact that academic researchers who write these research papers don't receive any monetary benefit.

However, one must ask why researchers and students find themselves in a situation where they have to engage in illegal means to obtain information pertaining to their research. The answer lies in the oligopoly of a few academic publishers in the digital era. It is undeniable that there are costs for publishing and editing, but academic publishing has become an industry where the profit margins reaped are higher than any other industry. The reality is that the researchers have to hand over the copyright of their research which is funded by taxpayer's money to these publishers who in-turn hide it behind a paywall. The grants which a researcher receives for their research depends on the number of journals in which he/she gets cited in.



Library Genesis^{1M}

Alternative domain for libgen.org: libgen.education
Added upload form for fiction (log:pass look at the forum)

Search in :

- LibGen (Sci-Tech)
- Scientific articles
- Fiction
- Comics
- Standards
- Magazines

In a country where most students photocopy pages from the reference books prescribed for a semester and distribute among their fellow students, Indian students are blissfully unaware about academic piracy thanks to lenient piracy laws in India. High pricing, inaccessibility of books and research papers shows that piracy will stay for long in India.

Piracy cannot be completely avoided, but rather piracy should be thought of as a tool to provide knowledge to the masses.



SAFARNAMA



Bon Voyage: Chapter Four

Maitri Kate | SYJC Arts

4 minutes read



Illustration Credit - Vedang Thakur, Column ArtWall

Recap - Khwaish boards a train after spending an eventful four days in Bretagne, France.

"Hope to see you around," Khwaish bid goodbye to her new friend as she got off at St. Jean station, Bordeaux. On her train (TGV), she had met a French-Indian girl and thus time flew by real quick chit-chatting during her whole journey from Brittany to Bordeaux.



Here, she had discovered a free homestay situated around 'La place de la Comedie' which was the center of the city, through the Couchsurfing website. After the whole tiring day full of hiking and traveling, she laid on the bed wondering what the next day had in store for her, and gradually she fell asleep.



The next day, the beam of sunshine peeping through the window and the sweet chirping of the birds woke her up. Her host, a kind lady, then served her a tray of breakfast in bed while wearing a warm welcoming smile on her face. Khwaish was even more energized for the day after eating 'un pain avec du beurre' and drinking a hot cup of coffee. Thus, she set out to spend her day in the spectacular city of Bordeaux.

She started her day on cycle from 'Place de la Bourse' where she came across the magnificent building of Bourse and the 'mirror d'eau' (mirror of water) which gorgeously reflected the building. The structure was made up of classical French architecture, designed by Ange - Jacques



Gabriel between 1735 and 1738. While taking a look at this structure located along the Garonne River, she recalled that it is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Next, she checked out the 'Grand Theatre' (The Opera House) where she couldn't stop admiring the Corinthian columns and the sculptures. She was disappointed that she couldn't attend a musical event happening in the auditorium of the theatre since she really did not want to miss the wine tour she had pre-planned.

Then, Khwaish headed towards 'la cite du vin'. She had never even imagined that she would spend 4 hours engrossed in learning and tasting different wines and would completely fall in love with the experience. The museum was every oeno-tourist's heaven.



Inside, she took the tour of the 'permanent exhibition' (which took 2/3 hours) guided by a visiting companion and the tour ended on the top floor at a height of 35 meters. She felt ecstatic while standing there, mild breeze gently touching her face with a glass of wine in her hand and the 360° view of the city of



Bordeaux in front of her eyes. While leaving, she thought to herself that the tour was a little expensive (20€ for the permanent tour) but also totally worth it. There were so many seasonal exhibitions (especially in spring) here that one can spend an entire day at this wine museum.

After her over-expensive stay in Bordeaux, she started wondering about some low-key places she could visit.



World Heritage Sites: Delhi

Samruddhi Amrutkar | SYBA
5 minutes read



UNESCO World Heritage Convention declares World Heritage Sites that are of cultural and natural significance. Currently, there are 1121 World Heritage Sites spread across 167 countries.

This list of sites is an organized treat for all heritage enthusiasts. So, why not start with our own country?

India itself has 38 sites out of which 30 are cultural, 7 are natural and 1 comes under mixed criteria. Incredible India's



'Dekho Apna Desh' is an initiative we all can easily be a part of and help to boost the tourism sector in our nation, of course only after the



end of the current pandemic situation.

Most of you might be well aware of the three sites in Mumbai – CSMT, Elephanta Caves, and the Art Deco corridor in South Bombay.

So, time to learn more about the three sites in our capital city!

Delhi:

Delhi is a place with a terrific history and has had political significance since the Sultanate era. These sites were recognized by UNESCO for their cultural significance.

Note – The best time to visit Delhi is from October to February.

1. Humayun's Tomb (built 1572 A.D.)



The construction of the Mughal monument, Humayun's Tomb, was initiated by Humayun's widow Empress Bega Begum. It is the first garden-tomb in the Indian Subcontinent and the starting point of Mughal Architecture in India. The octagonal Central Chamber and the corner chambers house the graves of over 150



other members of the royal family. The real grave of the emperor Humayun is in the basement.

Construction of Humayun's Tomb also inspired the construction of the Taj Mahal. It is very well maintained, making it a must-visit site for outsiders and a great picnic spot for locals.

It is open throughout the week from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. A ticket of Rs.40 is charged for Indians. The nearest metro station is in JLN Stadium on Violet Line. The best time to visit the tomb is in the morning when it is not very crowded.

2. Qutb Complex



Qutb Minar is located in the Mehrauli area of New Delhi. It is a 72.5 m high tower commenced in 1200 A.D. by Qutab-ud-din Aibak, the first ruler of Delhi Sultanate. Some of the other monuments situated in the Qutb Complex are Alai Darwaza, Quwwat-Ul-Islam Mosque (the oldest mosque in North India),



Iron Pillar (which surprisingly never rusts).

A cycle tour is available in the Qutb Complex by Delhi Tourism. It is open throughout the week from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. A ticket of Rs 40 is charged for Indians and Rs 600 for foreigners. The nearest metro station to the tomb is Qutb Minar on the Yellow Line.

3. Red Fort Complex



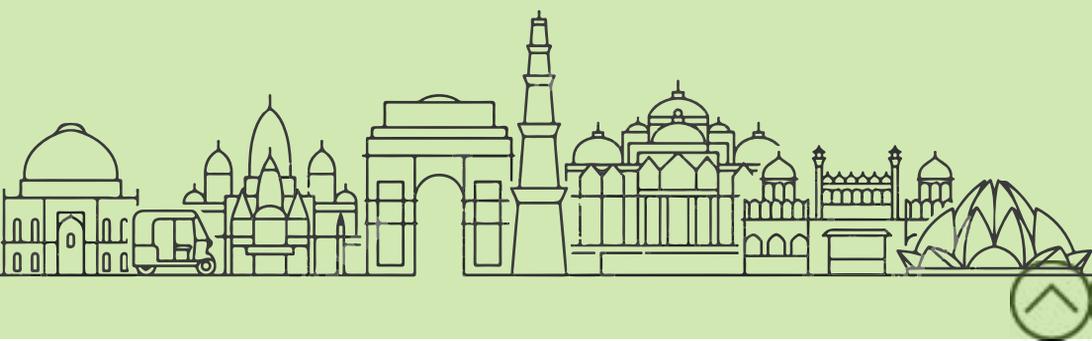
Red Fort or Lal Qila was built by Shah Jahan as the palace fort of Shahjahanabad. It remained the residence of Mughals until the last emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar.

On Independence Day 1947, the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru raised our tricolored flag over the Lahori Gate, starting the flag hoisting tradition followed by all following Prime Ministers. You can hire a tour guide or rent an audio guide at the entrance to understand the history and architecture in depth.

It is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 9:30



am to 4:30 pm to visit. The ticket costs Rs. 35.
Light and sound show regarding Mughal
History in India is available in two languages
i.e. Hindi and English in the evening after 7 pm.
The nearest metro station to Red Fort is Lal
Qila Metro Station on the Violet Line.



The longest continuous flight in history



Sanjana Bhate | SYBA

4 minutes read



We have all heard of months-long voyages and adventures on foot across mountains. But have you ever heard of a months-long flight?

It seems crazy enough that Singapore Airlines flies non-stop on the direct route from Singapore to New Jersey for 18 hours 30 mins straight. But that's not the longest that aircrafts have flown.

Here is the story of the longest continuous flight to date:

Flight: Cessna 172

Took off: 4th December 1958

Landed: 7th February 1959

Hacienda, the family hotel in Las Vegas wasn't doing well and needed a publicity plan more



original than billboards and celebrities to shoot their sale. Their slot mechanic, Bob Timm, wanted to set the new flight endurance record. His needs were a plane and money. The hotel owners granted him \$100,000 and requested him to paint 'HACIENDA' on the plane. The money allowed Timm to buy a plane and all other vital supplies.

Thus, one can say that the longest flight endurance record was made possible because of a crazy marketing strategy for a tourist hotel.



Timm started his preparation with the co-pilot John Cook who was a flight mechanic. The flight took off from McCarran Field in Las Vegas on 4th December 1958. Their initial days were flown over the Las Vegas air space in case they had to land. Afterwards, they continued to fly over the deserts of Arizona and California. Timm and Cook managed to take a 4 hours'



shift to keep up a rest schedule. Their journey was safe until Day 36. Timm dozed off while the auto-pilot mood saved them. Despite adversities, on January 23rd they broke the record and became the longest flight pilots. On February 7th, 1958 they had to land because the engine died.

DID YOU KNOW?

The flight lasted for 64 days, 22 hours, 19 minutes, and 240,000kms in the air.

They installed 95 gallons of belly tanks which was topped off twice per day with the assistance of a big hauler truck.



One pilot stood on the little fuselage platform outside the plane to collect the necessary supplies and fuel sent from the tanker.

The Hacienda culinary experts gave the



best food day by day through the truck. Likewise, a similar truck gave them water, towels, and clothing.

— A sink was installed to let them shave. They showered on the fuselage with just a quart of water.

— They might have used a basket to discard the excreta and pee, and returned through a rope to the tanker.

— They barely got sleep because the engine was excessively uproarious.

— To keep themselves sane, they read comics, played “I spy with my little eye” and counted things. After returning from their journey, both of them followed their previous work routine, and needless to say, Hacienda incurred a huge success.



Fictionally Yours



IN SEARCH OF HAPPINESS

Chaitravi Kothavade | SYJC
10 minutes read

“Good luck for your first day, Mr. Agarwal,” the Principal shook hands with me. I smiled politely, as anyone would.

Being a teacher in a reputed college wasn't my dream job, but when you have to support a family, dreams often fade away.

Wealth was a department my family lacked in. I aspired to turn this around one day. Happiness was often equated with the wealth one possessed and in this greedy world, I was just another desperate man who dreamt of achieving this 'happiness'.

“Walcome, Mr. Agarwal, " Mr. Kumar shook hands with me, grinning.

“Kumar Sir!” a woman called. She stood at the entrance of the staffroom. “Arjun is in trouble again.”



Mr. Kumar groaned. To him, the line was annoying, like a broken radio, playing the same tune over and over.

“I’ll be there,” he grumbled.

We greeted each other hastily and headed to our respective classes.

I was on my way to the staffroom after the lecture had ended when I came across Mr. Kumar. He was talking to a student, exasperation etched onto his face.

The boy towered over Mr. Kumar. He looked like he would rather burn in hell than tolerate Mr. Kumar's broken English. I didn't blame him – it was a relief Mr. Kumar wasn't an English teacher.

Under normal circumstances, I would've ignored them, but I remembered the change in Mr. Kumar's demeanor after hearing the name, "Arjun!"

Arjun intrigued me. On observation, I noticed the kid's right eye was swollen. His left hand



was slightly bleeding at the elbow. His posture was slumped, his eyes dull and void of emotion. Only his branded accessories shone.

Mr. Kumar was visibly relieved as he saw me approach them.

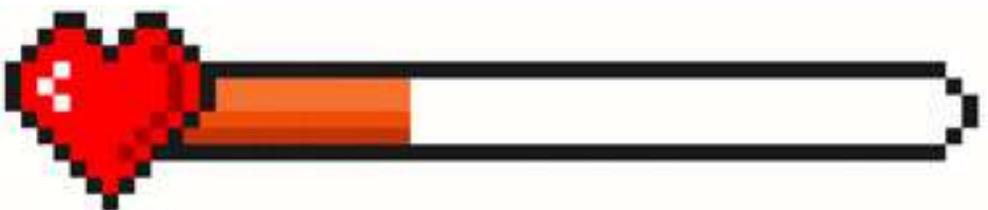
“Is he Arjun?” I asked. He was staring across the corridor, outside the window, ignoring me. Mr. Kumar nodded, “Bad student from rich family!”

“Nice to meet you, Arjun. I am Professor Agarwal, your new Maths teacher,” I held out my hand, shrugging innocently at Mr. Kumar’s shocked face.

He wasn’t expecting me to be friendly. He wanted me to lash out, so that his responsibilities would be automatically transferred to me.

You don't get paid for slacking off, Mr. Kumar.

“Your son needs to improve, Mr. Sharma.”



I was currently at Arjun's house to meet his father. The kid had only scraped through retests and proxies. He needed to work harder.

Arjun wasn't home.

This man was absolutely enraged. I suddenly pitied Arjun, hoping he stayed out tonight.

“Is that his room?” I asked, shifting uncomfortably on the couch and pointing towards a closed door beside me.

Mr. Sharma nodded. “You can go in, if you wish to.”

Astounded, I stepped into Arjun's room. The walls were decorated with character sketches and posters. One corner proudly showed off his collection of games.



'Game developer' occurred to me.

The bell rang. I exited Arjun's room. He stopped in his tracks as soon as he saw me.

To him, I was an annoying bug who kept



reminding him of his failure.

“Why are you here?” He spat.

The slap came and I jumped in surprise, flinching at its shrillness. Too cold.

Apparently, not for Arjun. He didn't even move; he was used to it.

“Excuse me, Mr. Sharma.” I tried to be polite. The cold father turned to face me, with no remorse in his eyes. “Although your son needs improvement, it's not right to hit him. He's not a kid anymore.”

I didn't regret being blatantly rude. I didn't regret not drowning in money. When my eyes met Arjun's that second, I knew I would never regret saying that.

*

It had been weeks since I started my new job. I was satisfied and happy.

Cheerfully whistling to myself, I was walking home, swinging my bag in my hand.

My house was located in the poorer, remote



part of the city. The streets were often empty once the sun set.

“Help.”

My feet stopped moving.

“Help.” It was a weak whisper.

I turned to look for the source, my eyes landing on an abandoned shop, two steps away from me. The sound was probably coming from behind it.

Cautiously, I followed it only to see Arjun lying there, beaten and bloodied, surrounded by three tall, bulky guys.

I was shocked. The guys turned towards me.

I won't lie, I was scared. Somehow mustering up my courage, I warned them, “Leave. If I ever see you again around this kid, I'm calling the police.”

Thankfully, they smirked and left wordlessly.

I knelt in front of Arjun, shaking his shoulders, asking him if he was alright. He faded in and out of consciousness, unable to



to reply.

“Please don’t tell my dad,” was the first thing Arjun said to me. Somehow, I knew he would say that.

“I was expecting a heartfelt thank you,” I said, sitting on a chair beside him.

Fortunately, his wounds hadn’t been too serious.



“Dad's not here,” he said dejectedly. “He doesn't care.”

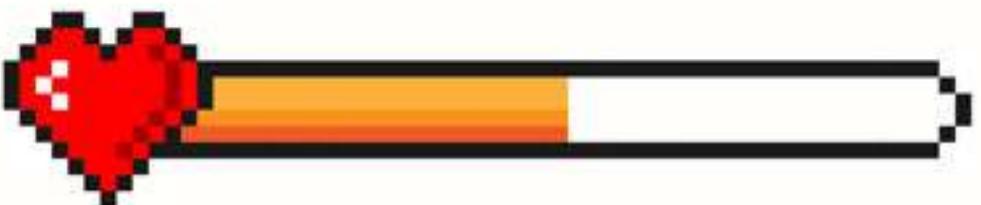
“He should know.”

“Please,” he begged me with shining eyes.

I huffed. "Who were those kids?"

"Bullies from school," Arjun replied, turning away from me. "They hate me for being rich."

I followed his gaze towards the bright sunlight outside the window and sighed.



“Do I really have to do this?” Arjun asked, eyeing the timetable I had given him.

“Yes, if you don’t want your dad to know.” I answered sternly.

Arjun closed his eyes, sighing to himself.

“It’s for you,” I explained softly. “You need improvement. Not to please your dad, but for yourself.”

He rolled his eyes.

“You want to be a game developer, don’t you?”

He skeptically peered at me.

“Your room,” I explained.

He looked away, not replying.

“About those bullies,” I said, “Don’t let them hurt you again.”

Arjun only snorted.

“I am serious. You either fight back or you ignore. Don’t be a pushover.”



"I don't think I'll be seeing them again," he finally spoke. "They're moving and came to say goodbye."

No wonder they left without a word, I thought.

"I will help you," I said. "Consider yourself lucky because I don't do favors just for anyone."

As a teacher, I shouldn't have said that. Then again, I wasn't interested in being Teacher Of The Year. Arjun wasn't living a normal student life. He needed someone to help him.

"Why do you care?" Arjun was almost pouting as he eyed me suspiciously. "Do you need my father's money?"

This was the moment.

This was the moment I could have lied and said yes, earned some easy money. But I was a fool, and so was Mr. Sharma, for being greedy for something that would probably destroy your family, something that left you vulnerable to betrayal and mistrust.

"Because I am grateful to you," I said.



"Reality made me lust after wealth, and my dreams dimmed for it. But I choose to find happiness through my own path — without relying on money for it. Honestly, I would be disappointed if I had no warmth but only wealth at my deathbed."

"Greed ruined my dad more than the loss of my mother," Arjun said. He wasn't angry, but pitied his father.

I nodded in understanding.

"Anyway, I will be waiting for you at the extra classes." I grinned mischievously .

Arjun groaned.

A FEW YEARS LATER

My heart was racing as I looked at my boy on the stage. I couldn't believe I was witnessing him win the award for Game Of The Year.

"Mr. Agarwal became more of a father to me than my real father ever was," Arjun spoke as he confidently stood on the stage. "He encouraged me to follow my dreams.

Actually, both of us helped each other. My dad passed away the year I met Mr. Agarwal.



He guided me and became my mentor. He gave me the warmth I craved, and I didn't even need to ask for it."

Arjun promptly looked at me and smiled. I beamed back.

"If you hadn't saved me, I would have been dead inside. Thank you."

And goddammit, I swear I tried so hard not to cry.



शायद

Mitalee Shukla | TYBA
3 minutes read



मैं आठवीं में थी, वह दसवीं में,
हम तैर रहे थे अपनी कश्ती में;
उन कश्तियों के टकराने के लिए थी मैं बेकरार,
शायद वही था मेरा पहला प्यार।

सीनियर था इसलिए बोलने से घबराती थी,
पर उसकी हर नज़र से मैं इठलाती थी;
उसके आने से ज़िन्दगी में आयी थी बहार,
शायद वही था मेरा पहला प्यार।

उसे लड़की से बात करते देखती तो दिल हो जाता ख़फ़ा,
मन में ईर्ष्या की बाड़ आ जाती हर दफ़ा;
जी चाहता सिर्फ़ मैं गुफ़्तगू करूं
उससे हर बार,
शायद वही था मेरा पहला प्यार।



आखिर आ गया वह दिन जब ज़बान ने कमाल कर दिया,
मुँह से एक लफ़्ज़ निकला और दिल में बवाल मच गया;
तब भी न कर पायी अपने प्यार का इज़हार,
शायद वही था मेरा पहला प्यार।

फिर दिल ने हार मान ली, सोचा देखकर ही मन भर लेंगे,
उसकी एक झलक के लिए सारी दुनिया से भी लड़ लेंगे;
दिल मासूम था, बिना समझे जता रहा था उसपे अपना
अधिकार,
शायद वही था मेरा पहला प्यार।

अब मेरे दिनों पर उसके हस्ताक्षर थे, मेरी रातों पर उसका
नाम,
उसके साथ ज़िन्दगी बिताना ही बन गया था आखरी मुकाम;
इन्ही बेबस ख़यालों में न जाने कितनी रातें गयी थी बेकार,
शायद वही था मेरा पहला प्यार।

फिर एक दिन उसकी दसवीं ख़त्म हुई और उसने स्कूल छोड़
दिया,



मेरे उन हज़ारों ख्वाबों को उसने एक ही साथ तोड़ दिया!

दिल रुस गया, हो गया लाचार और खुदसे ही पूछने लगा

क्या यही था तेरा पहला प्यार?

अब बचे हुए दो साल मैंने इसी ग़म में बिताये,

कि स्कूल सिर्फ़ पढ़ने जाना होगा ये कैसे खुदको समझाए?

जी करता हूँ उससे, पर मन करता इनकार,

न जाने कहाँ खो गया मेरा पहला प्यार।



फिर मैं कॉलेज पहुँची और जैसे मेरा भाग्य खुल गया,

इतने सारों को देख दिमाग़ स्कूल वाले को भूल गया!

तितली जैसा दिल किसी और फूल ने आकर्षित किया इस बार,

और फिर से खोजने चली मैं अपना पहला प्यार,

फिर से खोजने चली मैं अपना पहला प्यार।

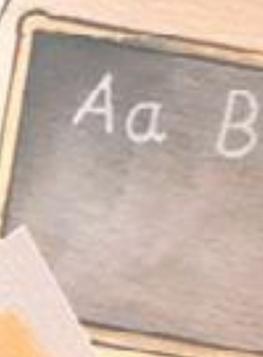




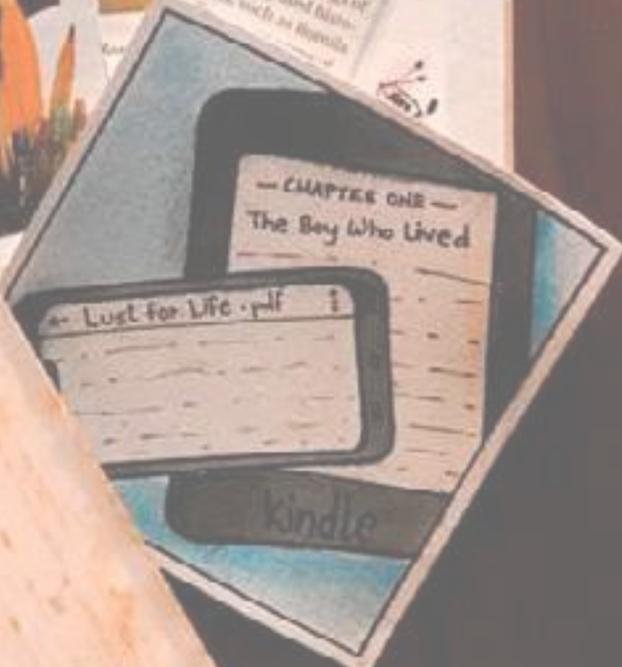
Art Wall 1



Love ♥



"I want to go sailing down, just like one of those poor, tired leaves."



WALL OF FAME

Artwork of the month



*I leave my paper
boat into a stream
to float!*

Shravni Korde | SYBA

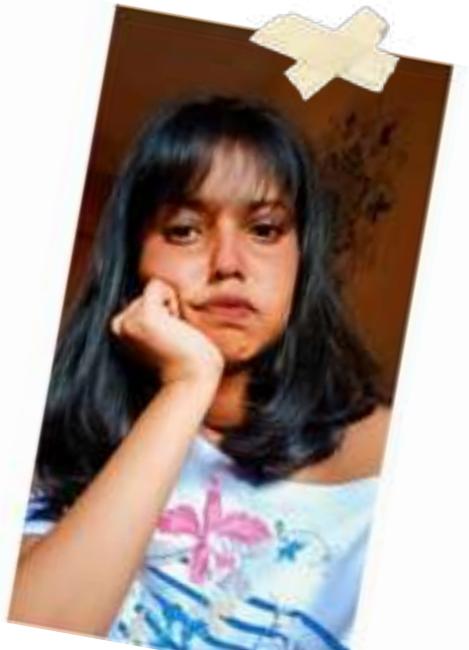


Photograph of the month

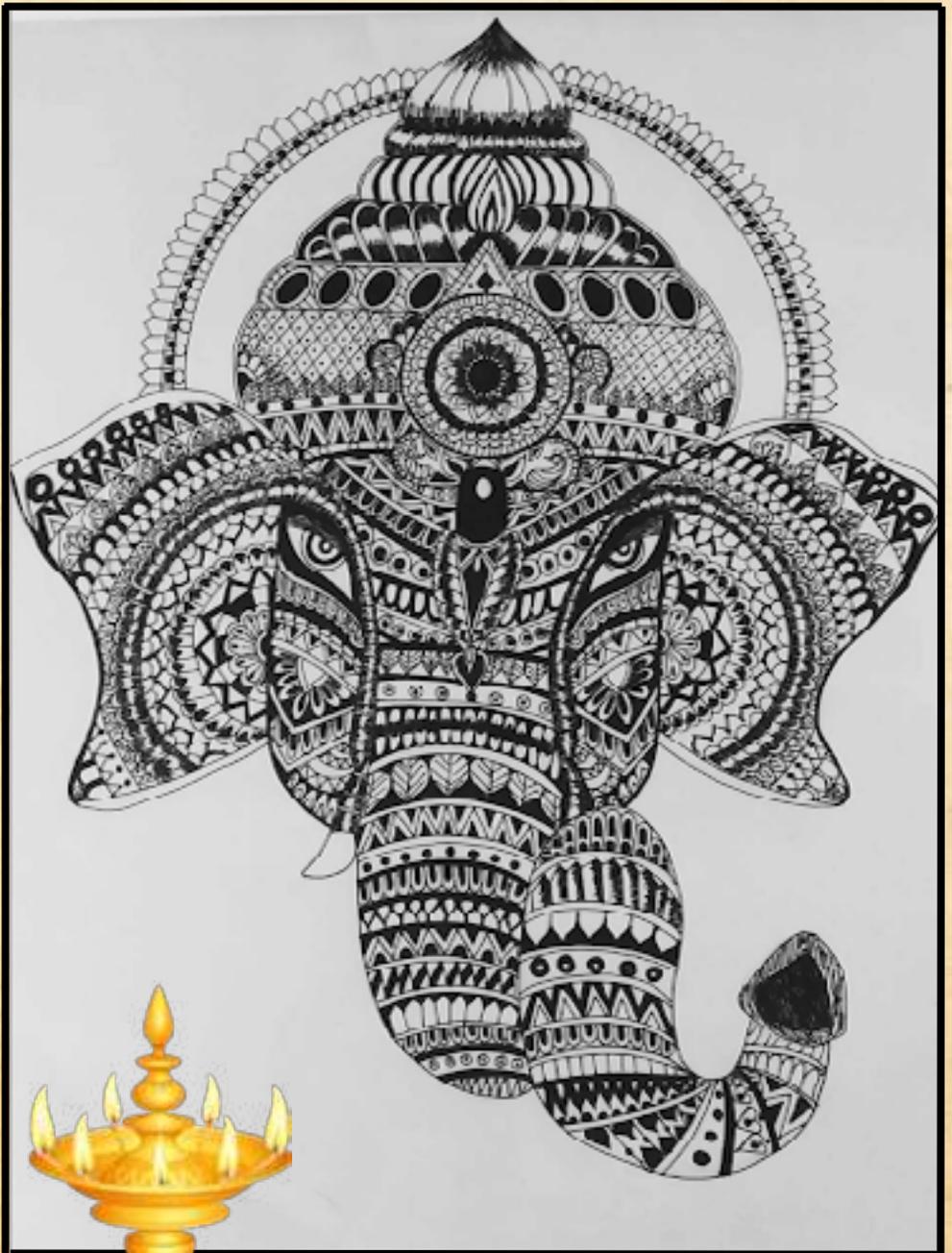


*Faith goes up the stairs
that love has built and
looks out of the window
which hope has opened.*

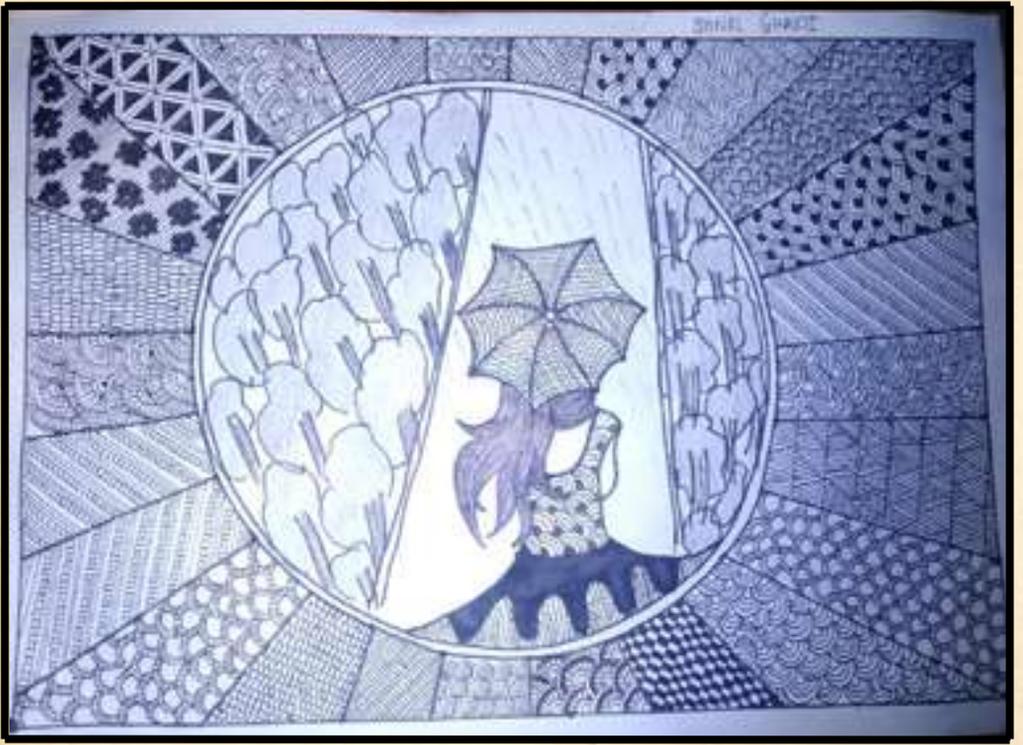
Shrutika Vane | TYBVOCTTM



BEAUTY OF FESTIVITIES AND MONSOON (student submission)



Abira Sinha, SYBA



Sonali Ghadi, TYBSc



Lupta Kirange, TYBA



Sukanya Pedenkar, TYBVOCTTM



Gayatri Subramanian, SYJC



Harsh Salvi, SYJC

URBAN WILDLIFE

#PHOTOGRAPHY

Shubham Soni | TYBSc

1 minute read



Captured by: Shubham Soni

Monsoons bring in the mating season for many reptiles and amphibians! They can often be heard calling during this period of time. A slight shower and the volume of croaking shoots up! The cricket frogs are one of the commonest frogs you can see around yourself. These frogs have different colors and some warts, so they can camouflage effortlessly in their habitat! It means that a brownish, dull-colored frog will not prefer to sit on a bright green leaf



which makes it easy to spot for a predator. (As seen in the picture) But after a few flashes of my camera, this frog asked me to help him climb up a small banana plant where it could pose in confidence and look handsome! Aah! You can never know what the rapidly evolving urban wildlife is up to.

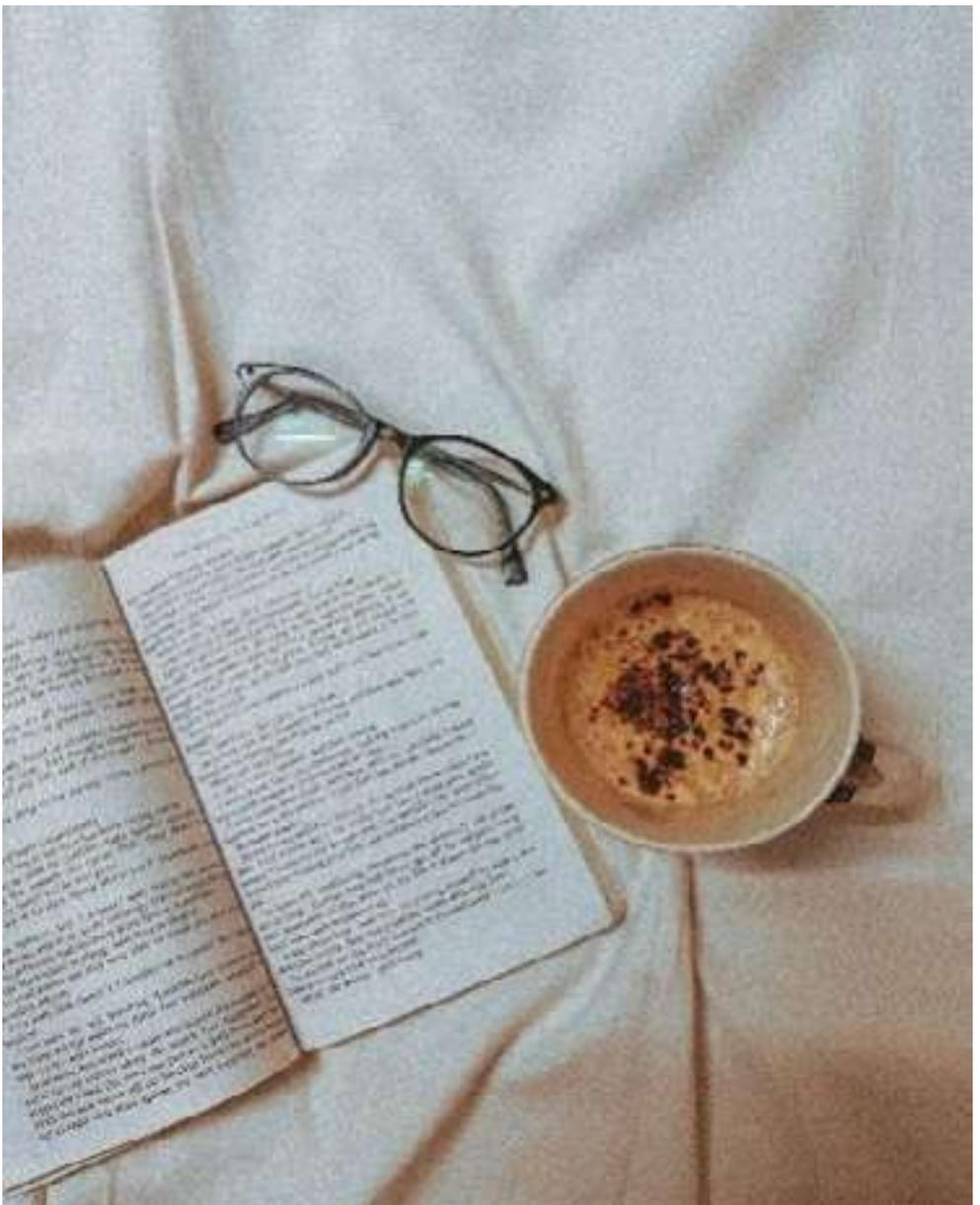


If you cannot go over a problem, GO UNDER IT! The monsoons bring about the gill mushrooms to form on tree barks. They look nothing more than milky white coins placed on tree trunks from the bottom and above. The peculiar underside of the mushrooms is the reason they are called gill mushrooms. Perhaps, these are the characters which give the name to this genus - *Lactocollybia* 'Lacto' meaning milky and 'collyby' meaning coin.



INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

8th September Is Regarded as International Literacy Day, Thus Give Your Body Some Nutrients Along with Books to Nourish Your Brains!!



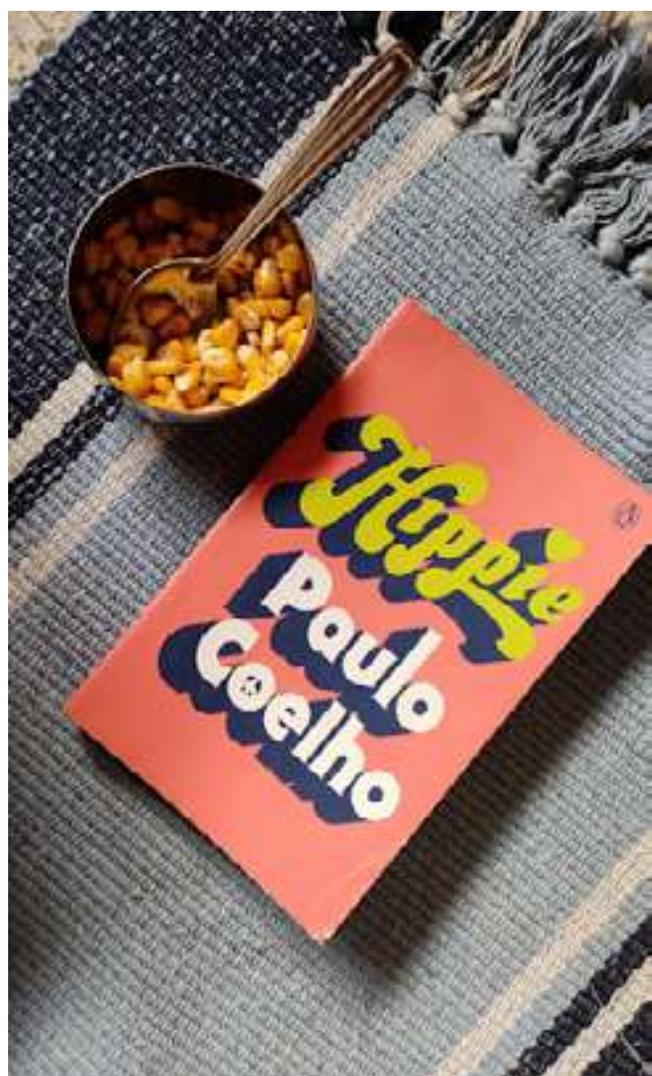
Nishi Maru, Ex-Ruiaite





Kirthi Kamath, SYBA

AASAVARI SHINDE, TYBVOCTTM



CARTOONING, ILLUSTRATION AND COMIC

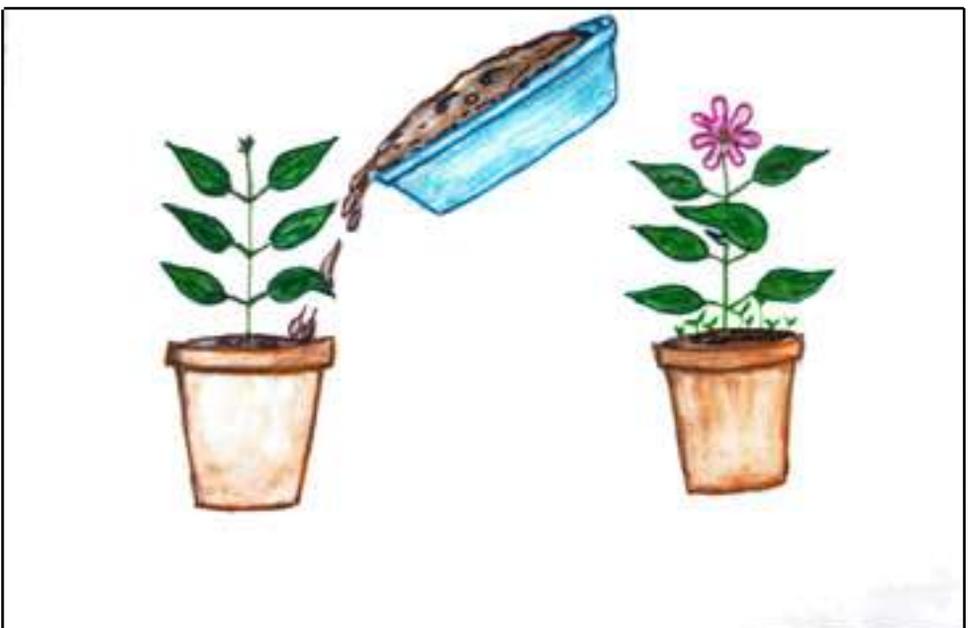
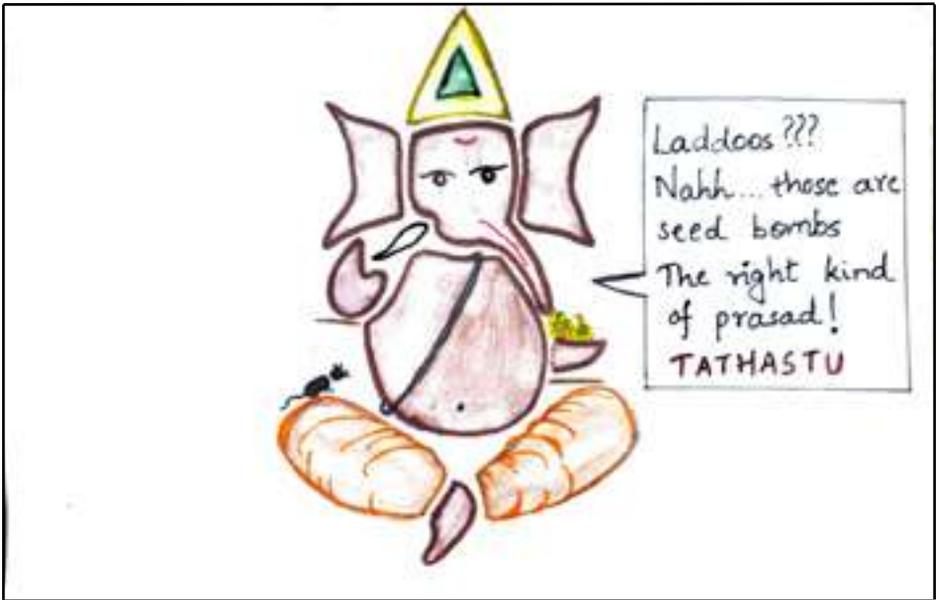
Cartoon



Vedang Thakur, SYBSc



Comic



Illustration



Vedang Thakur, SYBSc

Bon Voyage:

Khwaish is a 22 year old travel enthusiast. She was born rich, but she wanted nothing more than to take a break from her lavish lifestyle and travel Europe using her own savings from the several internships that she did during college. She spent the months of lockdown planning a solo Europe tour for herself. She booked the flight tickets months in advance and browsed through homestay websites searching for hosts she could live with. Khwaish's first destination was Paris, from where she took a train to Bretagne, and currently, you can read her exploring Bordeaux in the Safarnama Column.

Do read the story!! Page number: 108



Roam Around The City

Homemade: Teacher's day special

Maitreeye Sonawane | TYBA

1 minute read



We were all concerned about the academic year due to lockdown. But this problem is being solved with the help of technology. We are connected to our teachers through various online platforms like zoom, google meet, etc. We are attending various lectures, courses, and webinars of eminent scholars just sitting at our home. There are so many learning platforms on the internet like coursera, udemy, edx, etc., where thousands of various courses are made available on



almost everything, to enrich our minds and improve our skills. These sources are helping us to keep our mind busy in such stressful times.

It may be difficult to adjust with online education. Many of us are missing the fun of learning with our friends and direct interaction with our teachers. But we should make the best out of what is available.

Similarly, our beloved teachers are trying hard to solve these hurdles coming in the way of our learning. It is a privilege for us to be able to access online education. We will adjust with time. Let's consider this lockdown as the opportunity to adapt to the new ways of learning and teaching.



MAGIC OF THREAD

Bhavisha Nakashe | TYBA

1 minute read



Front



Back

What has a start has an end and so did my thread. Every time I flipped it back to tie a knot, I told myself how messy it was. But aren't we all messy? Entangled in hopes, thoughts, sense gratification. Those different shades of colors reminded me of the intensity of emotions we all feel from time to time while dealing with certain things. But as time flies, we start to acknowledge those problems and commit to changing it and that's when we blend in with each situation flawlessly creating a beautiful picture. It's no bluer, it's a balanced blue. We flow with the wind and



Outdoor: Shree Sidhivinayak Mandir

Shreyasi Karapu | SYBA
1 minute read



India has always been a diverse country known for its culture, traditions and its heritage. The strong beliefs of people in various deities makes them want to

visit different holy places across the world.

One such place can be found in Prabhadevi, Mumbai. A temple that is not just famous among the locals but all over the world.

A Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Ganesh, the Shri Siddhivinayak Ganpati Mandir. It was originally built by Laxman Vithu and Deubai Patil on 18th November 1801. Siddhivinayak is a Sanskrit compound joining the words 'Siddhi' meaning achievements and 'Vinayak' meaning taking guide. Siddhivinayak can be loosely translated as 'granter of achievements'. The temple has a history which believes that Ramakrishna Jambhekar Maharaj, a disciple of Hindu saint Akkalkot Swami Samarth, buried two divine idols in the front of the presiding



deity of the temple on the orders of his guru. Swami Samarth prophesied 21 years later after the burial of the icons, that a tree named 'Mandar' grew on that spot with the swayambhu Ganesh in its branches. The tree is still there to tell the tale which proves that the story might be partially true.

The structure of the temple is also a sight to behold. The temple has a small mandap with the shrine for Siddhivinayak. The wooden doors to the sanctum are carved with the images of the Ashtavinayak (the eight manifestations of Ganesh in Maharashtra). The inner roof of the temple is Gold Plated while the temple also includes a Hanuman Mandir in it. The Siddhivinayak Ganesha idol is quite unique and unusual as it was carved out of a single black stone and has Ganesh's trunk to the right side instead of left side. The Siddhivinayak Ganpati is famously known as 'Navasacha Ganpati', 'Navsala Pavnara' meaning that Ganpati bestows his blessings upon devotees who pray humbly.

The temple holds a special place in every person's heart who visits it. During Angarika a huge number of people come to visit the temple. The temple also has a library





which provides students with a place to study.

It provides jobs to people who are not well educated

helping them live a better

life. The prasad which consists

of laddu and khobra vadi is also

mouthwatering. Siddhivinayak Ganesh's birthday is celebrated with great enthusiasm in which dhol - taasha pathaks from all over Maharashtra participate and show their talent. It sets a perfect mood for

Maharashtrian style dance and amazing

beats which you can listen to the whole day.



The temple is beautifully decorated with a variety of flowers, sometimes with dry fruits during festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, Diwali, Dussehra. The temple is the heart of Mumbai which beats with faith.

Unorganized Trash and Opportunistic Species

Aditya Gadkari | Ex-student
2 minutes read

Cool blue water, dazzling sand, a little bit of sun, some iced drink and a lot of beach litter is quite a common sight on the beaches along the Indian coastline. The ocean throws back a lot of trash in the tidewrack that belongs to us in the first place.

Following festive seasons especially when the sea is violent in the monsoons, the accumulation grows to several heaps. Sometimes, gooseneck barnacles which are sessile animals (like *Lepas anserifera* pictured above) get anchored by their peduncle to the floating trash. Our waste may be a habitat for some species, but it is



most certainly a havoc for others. A good time to reduce our waste was twenty years ago. Now is the time to put a stop to it as soon and as much as possible.



Malvan Beach



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Sandesh Samant

Executive Editors

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