



# Yuva Vani

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BMM Yuva May 2020  
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A foreword by **Yuva Vani**

We know it has been quite a month of uncertainty regarding the present circumstances. The pandemic has temporarily changed everything, from our lifestyle to our mood. We understand the toll this might be taking so we're here to splash some positive vibes in your life and set a couple facts straight in the process.

Please make sure you are staying up to date with reliable facts (a great place to find those is the World Health Organization website: [who.int](http://who.int)). Additionally, make sure you are taking proper safety measures including washing your hands and practicing social distancing. Finally, please stay safe, stay well, and most of all, stay positive.

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## A Walk to Remember

by **Pinak Chitnis**

### **May 20th 1498:**

On this day in history, Vasco de Gama made his first trip to India. He had been traveling the seas for nearly a year, and after going through Africa's Cape of Good Hope, he found India. He was a pivotal figure in European history, and his landing in India had much significance for many future years, such as opening up trade routes to the vast wealth of India.

### **May 20th 1510:**

Also on May 20th, the Portugese established something called Portugese India. They opened up trade routes through the discoveries made by Vasco de Gama, along with others, and as a result, began seeking spheres of influence within this vastly rich nation.



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After this, they transferred their vicerealty capital to Goa, an area on the western edge of India. Until the 1700s, the Portugese governor of Goa had complete control of the Portugese wealth within the Indian Ocean, as well as control over present day Mumbai.

### **May 21st 1991:**

On this date nearly 2 decades ago, tragedy struck in India. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was campaigning for an election in southern india, but was assassinated by a suicide bomber, who was able to hide the bomb in a bouquet of flowers. 14 others were killed along with the Prime Minister. Later reports were found that showed this suicide bomber came from a militant organization from inside Sri Lanka.

## PSA: Why Is the “Stay at Home” Order Effective?

by [Gargi Khadse](#)

Perhaps the most controversial part of these uncertain times, are the “stay at home” orders and lockdowns. So, why are they considered effective?

For starters, they decrease contact between people. COVID-19 spreads through contact so staying inside will help slow and decrease the spread of the virus. The point of the “stay at home” orders and the emphasis placed on isolation during these times, is to flatten the curve. In epidemiology, the idea of slowing a virus' spread so that fewer people need to seek treatment at any given time is known as "flattening the curve." It explains why so many countries are implementing "social distancing" guidelines — including a "shelter in place" order that affects 6.7 million people in Northern California, even though COVID-19 outbreaks there might not yet seem severe. The curve represents how many new cases appear everyday in terms of how many days since the outbreak. Flattening it would not only decrease the number of cases over the course of the pandemic, but it will also decrease the strain on the national health services. By decreasing that strain, hospitals will remain equipped to deal with the virus and slow it down until the pandemic ends.

So, for your safety and to help beat the home, stay home, and stay safe.

## Call To Action

Dear Readers,

We are writing to you, in order to bring your attention to a rapidly growing problem. It is no secret that we are facing tough and uncertain times right now. The



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pandemic has put stress on everyone, worst of all, those working in healthcare. Health service workers are lacking basic Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) they need while dealing with this virus. According to *Time Magazine*, in most states health care facilities have less than a week before they run out of not just PPE, but certain sanitation supplies too. But we can help, and that is why I am reaching out to you today. We can help in order to alleviate the pressure on National Health Services by doing our part and donating supplies, or even making them.

Take I, Gargi Khadse, for example, have been helping her mother sew masks to donate to local hospitals this month. Another way to help is brought by me, Yash Kankariya. I started my non-profit 3d printing company last year and this pandemic has given me the opportunity to expand upon it. I have taken my CAD design experience from the past 4 years and reapplied it to create “ear savers” that attach to masks making it more comfortable for doctors to use. As you can see, even the smallest things can help our community out. You don’t have to be a doctor nor over 30. It’s up to you to figure out what you can do and help our community.

With everything that these workers are risking for us, shouldn’t we help them as well? These doctors, nurses, researchers, lab technicians are all not only risking their own health and safety, but that of their families too. You can help them too by reaching out to your local hospitals and to non-profit organizations who are looking for volunteers.

Thank you so much for reading!

Gargi Khadse & Yash Kankariya

P.S. I, Yash Kankariya, am donating these ear savers as well as any type of mask to anyone in need. Place your order at [yashk12345@gmail.com](mailto:yashk12345@gmail.com). It is completely free and they will be customized to your liking.

## Creative Corner

A piece by **Yash Kankariya** about opposing perspectives.

Torment

A cold, frigid breeze blew over the landscape, annihilating any sense of warmth. It encased me like an ice block, chilling me to my bones. The flakes falling from the sky coated any evidence of the summer’s lush grass. Slowly, the colored hues of the forest disappeared, leaving only the miserable, white void. The sky’s dark, grey tone blocked out any ray of light that struggled to reach the ground. Nearby, children pushed and shoved each other into the ground, forcefully absorbing the numbing powder that left them not only without warmth, but without hope. Their teeth chattered as they fought against the



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cold, but the battle was already lost. Across from me, the bleached, white drops of the sky weighed down the branches of the trees like tiny, devil claws, waiting to rip out my soul. Behind me, the parking lot was covered with a slick layer of ice that threatened to buckle under me. Every step I took coated my foot in the biting, white powder. My memory was scarred from this desolate landscape as the sky bled drops that washed everything away.

Tranquility

The flakes fell delicately onto the ground, filling the brown patches with the crystals of the sky. As each second passed, the white layer ascended in its might with an intense glow until everything was illuminated imagedically. Nearby, the children were giggling and dancing on top of the shimmering white layer, leaving petite traces in the powder. Their laughter echoed within the forest, bouncing from one tree to the next. Behind the children lay their mothers. The mothers gossiped secrets from lip to ear knowing they would be the only ones to ever know. Across from me, the treetops were coated in a pure white, making them seem like a crystal castle. The icicles that hung on these crystal castles glittered as rays of sunlight peeked over the clouds up above. Behind me, the parking lot appeared diamond-like as it seemed to scintillate in the sun. With every step, I gently compressed the white powder, leaving behind a footprint that slowly faded as the breeze restored the pristine landscape. I stopped and glanced around, taking in the serene environment as if it was the last thing I would ever see. Finally I left, but, in a sense, that scene lived on with me as a beautiful white mark in my memories.

## The Smoke in the White

by [Janhavi Kulkarni](#)

In times of crisis, we need all the help we can get. During the current pandemic, healthcare professionals, grocery-store workers, and other essential-services employees are working diligently in order to support the world. In a way, this also applies to celebrities who are stepping up and putting their privilege to good use. But are they really showing their truest colors?

Agreed that in this time of isolation, celebrities around the world are launching fundraisers and benefit concerts. As is the case for Lady Gaga who curated a World Health Organization benefit concert that raised more than \$35 million to buy protective equipment for health care workers. One of Hollywood's biggest philanthropists, Leonardo DiCaprio, helped launch America's Food Fund, a charity created to help low-income families, the elderly, those facing job losses, and children who rely on school meals. Outside of America, tennis player Roger Federer and his wife donated around \$1 million to help vulnerable families fighting Covid-19 in their native Switzerland. Even in our native land of India, Bollywood stars from SRK to Lata Mangeshkar are donating huge amounts to various



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funds. These incredible acts, however, are being eclipsed by the fact that during a crisis, celebrities are rather irrelevant.

As it turns out, people are turning against them. In a controversial YouTube video, Ellen DeGeneres commented, "One thing I've learned about being in quarantine is this is like being in jail." This comment got her in trouble with the internet. Comparing her multi-million dollar mansion to a prison was incredibly ignorant. In addition, celebrities everywhere are producing heaps of content on social media, but rather than inspiring they appear more like "the unbearable tortutue of celebs' luxury during Coronavirus," according to the Daily Beast. One of the more viral social media content was the "Imagine" video. Several famous celebrities like Amy Adams, Jimmy Fallon, Will Ferrel, Mark Ruffalo, and Sia accompanied Wonder Woman, Gal Gadot, herself. Despite the good intentions of the clip, it went viral for all the wrong reasons. The internet exploded by calling it over privileged. Joel Golby at The Guardian harshly but rather accurately said, "It's all well and good for famous people to stay at home... but slightly trickier for the rest of us, worrying about income, grocery levels don't want a tepid Lenon song sung badly at them by celebrities." The overall ignorant content has caused quite a bit of resentment among the fans. Even critics from The New York Times commented that their "contribution" suggests that "the very appearance of a celebrity is a salve, as if a pandemic could be overcome by star power alone."

It's wrong to disregard those who have donated and aided their own resources, but celebrities instagramming from their extravagant lifestyles just isn't setting well with those of us sitting here on the ground with the threat of unemployment and next month's rent bill.

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## Note from Us

Hello readers,

As you can see, our Newsletter contains more than just typical fact-based articles. We want to give opportunities to the youth around the nation, allowing them to explore their creative side as well as give them a platform to voice their opinions. After this issue, we are opening the gates for all youth to submit their journal articles, creative writing, photography, or nonfiction writing . Every month, our team will choose the best from each category, and it will be displayed in the upcoming issue. So, simply put, even if you are a fierce advocate for change or someone who enjoys knitting together the threads of their vast imagination for fun, this newspaper has a place for you. Submit your work at the email provided below and we will try our best to incorporate your work into the Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal (BMM) Newsletter.

Thank you for reading,

Pinak Chitnis, Yash Kankariya, Gargi Khadse, Janhavi Kulkarni



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