

SANSKRITI

9TH EDITION

PRIZE GIVING

2024

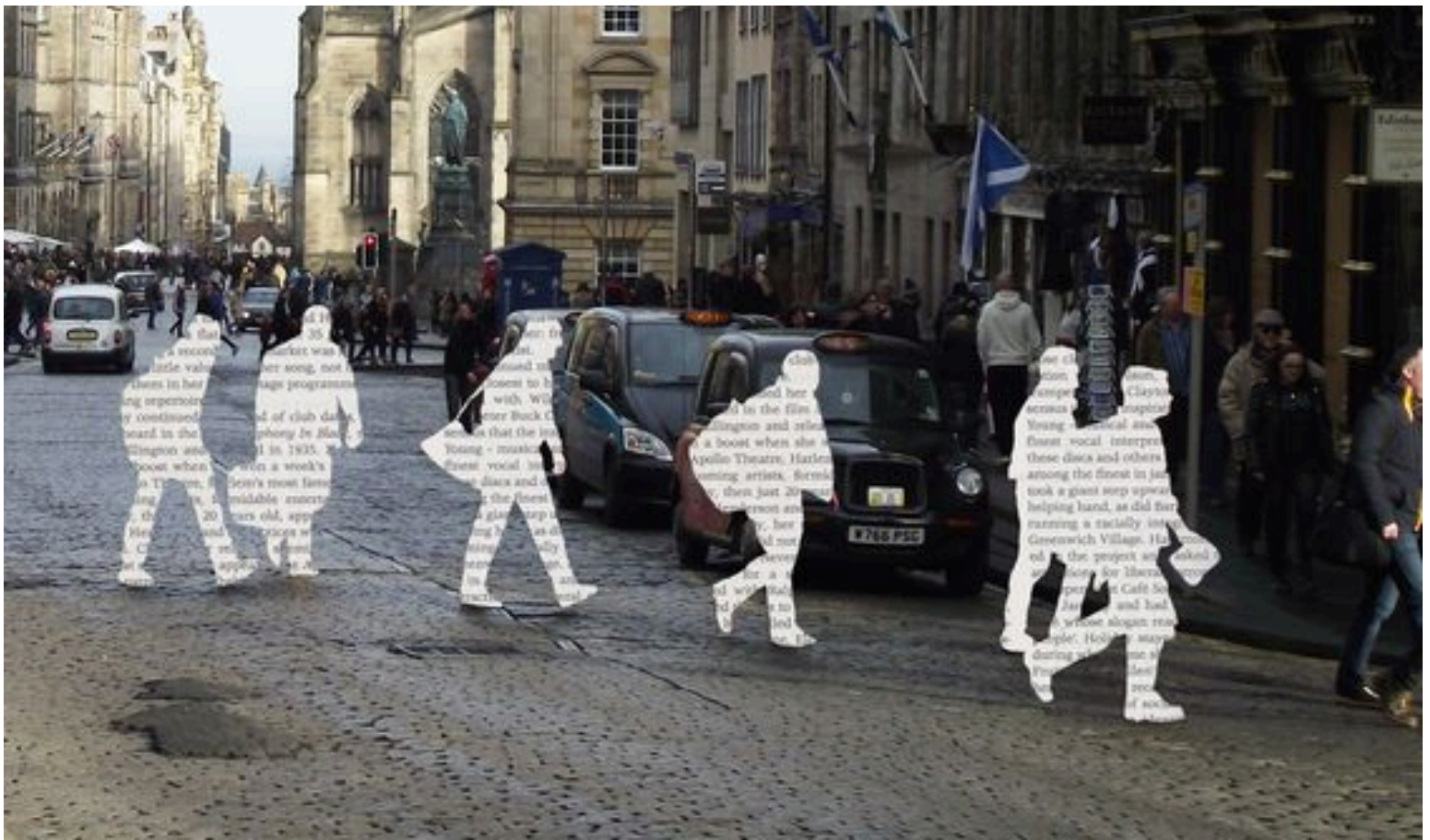
FEATURES

EVOLUTION OF SOCIETY

“It is not the strongest of species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to *change*.”

-Charles Darwin





PREFACE

The Sociology Department is thrilled to present the 9th edition of our magazine, “SANSKRITI.” This edition centers on the theme of **evolution of society**, exploring topics that resonate with the youth of 21st century. As our world undergoes constant change and faces new challenges, sociology plays a vital role in understanding these shifts.

In this issue, we’ve gathered a selection of thought-provoking articles that shed light on the intricate social dynamics shaping our communities. We aim at highlighting the ongoing evolution of social structures, norms, and relationships, encouraging you to consider how these changes affect our daily lives.

We hope that our magazine sparks engaging conversations, inspires fresh ideas, and prompts you to view the world through a sociological lens crafted by our team. Join us in examining the diverse societies that make up our world and igniting a response within you.

**-Progressively,
Sociology Society**



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THREADS OF HUMANITY

The study of human behavior and society brings together a number of disciplines, which includes several subjects such as psychology, sociology, anthropology, and neuroscience. These subjects provide a different perspective for understanding both internal and external causes of human interactions, as well as social structures.

Psychology focuses on individual cognition, emotions, motivation, and mental health. The healthier a community is, the better it understands the psychological factors that drives behavior; when people can comprehend their motivations and reasoning, there is less prejudice and aggression. For example, sociology examines group behavior and how societal structures and culture influence individual actions. Sociologists study groups and explore how society impacts individuals.

Anthropology offers a broader understanding through a cross-cultural lens, revealing the richness of human experiences shaped by culture and environment. Anthropologists examine various societies, illustrating how beliefs and practices form behavior. Lastly, neuroscience sheds light on the biological basis of behavior, explaining how brain functions and neurochemical processes affect emotions and social interactions.

By integrating these disciplines, we can achieve a more comprehensive understanding of human behavior and society. Navigating the interrelations among psychological, social, cultural, and biological factors enhancing our social competencies, helping us address the challenges of the modern world and pursue a more harmonious life.

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BEYOND THE MYTHS

Over the past few centuries, have we truly understood our historical status in relation to the past? History teaches us valuable lessons; however, the unfortunate reality is that from an early age, we are conditioned to focus primarily on Western histories, such as the World Wars, the French Revolution, etc. This perspective creates a modern worldview in which history is often seen as something not worth preserving. Additionally, the way imperialism—exemplified by the Mughals and the British—is positioned at the center of attention which contributes to narratives that portray these figures as either heroic or villainous, as if there were no notable figures in India before these invaders arrived.

This viewpoint not only distorts history but also impacts our understanding of social values and cultures. Rather, it often appears that Indian history is presented only in terms of territories lost by certain powers. Yet, people fail to realize, that India has one of the most ancient cultures existing, with people who are still able to speak of their heritage in all its endurance and resistance. Where are the narratives of the valiant knights who defended their land from these invaders? Where is our long lost history?

Many stories have been ignored in writing, history where the unsung heroes hold more or less an irrelevant importance as termed by the 'Gen Z' or the youth of our country. Such is the story of Lalitaditya Muktapida, one of the few historical figures who has not received the recognition he deserves. A prominent ruler of the Karkota dynasty in Kashmir, his empire rivaled that of Alexander the Great, yet many remain unaware of his remarkable achievements. He acquired vast territories in the west and south of India, including regions held by the Rashtrakutas in Maharashtra, the Pallavas, and Kalinga in the south. Additionally, he expanded his kingdom into central China after defeating the Chinese forces, drawing comparisons to Alexander himself. His conquests stretched from the Indus to the Ganges, facilitating trade with the Tung Empire and other Central Asian nations.

By taking these historical figures in a critical sense, we can portray and comprehend a contradicting ideology against the existing narrative and configurations of society that go into the making of our identity. As the African proverb says: "Until the lion learns how to write, every story will glorify the hunter." In order to develop an understanding of the lost history of India, it is essential to identify and appreciate those overlooked individuals who have contributed to its rich history, thus creating a more advanced and timeless Indian identity with clearer motivation to the people of the society of the future.

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SHE ASKED FOR IT?



BREAKING STEREOTYPES



In today's rapidly evolving world, pop culture has become an essential part of our daily lives. From television shows and advertisements to movies, music, and social media, it shapes how we perceive and expect things, especially regarding gender roles and breaking stereotypes.

For much of its history, mainstream pop culture reinforced strict gender norms. Popular movies, TV shows, and commercials from the early 20th century often depicted men as stern breadwinners and women as submissive homemakers. These portrayals reflected societal norms, where femininity was associated with emotionality and submission, while masculinity was linked to dominance and authority.

Take, for example, 'Boys Don't Cry', which is based on the true story of Brandon Teena, a transgender man navigating life in a society hostile to gender non-conformity. The film highlights the struggles that transgender individuals face while trying to conform to rigid gender expectations. This sparked widespread awareness about the hardships experienced by those who don't fit into conventional norms, fostering greater empathy among viewers. Similarly, 'Chak De! India' challenged gender stereotypes by focusing on female athletes in a male-dominated sport, portraying them as strong, independent, and capable of overcoming societal pressures. The film questions the idea that women

are physically weaker, addresses gender discrimination in sports, and flips the typical male "hero" narrative by making women the true champions. It showcases the personal struggles these players face in defying traditional gender roles, proving that women can excel and lead in competitive sports.

Pop culture plays a significant role in shaping societal perceptions and expectations, especially around gender. While earlier portrayals reinforced rigid norms, modern films, TV shows, and media are increasingly challenging these stereotypes, allowing for more nuanced and diverse representations of gender. Movies like 'Boys Don't Cry' and 'Chak De! India' have raised awareness about gender inequality and have broken traditional morals, showcasing the strength, resilience, and complexity of individuals, regardless of their gender. As pop culture continues to evolve, its role in dismantling long-standing stereotypes will be crucial in creating a more inclusive and equal society.

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OUT OF HAND

The LGBTQ+ movements over the past few decades have finally received the recognition they have struggled for. With countless individuals fighting for rights such as the Stonewall Riots to the legalization of same-sex marriage, this struggle has profoundly changed societal perceptions. However, some critics argue that the term "LGBTQ+" has been broadened to encompass identities and behaviors that seem absurd or perplexing.

Today, discussions around identity have expanded far beyond traditional categories. Some individuals identify as non-binary or fluid, queer, bisexual, etc., while others express desires to adopt disabilities or claim connections to races that are not biologically theirs which is a growing concern amongst many. There are reports of people identifying as objects or feeling sexual attraction toward inanimate items, and critics have argued that these trends dilute the seriousness of the movement. For example, writer and activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali stated, "The absurdity of gender ideology risks overshadowing the real struggles for equality faced by many." Additionally, commentator Ben Shapiro has quoted, "When we start identifying as inanimate objects, it raises questions about the boundaries of identity and seriousness." Such expressions leave many questioning whether the original aims of the LGBTQ+ movement are being undermined.

While advocates argue that this growing trend fosters acceptance and inclusivity, others feel it creates confusion, especially among younger individuals still forming their understanding of gender and sexuality. Many still believe that these unconventional identities risk trivializing the legitimate struggles faced by LGBTQ+ individuals throughout history.

As society navigates this complex landscape, distinguishing between meaningful identities and those that may detract from the genuine pursuit of equality is crucial. The LGBTQ+ community has made significant progress, but how it continues to evolve in light of these new expressions remains a critical conversation for the future.

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HURT





THE JOURNEY: ENTERING ADULTHOOD

THE RISE OF INFLUENCERS

Social media has grown in the rise of influencers, creating a new social class centered on online engagement rather than traditional markers like wealth or status. Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube etc., have transformed ordinary individuals into global stars with millions of followers, lucrative brand deals, and significant cultural influence.

With the emergence of fitness gurus, beauty experts, fashion icons, and gamers, personal branding has become a competitive arena. Influencers curate content to attract audiences, shaping trends and opinions with each post or video. Brands now invest billions in influencer marketing campaigns, recognizing that influencers drive consumer behavior more effectively than traditional advertising.

One of the most compelling aspects of influencers is their relatability. Unlike Hollywood celebrities or business moguls, influencers present themselves as "real" people, offering an aspirational yet attainable lifestyle. This dynamic fosters personal connection, making their endorsements feel more authentic. Micro-influencers, with smaller but highly engaged followings, further exemplify this trend, offering brands a more direct line to their target audiences.

Influencers have also opened new avenues for social mobility, where a well-crafted online persona can lead to fame and fortune, bypassing traditional media gatekeepers. Success now depends on creativity, consistency, and mastery of social media algorithms.

However, this new social class is not without criticism. Concerns about promoting unrealistic lifestyles, the impact on mental health, and the spread of misinformation have led to calls for regulation. Despite these challenges, influencers still remain powerful forces, reshaping what it means to influence in today's world.



FUTURE OF RELATIONSHIPS



Relationships are now being shaped significantly through technology among humans. Most connections and intimacy change due to this technological advancement. The digital communication through text, social media, and video calls offer all-time connectivity that allows connecting people despite the distance between them. In some instances, though, the convenience leads to shallow interactions. Quickly sent messages and emoji replace deep conversations. With the establishment of dating apps, everything has dramatically changed as far as finding romantic partners is concerned. Systems like Tinder and Bumble have extended our choices, and it's now easier to meet new faces. However, this abundance can breed a "disposable" attitude toward relationships, approaching connections with less commitment.

Virtual reality is yet another domain, something more shared, inclusive, and immersive; in this way, it can create really strong bonds for long-distance couples. Yet, while it can add much more realism to the situation of being together, it risks hiding the actual importance of real life interactions.

Artificial intelligence shapes more and more areas of our emotional lives. Companions and chatbots offer timely support and company for lonely people. Their ability to provide a sense of real emotional connection, however, raises questions about authenticity. Social media can further deteriorate mental wellness as it promotes low self-esteem through constant comparison of what a person perceives as happening in their life with what looks perfect in friends' online profiles. It makes connecting with friends and loved ones quite challenging.

With this changing landscape comes balance; perhaps harnessing the utility of technology to deepen relationships with each other but prioritizing face-to-face interactions and depth of emotion will ensure that our connections are meaningful. This next human bond will depend on us: either a resilience born out of technological change or a testament to true intimacy.



BLINDED BY BEAUTY



Resembling the clouds in the sky, beauty, perfection, and bliss are ever-moving and ever-changing, shaped by the eyes of the beholder. An image transforms into an emotion, and a pretty face becomes perfect—much like the echoes of fireworks lingering in your memory. The after-image is unforgettable, like a blot of blue ink on a yellow shirt pocket: imperfect, yet ‘meant to be.’

In our lives, we often find ourselves blinded by beauty, experiencing a comfortable overwhelm. In these moments, neglect, deception, and pain fade into the background. The trance that beauty creates and the web that elegance spins can intoxicate us, allowing the chaotic world to momentarily disappear. We become completely engulfed in that radiant light, lost in the experience, utterly blinded by beauty.



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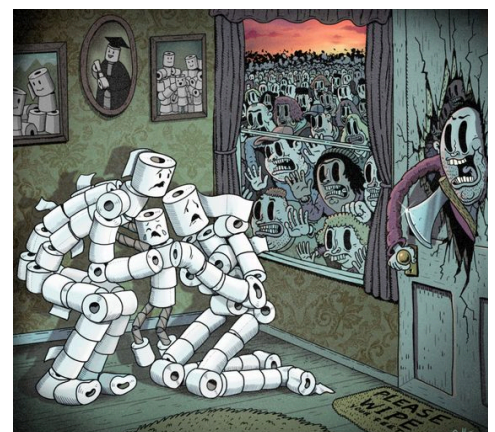
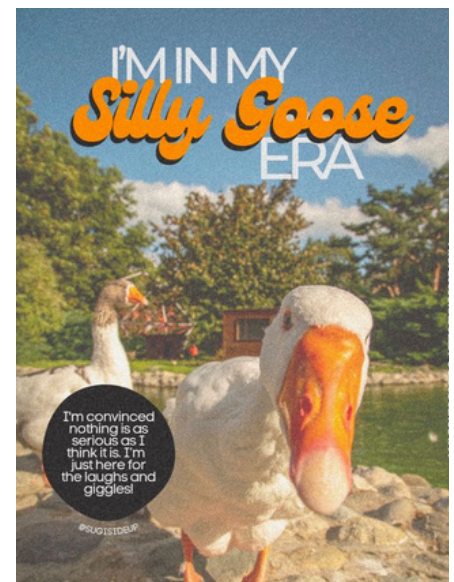
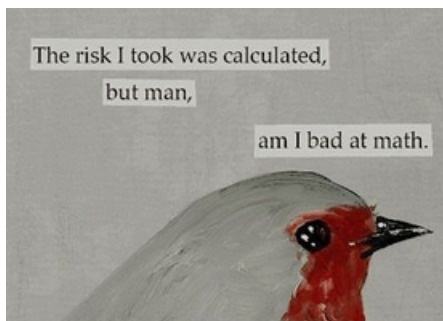
Narayani Singh
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S/2151



cARToons



A humorous insight into 21st century through cartoons.



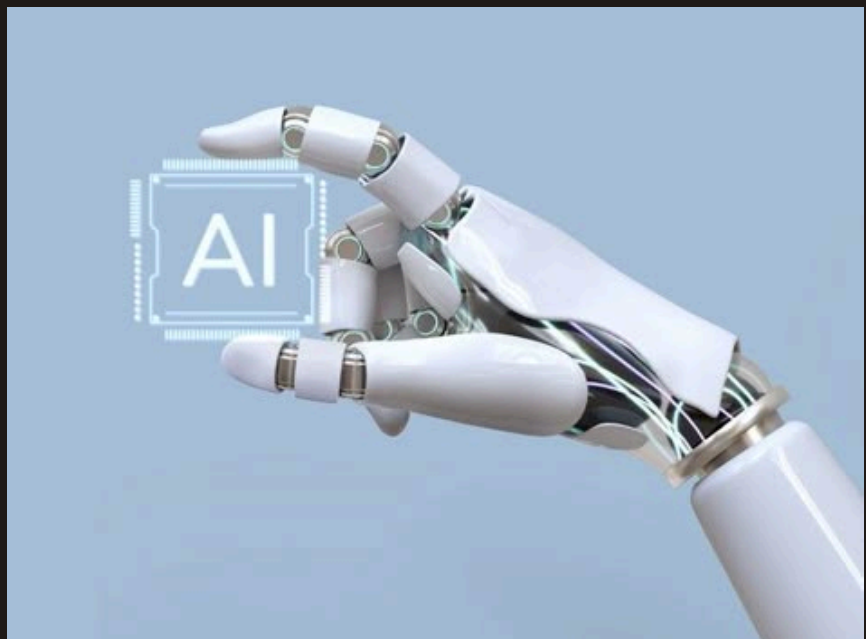
RISE OF AI: IMPACT ON THE FUTURE

In the era of rapid technological evolution, artificial intelligence (AI) has become a transformative force, poised to significantly impact both society and various industries. With its foundations in adaptability, efficiency, and autonomy, AI is now emerging as a key driver in shaping a future where technological advancements are seamlessly intertwined with social responsibility.

A prominent example of AI's influence can be seen in the widespread adoption of AI-powered smart assistants, such as Amazon Echo and Google Home. These devices have dramatically changed the daily routines of households worldwide. Families increasingly depend on these tools to simplify their lives, using voice commands to manage tasks like setting reminders, organizing calendars, and controlling home appliances like lights and fans. This shift goes beyond mere convenience—it is reshaping how family members interact with both technology and one another. Notably, children are becoming proficient with these devices at an early age, which could impact their cognitive development and social skills. However, as these technologies become more ingrained in family life, concerns about privacy and data security also rise.

While smart home technologies undoubtedly enhance household efficiency and ease, they also challenge traditional social norms, especially around privacy, security, and the dynamics within families. As families continue to integrate AI into their lives, they must carefully balance the benefits of these innovations with the need to safeguard personal information and preserve meaningful human connections within the home.

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CULTURE APPROPRIATION V/S CULTURE APPRECIATION

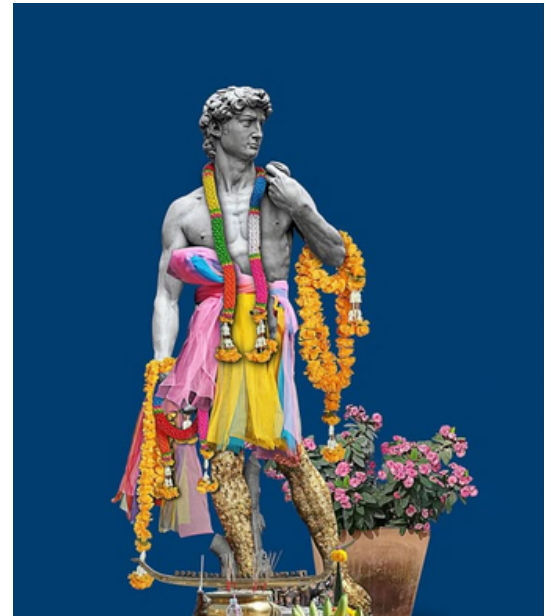
As our world becomes increasingly interconnected, cultures are more accessible than ever, raising the question: where is the line between cultural appreciation and cultural appropriation?

Cultural appropriation involves adopting elements from one culture by another without proper acknowledgment or understanding, often leading to exploitation. A notable example is the backlash against brands like Urban Outfitters, which used Navajo patterns in their products without permission. This not only commodified rich cultural symbols but also stripped them of their significance, reducing them to mere fashion statements.

In contrast, cultural appreciation stems from genuine respect and understanding. For instance, the popular food festival "Taste of Chicago" highlights local cuisines, encouraging chefs to celebrate their cultural roots while educating attendees about their heritage. Chefs like David Chang also exemplify appreciation by incorporating Korean ingredients in a way that honors traditional practices and collaborates with Korean cooks to maintain authenticity.

Another positive example is the growing recognition of Indigenous artists and musicians, such as the success of Buffy Sainte-Marie, who uses her platform to share Indigenous stories and educate audiences about her culture.

Navigating this tightrope requires emotional intelligence and a commitment to education. Embracing cultural appreciation enhances our understanding of diverse values and beliefs, fostering connection and respect. Ultimately, while cultural appreciation celebrates diversity, cultural appropriation often exploits it for personal or commercial gain. This distinction underscores the need for mindfulness in our interactions with different cultures, ensuring that we engage in ways that uplift rather than diminish.



ENTERTAINMENT



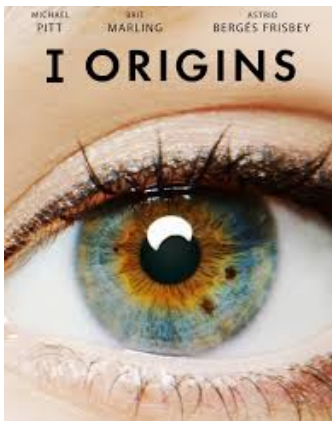
Derry Girls



The Society



Inside Out 2



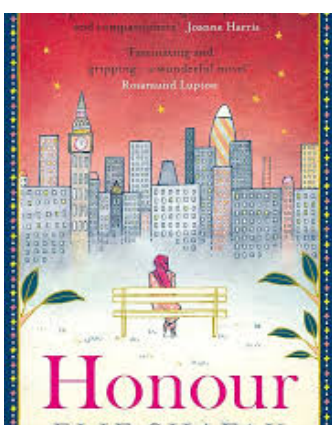
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500 Days of Summer



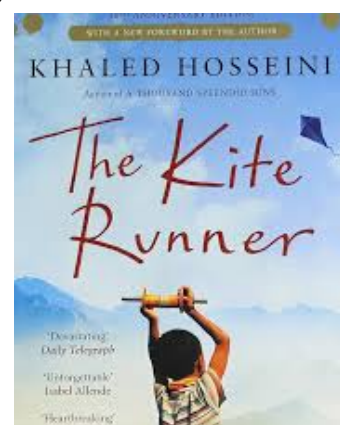
Rise of the Planet of the Apes



Honour



Becoming



The Kite Runner



"Society is a mask that we all wear."
— Arthur Schopenhauer



IN THE *Shades*

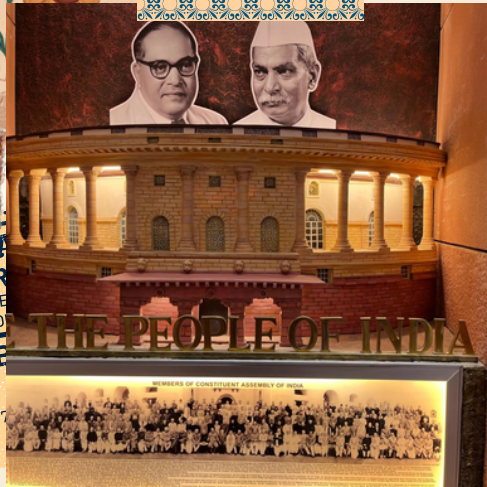
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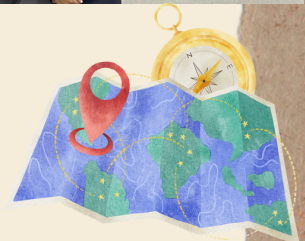
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soci ety

"You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backward. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something: your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life."

-Steve Jobs



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