



Ideas. **Voices.** Possibilities



Edition 01

September 2026

INDEX



Your roadmap
to all things

SPARK



From the editor's desk	- - - - -	03
You are not supposed to have it all figured out... Yet	- - - - -	05
How art helped me find myself again	- - - - -	08
Scroll, Rot, Repeat	- - - - -	11
Beyond the celebration: Ganesh Chaturthi	- - - - -	14
Creative Space	- - - - -	20
Bheja Fry	- - - - -	22
Meet Spark	- - - - -	25
Support Our Partners	- - - - -	26

From the **EDITOR'S DESK**

WELCOME TO SPARK

Every generation has a story to tell.

Sometimes that story is loud. Sometimes it is quietly unfolding in the conversations we have with friends, the things we create, the music we listen to, the books we read, the causes we care about and even the seemingly ordinary moments that stay with us long after they have passed.

This newsletter began with a simple idea: **to create a space for young people to tell those stories in their own voices.**

And so, **Spark** was born.

A spark can be many things. It can be the beginning of an idea, the first flash of inspiration, the moment a conversation begins, or that little feeling that makes you want to know more. A spark can become a thought, a thought can become a conversation, and a conversation can sometimes become something much bigger. That is what we hope Spark will be; **a place where ideas begin.**

We live in a world that moves incredibly fast. Trends appear and disappear overnight. Technology is changing the way we learn, work and communicate. Social media has made the world feel smaller, while somehow making it easier than ever to feel overwhelmed by it. There is more information around us than any generation before us has had access to; and yet, finding meaningful conversations can sometimes feel surprisingly difficult.

This newsletter is our attempt to slow things down, even if just for a few pages. Here, we want to explore the things that make us curious, challenge us, inspire us and occasionally make us wonder what exactly is happening to the world. Spark will bring together stories, ideas, creativity and conversations across a variety of subjects; from culture, technology, books and music to events, experiences and the issues that matter to young people today.

We also want to celebrate.

Our **Celebrations** section will explore festivals and traditions that bring people together, because there is something wonderful about the things we inherit, the things we share and the ways different communities find reasons to celebrate. Our **Events** section will look at what is happening around us and the experiences that bring people together beyond our screens.

And because life isn't always about celebration, we also want to make room for conversations that matter on a more personal level. **Mental health** is one of them.

The pressures of growing up, studying, working, navigating relationships, finding your place and simply trying to keep up with everything happening around you can sometimes feel like a lot. We hope this newsletter can contribute to conversations that make it a little easier to speak, listen and remind one another that asking for help is not a weakness.

Some stories may make you think. Some may make you laugh. Some may introduce you to a perspective you had never considered before.

And some may simply make you say, *"Wait, I thought I was the only one who felt that way."*

That, perhaps, is one of the most valuable things that writing and reading can do: remind us that our experiences don't exist in isolation.

This is also a space where different opinions can exist side by side. We won't always agree with one another; and that is okay. A good conversation doesn't require everyone to arrive at the same conclusion. It requires curiosity, respect and a willingness to listen.

After all, being young isn't about having everything figured out. If anything, it is about asking questions, trying things, changing your mind, making mistakes, discovering what matters to you and occasionally wondering what on earth you are doing. There is no single way to navigate that journey.

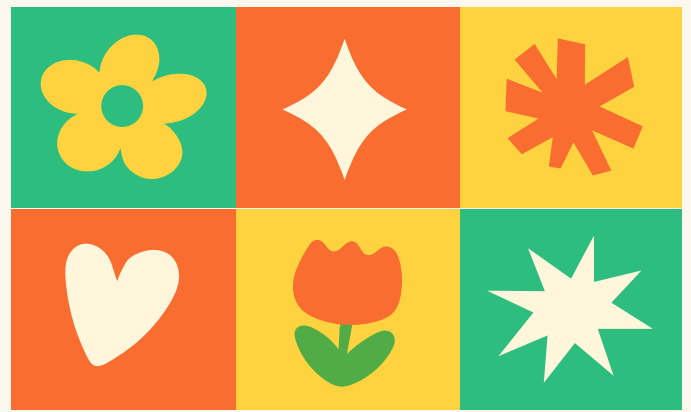
So don't expect Spark to have all the answers.

Instead, expect questions. Expect ideas. Expect different voices. Expect a little creativity and perhaps the occasional bit of chaos.

Most importantly, expect this to be a space where young people are not simply being talked about, but are doing the talking themselves.

Although Spark is created by a young team, we hope it reaches beyond any particular age group. We hope a student, a young professional, a teacher, a parent, or simply someone who remembers what it was like to be young will find something here that speaks to them.

Because generations may differ in the way they communicate, the technology they grow up with or the cultural moments that shape them, but curiosity, ambition, uncertainty, friendship, creativity and the desire to be heard are hardly new.



And perhaps that's where Spark begins; not with the assumption that one generation has all the answers, but with the belief that **'Every generation has something worth saying.'**

So, welcome to our first edition of Spark.

We are still figuring things out. We are learning as we go. We are finding our voices, one story at a time.

We hope you will read along, question things, disagree with us when you need to, laugh with us when you can, celebrate with us, and perhaps even find yourself reflected somewhere in these pages. This is only the beginning.

There are stories waiting to be told, ideas waiting to be explored, moments waiting to be celebrated and conversations waiting to begin.

Every story starts somewhere.

Let this be our Spark.

Until the next Spark,
Sybil Rodrigues
Editor, Spark



SYBIL RODRIGUES

Sybil Rodrigues writes for Business Goa magazine and My Goa magazine. When she's not writing, she's busy reading, making people laugh or playing with her cats.

You Are Not Supposed to Have It All Figured Out... *Yet*

A practical guide for navigating career uncertainty, financial anxiety, modern relationships, digital burnout, and mental well-being in your twenties.



1

THE REALITY OF GROWING UP TODAY

There is a heavy, strange pressure that comes with being in your twenties right now. The moment you hit 20 or 22, it feels like the world hands you an impossible checklist: nail down a career, start earning well, figure out investing, build a fit body, cultivate an active social life, travel, fall in love, heal childhood trauma, master your emotions, polish your LinkedIn profile, and preferably run a side hustle while you're at it. Then you open social media for five minutes and it genuinely looks like everyone else got the memo early. Someone your age just launched a company. Another moved abroad. Someone else is pulling six figures, and your high school classmate just bought a house.

Meanwhile, you're sitting on the edge of your bed wondering if ordering takeout is going to mess up your budget for the rest of the week.

Key Takeaway: You are growing up in a genuinely disorienting era. That doesn't mean every struggle is a mental health crisis, but it does mean your feeling of being overwhelmed makes complete sense.

2

REDEFINING CAREER ANXIETY

We used to tell people: study hard, get a degree, build a career. But somewhere along the line, the rules shifted dramatically. Artificial intelligence emerged, whole industries reshaped overnight, freelancing became standard, and suddenly everyone started talking about "personal brands," "networking," and "multiple streams of income." Choosing a path stopped feeling like picking a road and started feeling like using Google Maps while someone constantly shifts the destination.

If you feel stuck, scale down your scope:

- Stop mapping 40 years out: Asking your 21-year-old self what to do with your entire life is an absurd amount of pressure.
- Ask a simpler question: "What do I want to get better at this year?"
- Focus on movement over thought: Learn one useful skill, work somewhere that teaches you something practical, speak to people whose work intrigues you, and experiment.

3

MONEY AND SELF-WORTH

Financial pressure has crept into young adulthood far earlier than it used to. Index funds, crypto, credit scores, side hustles, FIRE movements... Scroll long enough and someone half your age is explaining how to retire by 35, while your actual paycheck barely covers rent, groceries, and that recurring subscription you keep forgetting to cancel.

It is essential to separate your income from your identity:

- Information, not identity: Your income is data about your present financial position—it is not a measurement of your value as a human being.
- Start boring: Know what comes in and what goes out. Save whatever small amount you can, and stay clear of unnecessary debt.
- Avoid comparison math: You are comparing your private bank balance to someone else's public highlight reel. That calculation will never balance.

4

MODERN RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATION

Dating today offers immense freedom, but also endless ambiguity. Situationships, talking stages, ghosting, breadcrumbing, casual hookups, long distance... We have invented dozens of new labels for dating, yet we are still hesitant to ask the most fundamental question: "What are we actually doing here?" Instead of focusing solely on relationship status labels, ask yourself these essential questions:

- Do you actually want this relationship or dynamic?
- Can you communicate what you need clearly and safely?
- Are you able to say "no" without fear of punishment or rejection?
- Are you staying because you are genuinely happy, or because being alone frightens you?

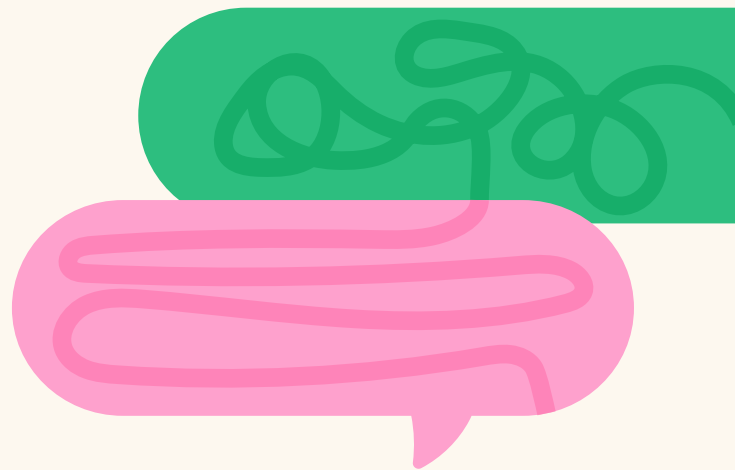
5

EVALUATING YOUR SOCIAL ECOSYSTEM

At this age, peer groups form your primary emotional ecosystem. A solid group makes failure survivable; the wrong one makes an ordinary, healthy life feel inadequate.

Pay attention to how you feel after spending time with your friends. Do you feel energized, safe, and able to speak honestly? Or do you constantly feel the need to prove you are successful, attractive, wealthy, or interesting enough to belong? You don't need friends who applaud everything blindly—you need friends with whom you are allowed to be unfinished.

DIGITAL CLUTTER



DIGITAL CLUTTER
WITH A PURPOSE

6

DIGITAL HABITS AND COPING MECHANISMS

We don't merely use phones anymore; we live partially inside them. Work, dating, news, comparison, and entertainment are available in seconds. When anxiety, loneliness, or boredom arrives, immediate distraction is right at hand.

Rather than immediately fighting a habit (scrolling, drinking, binge-watching, overworking), start by understanding its job. Ask: "What is this habit doing for me right now?" Are you scrolling because you care, or because silence has become uncomfortable? Once you understand what emotion you are trying to regulate, you can choose healthier ways to address it.

PROTECTING UNPRODUCTIVE SPACES AND SEEKING HELP

Allow parts of your life to remain unproductive. Not everything you enjoy needs to be optimized, monetized, or converted into self-improvement content.

Go for a walk without tracking fitness, cook a meal without a video, or pursue a hobby you are terrible at. Some things should exist simply to make a Tuesday evening nicer.

Finally, if things feel heavier than you can manage alone, seek support. You do not have to wait until you are completely falling apart to talk to a therapist. Therapy is not about getting told how to live; it is about understanding how you live, why patterns repeat, and what choices are available to you.

And most importantly,
Give yourself Permission
to be a
WORK IN PROGRESS .

Your twenties were never meant to be a polished final draft. They are designed to be messy, experimental, and full of recalibration. You will take jobs you outgrow, make financial missteps, fall out of sync with old habits, and constantly change your mind about what happiness looks like. None of that means you are falling behind—it means you are actively building a life while learning how to live one.

As we launch this community newsletter on Friday, remember: you don't need to show up with everything figured out. You just need to show up as you are. Drop the timeline expectations, take a breath, and focus on your next small, intentional step. We are all navigating this journey together.



ALLOW YOURSELF
TO EXIST.



SAMAY SHETTI

Samay Shetti is a Counselling
Therapist at Serendipity Heals.

He has vast areas of interest and is
an interesting person to talk to.

How Art Helped Me Find Myself Again



Art Journal: Handmade with Blinkit Bags

There was a time in my life when I felt completely lost. Not the kind of lost where you don't know which direction to take, but the kind where you start questioning whether you know yourself anymore.

I felt disconnected from the things that once made me happy. I think of it as losing touch with my inner child — the curious, playful part of me who could get excited about small things, create simply because it was fun, and enjoy the process without worrying about whether it was useful or good enough.

She was still somewhere inside me, but I couldn't seem to find her.

I was going through a very dark phase, and I didn't know how to get myself out of it.

During therapy, my therapist suggested trying art as a way of expressing what I was feeling.

I'd always enjoyed drawing, so picking up a pencil wasn't difficult. But what came out of me was very different from the art I would normally make.

My first sketches were dark. They contained gore, cruelty and disturbing imagery. I wasn't trying to make something beautiful.

When I could not find the words for what I was feeling, I found a way to express it through making.

I was simply putting something that existed inside my head onto paper.

Looking back, I think that was where something began to shift.

I didn't always know how to explain what I was feeling. Sometimes I didn't even understand it myself. But I could draw it. The paper didn't ask me to explain why I was angry, sad or confused. It simply gave those feelings somewhere to go.

And slowly, my art began to change.

I started experimenting with different kinds of art — character doodles, paintings, scrap journalling and eventually jewellery. Art was becoming more than a place where I released difficult emotions. It was becoming a place where I could explore.



I could choose a colour because I liked it, draw a silly character because it made me smile, or make something simply to see whether I could. For those moments, I wasn't trying to figure out my life. I was just making something.



Wire Jewellery



Beaded Earrings



Beaded Necklaces

Clay Charms,
Pendants

I AM TURNING THIS
INTO A BUSINESS OF
HANDMADE JEWELLERY

I started enjoying things again. I became curious again. Somewhere along the way, I felt like I was reconnecting with my inner child.

Maybe she had never really disappeared. Maybe she had simply been buried underneath everything I was carrying.

There is something freeing about creating without worrying about the outcome.

As adults, we often attach a purpose to everything. If we learn something, we want to become good at it. If we make something, we want it to be useful. If we create something, we wonder whether it's good enough to show someone else.

Art gave me permission to step away from that.

I didn't have to make something perfect. I didn't even have to finish it. I could create something nobody would ever see, simply because I enjoyed making it.

My experience isn't unique. The World Health Organization reviewed more than 3,000 studies on the relationship between arts and health and found evidence that engaging with the arts can support health and wellbeing. Art didn't magically solve everything for me, and it never replaced therapy, but it became another way for me to understand and express myself.

You don't have to be an artist to experience that. Start with ten minutes and a piece of paper. Scribble. Draw your mood. Use colours. Make a collage. Doodle while listening to music. Make a bracelet. Paint something for your wall. Create something you never intend to show anyone.

The important part is taking away the pressure to create something good.

Let it be messy. Let it be unfinished. Let it be completely pointless.



Kneady

Nabi

MEET MY CHARACTERS

Let it be messy. Let it be unfinished. Let it be completely pointless.

We already have enough things in our lives that need to be productive. Art can simply be a space where we are allowed to play.

Looking back, it's strange to think about the person who first picked up that pencil. She was trying to understand feelings she couldn't put into words. She had no idea those dark sketches would eventually lead to colourful paintings, character doodles, scrap journals and jewellery.



Canvas Painting : To put up on the walls

Art didn't give me a completely different person to become. It helped me find pieces of the person I already was.

Maybe I was never really looking for a purpose.

Maybe I was looking for a way back to myself.

And somehow, I found part of that way through art.

Illustrations



NISHA K. SHAKYA

Nisha Shakya designs brands, illustrations, and animations. When she's not creating, she's usually drawing, reading, or dreaming up new characters and stories.

SCROLL *Rot* REPEAT

How the 'Gram is quietly rewiring young Bharat

If you have made it this far without checking your phone, congratulations. Somewhere, an algorithm just felt a disturbance in the Force.

Let us be honest: India did not merely adopt social media. We sprinted towards it. From metro cities to small-town India, the smartphone has become our ticket to entertainment, information, friendship, romance, politics, shopping, validation and, occasionally, a video of a dog falling off a sofa. And somewhere along the way, something changed.

Not just how much time we spend online, but how we experience being alive.

It started innocently enough

Remember when taking a photograph meant simply taking a photograph? You went somewhere beautiful, clicked a picture and perhaps showed it to your friends. Maybe it stayed buried in your phone forever. Now, you go somewhere beautiful and your brain immediately starts producing a content strategy.

This would look good as a Reel.

Wait, the lighting is better here.
Take one more.
No, vertical.

We laugh because it is ridiculous. But it is also revealing.

We are slowly learning to experience things from the perspective of an imaginary audience.

The holiday is not just a holiday anymore. It is a post. The outfit is not just an outfit. It is a look. The meal is not just dinner. It is content. Even our breakdowns now have captions: "Things I learnt from hitting rock bottom."

Apparently, nothing can simply happen to us anymore. Everything must become something we can package. And that is where the problem gets interesting.

The algorithm does not need to control you

We usually imagine social-media addiction like this: the algorithm shows you something, you cannot resist, you scroll, it shows you another thing, and you scroll again until your brain has become mashed potatoes.

And yes, that happens.



But perhaps we are missing the more uncomfortable part.

The algorithm does not always have to manipulate us anymore. We have started doing the work ourselves.

Nobody has to tell a 22-year-old that their life is not impressive enough. They can open Instagram at 11:47 p.m. and find thirty people who seem to be doing better.

Someone got engaged. Someone moved abroad. Someone got a promotion. Someone launched a business. Someone has perfect skin. Someone is apparently spending Tuesday afternoon in Bali while you are eating Maggi in yesterday's T-shirt.

You know these are highlights. You know the pictures are edited. You know nobody posts themselves crying over an electricity bill. And yet, your brain does not always care about what you know. It responds to what it sees.

So we compare our behind-the-scenes with everybody else's trailer and then wonder why our lives feel boring.

The real addiction may not be scrolling

Here is where I think we have been asking the wrong question. We keep asking, "How many hours are young Indians spending on social media?" But perhaps the more uncomfortable question is:

"What are young Indians doing because they think it will perform well on social media?"

Would you still wear that outfit if nobody could photograph it?

Would you still visit that café if it had terrible lighting?

Would you still go on that trip if there were no stories to post?

Would you still start that hobby if you could not document your progress?

Suddenly, we are not talking about screen time. We are talking about behaviour.

Somewhere between living and posting about living, we have created a strange third activity: *performing life*.



The age of the imaginary audience

The weirdest thing about social media is not that millions of people can watch you. It is that even when nobody is watching, you start behaving as though they are.

You go to a concert and think about the video. You eat at a restaurant and think about the photograph. You accomplish something and think about the announcement. You travel somewhere and think about the carousel. Slowly, your life acquires a scoreboard: likes, views, followers, shares, comments and engagement.

Something can start feeling more valuable because other people saw it. Something can feel strangely insignificant because nobody did. And yet, some of the most important things in life do not perform at all: a quiet conversation, a walk after a terrible day, making art nobody sees, sitting with your family without taking a photograph, or being proud of yourself without needing applause. The internet has made us very good at broadcasting. I am not sure it has made us equally good at experiencing.

So what do we do?

"Just use social media less" is about as useful as telling someone to "just stop being stressed".

Instead, perhaps we need something more radical: **Build an unpostable life.**

Read a book and do not post the quote.

Go somewhere beautiful and do not immediately reach for the camera.

Make something terrible and let it remain terrible.

Have dinner without documenting it.

Learn something without announcing it.

Celebrate something privately.

Keep a few photographs that exist only for you.

Have memories that belong to your life rather than your profile.

Because the goal is not to disappear from the internet. It is to make sure your entire existence does not become internet-shaped.



The plot twist

We entered social media thinking we were there to watch other people's lives.

Then we started showing them ours.

Then we started editing ours for them.

Soon, we began editing our lives before they even happened.

That, perhaps, is the real rewiring.

The most unsettling thing about the feed is not that it keeps us looking at our phones.

It is that eventually, **we start looking at ourselves through the phone.**

So yes, go touch some grass.

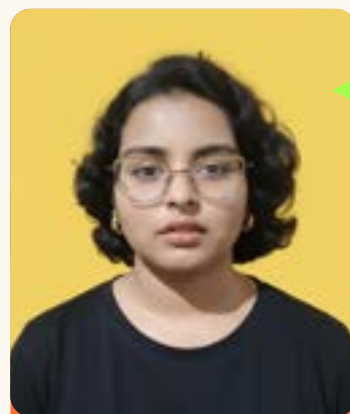
But this time, do not photograph it. Do not make a Reel about it. Do not turn it into a carousel called "5 Things Grass Taught Me About Healing."

Just sit there.

For once, let something happen without asking whether it is worth posting.

Maybe the ultimate rebellion in the age of the algorithm is not deleting Instagram.

Maybe it is having a life you do not feel the need to prove existed.



SRITOMA MANDAL

Sritoma don't believe in chasing perfection, she's just brave enough to back her own vision.

Armed with a love for colour, stories, and a brain that never stops overthinking, she creates work that naturally stands out.

Beyond the Celebration: Ganesh Chaturthi, Youth, Culture and the Power of Community

There are festivals that arrive on the calendar, and then there are festivals that seem to arrive everywhere else — in the streets, in the colours of a neighbourhood, in the hands of artisans, in the rhythm of drums, and in the excitement of people coming together.

Ganesh Chaturthi
is one of them.

For millions across India, the festival marks the celebration of Lord Ganesha and is observed on the fourth day of the waxing moon in the month of Bhadrapada, generally falling in August or September. Celebrations may last from a day or two to several days, with ten-day public celebrations particularly prominent in Maharashtra, ending with Ganesh Visarjan.

But Ganesh Chaturthi is not simply something we watch happen around us. It is something people create together.

It is clay shaped by an artisan's hands. It is a neighbourhood preparing a pandal. It is music filling a street. It is a family returning home. It is a young volunteer staying late to finish the decorations. It is an artist finding a new way to tell an old story.

And perhaps that is what makes Ganesh Chaturthi so culturally significant: it is a festival that keeps changing while continuing to bring people together.

More Than a Festival

Ganesh Chaturthi has deep roots in Indian traditions, but its cultural expression extends far beyond a single ceremony.

For generations, families have welcomed Ganesha into their homes, prepared traditional foods, decorated their surroundings and gathered together. In public celebrations, this expands into music, dance, theatre, art, food, decoration and community programmes.

At the centre of it all is the idol.

Before it reaches a home or a public pandal, it may spend weeks — sometimes months — in



Matoli

an artisan's workshop. Clay is shaped, features are sculpted, colours are added and a creation slowly comes to life.

That process tells us something important about culture. Culture is not only something preserved in books or museums. Sometimes, culture is created with two hands and a piece of clay.

Behind one celebration can be an entire network of sculptors, painters, decorators, electricians, musicians, photographers, transport workers, local businesses and volunteers. The festival therefore becomes not just a celebration, but a living cultural ecosystem.

From Homes to Public Streets

The public form of Ganesh Chaturthi that is especially associated with Maharashtra has a fascinating history.

While the festival has ancient roots, the transformation of Ganesh Chaturthi into a major public celebration is closely associated with the late nineteenth century. In 1893, Bal Gangadhar Tilak helped popularise public Ganesh celebrations in Maharashtra, creating spaces where people could gather through cultural programmes, music, theatre and community activities.

This changed the scale and social character of the festival.

Something that had largely been experienced within homes became increasingly visible in public life.

The streets became places of participation.

Neighbourhoods became communities.

And the festival became an example of how culture can create a shared space for people.

That history is important because it reminds us that festivals are not frozen in time. They evolve with the societies that celebrate them.

One Festival, Many Indias

Perhaps the most beautiful thing about Ganesh Chaturthi is that there is no single way to experience it.

Across India, the festival takes on different names, foods, customs, artistic expressions and community traditions.

Maharashtra: Ganeshotsav and the Power of Community

Maharashtra is perhaps the state most strongly associated with the modern public celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi.

Mumbai and Pune come alive with community mandals, elaborate pandals, cultural programmes and processions. Alongside the famous celebrations are thousands of smaller neighbourhood gatherings where people work together to organise their local festivities.

Here, the festival becomes a powerful expression of community participation.



LalBagacha Raja-Mumbai



Visarjan-Mumbai

Goa: Chovoth and the Return Home

In Goa, Ganesh Chaturthi is popularly known as Chovoth and carries a strong Konkani cultural character.

For many families, the festival is closely associated with returning to ancestral homes, preparing traditional food and spending time together.

Here, the festival becomes a celebration not only of tradition, but of memory and belonging.

Karnataka: Gowri-Ganesha

In Karnataka, Ganesh celebrations are often connected with Gowri Habba and Gowri-Ganesha traditions.

Homes, families, food and local customs give the festival a distinct regional identity.

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana: Vinayaka Chavithi

In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the festival is known as Vinayaka Chavithi. Public celebrations can be spectacular, with large

idols, decorated spaces and community gatherings.

Hyderabad's Khairatabad Ganesh has become particularly well known for its scale and public visibility. Here, the festival becomes a major feature of the city's cultural landscape.

Tamil Nadu: Vinayaka Chaturthi

Tamil Nadu gives the festival its own cultural flavour through local food traditions, family gatherings and community celebrations. Traditional sweets such as kozhukattai are closely associated with the occasion.

Beyond the Southern and Western Heartlands

Ganesh Chaturthi is also observed in states including Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala and West Bengal, alongside other regions of India. The scale and style vary considerably.

And these are only a few examples.

The names change. The food changes. The decorations change. The music changes. The way people celebrate changes. Yet one thing remains remarkably familiar: **people come together.**

That is perhaps one of India's greatest cultural strengths — we can share a tradition without having to experience it in exactly the same way.

For India, tradition does not always mean uniformity.

Sometimes, tradition is the ability to take a shared idea and give it a local voice.

Ganesh Chaturthi and the Future of Youth Leadership

We often hear that young people are the future.

But perhaps that is incomplete.

Young people are already shaping the present. During Ganesh Chaturthi, young people are increasingly involved in almost every part of the celebration—organising events, designing decorations, managing social media, coordinating volunteers, performing, photographing, creating digital content and leading community initiatives.

What looks like festival participation can actually become an informal lesson in leadership.

A young person managing volunteers is learning teamwork. Someone handling a budget is learning accountability. Someone designing a poster is learning communication. Someone coordinating an event is learning problem-solving. Someone documenting an artisan's work is learning how storytelling can preserve culture.

Leadership does not always begin with a position or a title.

Sometimes, it begins with simply saying: *"I'll take responsibility."*

Finding Ourselves in an Old Story

Perhaps this is where the cultural ideas associated with Ganesha become particularly interesting for young people.

Ganesha is widely associated with wisdom, learning, new beginnings and overcoming obstacles.

Think about being young today.

We are expected to choose careers before we fully understand ourselves. We are surrounded by information, opinions and



Before Visarjan

The People We Don't Always See

When we look at a finished pandal, we see the lights. When we see an idol, we see the finished artwork. When we join a procession, we hear the music. But behind every visible celebration are people whose work often remains unnoticed.

The artisan who spent weeks shaping the idol. The electrician who worked late to install the lights. The volunteer arranging the crowd. The young photographer documenting the event. The shopkeeper whose business supports the celebration. The person quietly cleaning the street after everyone has gone home.

Ganesh Chaturthi gives all of these people a place in one shared story.

And this is where the festival begins to connect naturally with young people.

constant comparison. We are encouraged to succeed quickly and often forget that figuring life out takes time.

So perhaps some of the familiar symbols associated with Ganesha can be viewed through a modern lens.

The large ears can remind us of the value of listening in a world that constantly asks us to speak. The large head can remind us that information is not enough; we also need the ability to think.

The trunk, capable of both strength and delicate movement, can remind us that adaptability is not weakness. And the idea of overcoming obstacles feels particularly familiar to anyone trying to build a life from scratch.

A failed examination. A rejected application. A career that doesn't work out. A friendship that ends. A dream that changes.

Sometimes, the obstacle is not the end of the road. Sometimes, it is simply an invitation to find another way forward.

And perhaps the most comforting idea of all is that of a new beginning.

Young people are constantly beginning again. A new semester. A new city. A new job. A new relationship. A new dream. Or simply a new version of themselves.



Can We Celebrate Differently?

As the festival evolves, young people are also asking important questions about how we celebrate.

Can a celebration be joyful and responsible at the same time?

Environmental concerns surrounding some idol materials and immersion practices have encouraged communities to explore clay idols, natural colours, artificial immersion facilities and other sustainable approaches. Some community groups have also connected celebrations with cleanliness drives, tree planting and social initiatives.

This is an important part of cultural evolution. Tradition does not necessarily mean refusing to change.

Sometimes, protecting a tradition means allowing it to grow with the world around it.

The same question applies to commercialisation.

Does a celebration need to become bigger every year to become more meaningful? Perhaps not.

Maybe the most meaningful celebration is the one that leaves behind something more valuable than noise and spectacle — a stronger community, a new friendship, a preserved tradition, a supported artist or a cleaner neighbourhood.

The Culture We Choose to Carry

Every generation inherits culture.

But no generation carries it in exactly the same way.

Our grandparents may have experienced Ganesh Chaturthi through homes and neighbourhoods. Our parents may remember community celebrations, processions and traditions.

Our generation has something different.

We have cameras in our pockets. We have digital platforms. We have new creative tools. We can tell the story of an artisan to thousands of people. We can turn a local tradition into a documentary. We can organise a community initiative through a single message. We can combine tradition with sustainability, creativity and technology.

So perhaps the responsibility of young people is not simply to preserve culture exactly as it was.

It is to understand it, question it, contribute to it and carry it forward in our own way.



And Then, We Begin Again

There is something quietly beautiful about the cycle of Ganesh Chaturthi.

An idol is created. It is welcomed. It becomes part of a community. It is celebrated and, eventually, it is returned to the elements.

The streets become quiet again. The decorations come down. The music stops.

But something remains.

A memory. A friendship. A skill. A story. A sense of belonging.

And then, another year arrives.

The artisans begin again. The communities begin again. The young volunteers begin again. Perhaps that is what makes Ganesh Chaturthi more than a festival.

It is a reminder that culture lives because people continue to participate in it.

Perhaps it offers young people an equally important reminder: *We do not have to inherit the world exactly as it is.*

We can listen. We can learn. We can create. We can question. We can contribute. We can make room for others.

And when life asks us to begin again, we can. Because every generation gets its own opportunity to add something to the story.

Ganesh Chaturthi is one such story — carried forward through faith, culture, creativity and community, and continually given new meaning by the people who celebrate it.

Maybe this generation's chapter is waiting to be written.

And perhaps, it begins with us. Because culture survives when we inherit it. But culture truly lives when we make it our own.



NIBEDITA TALUKDER

Nibedita, a curious soul with a wondering mind. Pursuing psychology to understand the human mind. Hunger for new experiences and to satisfy her curious mind with knowledge she explores history, cultures and untold stories of India and Indians.

A little space for big ideas

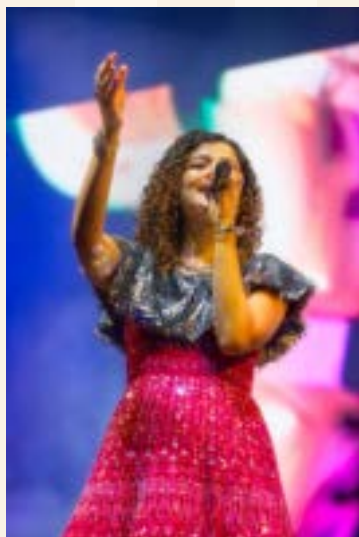
CREATIVE SPACE



PRITAM HALDAR

With over 5 years in the creative field, Pritam has started as a video editor and expanded into VFX and animation, including work on films. Today, he is a full-time video editor who loves storytelling through visuals, photography, and videography.

Photography





Dear Self-

Dear Self,
You were left unheard
when you cried for help.
The world turned its back,
as you tried to reveal yourself.
When those unwanted hands
reached out, you stayed still.
A tender, delicate blossom, you,
you endured their will.

Dear Self,
Now, I'm older, stronger, and free,
the guardian you needed me to be.
The sun will shine, the moon will hum,
and with spring, your blossom will return.
You'll rise and flourish, bold and true,
the world awaits the best of you.



Written &
Illustrated by

NISHA K. SHAKYA
(Personal Brand)



@NABI STUDIO

Branding

Graphic Designing

Illustrations

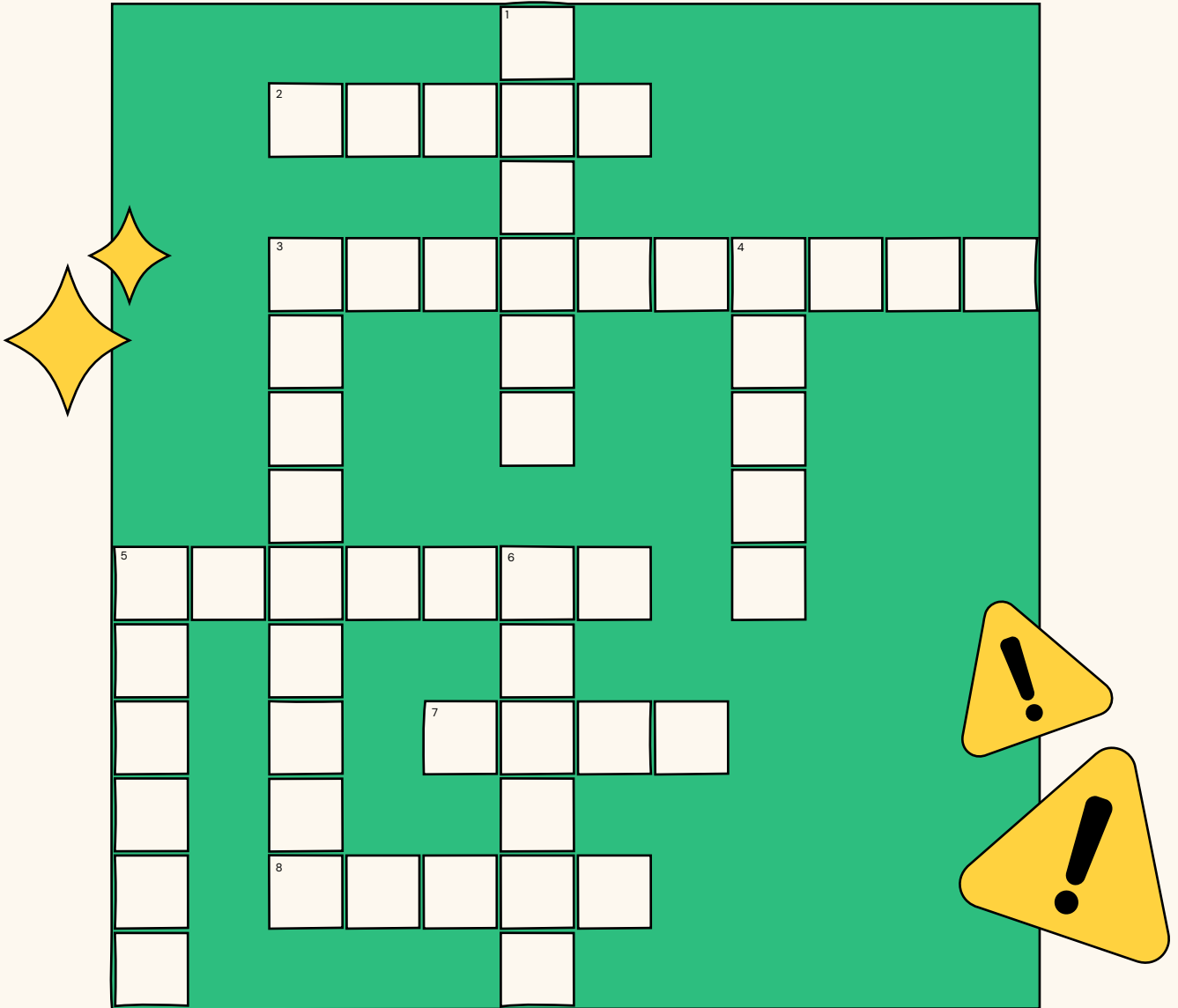
Motion Graphic

Animation



BHEJA FRY

Think | Connect | Discover



ACROSS

- 2 A small beginning that can inspire energy, action or change.
- 3 The ability to imagine or make something original.
- 5 The ability to face something difficult despite fear.
- 7 A feeling that something good may happen.
- 8 The stage of life often associated with exploration and discovery.

DOWN

- 1 The hopes and aspirations for the future.
- 2 A group of people connected by a shared place, interest or purpose.
- 3 The power to express your thoughts, feelings, or ideas.
- 4 Something that makes a situation different from before.
- 5 The process of developing, learning, or becoming stronger.

TRIVIA CORNER

LEVEL 1

(Chill questions. Big brain not required)

Q1. Which 2026 film became the biggest Bollywood blockbuster of the year, led by Ranveer Singh?

- a) Border 2
- b) Dhurandhar: The Revenge
- c) Bhooth Bangla
- d) Alpha

Q2. Elephants are among the few mammals known to display funeral-like behaviours toward their dead.

- a) True
- b) False

Q3. At the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan, Cortina, who was India's flag bearer at the opening ceremony?

- a) Arif Khan
- b) Stanzin Lundup
- c) Neeraj Chopra
- d) PV Sindhu

Q4. Which dystopian novel gave us the phrase "Big Brother is watching you"?

- a) Brave New World
- b) 1984
- c) Fahrenheit 451
- d) The Handmaid's Tale

Q5. A "luxury" ₹500 candle claims to smell like "old money." What it's actually selling you is:

- a) Wax
- b) Vibes
- c) A personality
- d) All of the above (be honest)

LEVEL 2

(Warning: You're going to need actual brain cells here)

Q6. Which is the only country in the world located on two continents, with a city split across both?

- a) Egypt
- b) Russia
- c) Turkey
- d) Kazakhstan

Q7. The "Dunning-Kruger effect" describes which phenomenon?

- a) Forgetting names right after meeting someone
- b) People with limited knowledge or ability overestimating their competence
- c) Déjà vu
- d) Fear of public speaking

Q8. In 2026, the debate over AI-generated actors became a major controversy in which industry?

- a) Music
- b) Film/Hollywood
- c) Gaming
- d) Advertising



Q9. How many Fundamental Rights are currently guaranteed under the Indian Constitution?

- a) 5
- b) 6
- c) 7
- d) 8

Q10. What is the name of the telescope that succeeded Hubble and observes the universe primarily in infrared?

- a) Kepler
- b) James Webb Space Telescope
- c) Chandra
- d) Spitzer

Q11. In 2026, which Indian AI-related event went viral for the wrong reasons after a university was accused of passing off a Chinese robot dog as its "own invention"?

- a) India AI Impact Summit
- b) Republic Day Parade

LEVEL 3

(Only real ones survive this)

Q12. The Indus Valley Civilization had advanced drainage systems, but which ancient city is most famous for its precise urban grid planning?

- a) Lothal
- b) Mohenjo-daro
- c) Hastinapur
- d) Taxila

Q13. Which species of cheetah is being reintroduced to India through Project Cheetah, after having been considered extinct in the country?

- a) Asiatic Cheetah
- b) African Cheetah
- c) Snow Leopard
- d) Clouded Leopard

Q14. What's the name of the gene-editing technology that won its inventors the Nobel Prize and is often described as "molecular scissors"?

- a) PCR
- b) CRISPR
- c) mRNA
- d) RNAi

Q15. In 2026, the Indian government approved a ₹84,084 crore "Samudra Manthan" scheme. What exactly does it focus on?

- a) Ocean plastic cleanup
- b) Offshore oil and gas exploration
- c) Deep-sea fibre-optic cables
- d) Naval shipbuilding

Q16. In George Orwell's Animal Farm, which phrase perfectly sums up every group project ever?

- a) "Four legs good, two legs bad"
- b) "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others"
- c) "Napoleon is always right"
- d) "War is peace"





Meet the CORE TEAM

EDITOR

Sybil Rodrigues

FOUNDER/CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Nibedita Talukder

DESIGN HEAD

Nisha K. Shakya

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING

Sritoma Mandal

CONTRIBUTORS

Samay Shetti
Shuvam Saha
Pritam Haldar

If you wish to REACH OUT TO US



sparkcommunity101@gmail.com



@SPARK.YOUTH.COMMUNITY



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13142196>

SUPPORT OUR

PARTNERS

Welcome

To the Latest Rakamari Newsletter!

Shop location – 92, Dr SP Mukherjee Road Kolkata 700028

Whether you are gearing up for a major getaway, commuting to the office, or looking to upgrade your everyday style, we have exactly what you need. At Rakamari, we believe that the right bag or accessory does more than just carry your essentials—it elevates your entire day. This month, we are thrilled to showcase our newly expanded collection of premium luggage, chic handbags, and versatile everyday accessories from the brands you know and love.



READY FOR THE JOURNEY: LUGGAGE & TROLLEYS

Travel smart and travel light with our heavy-duty, stylish travel gear. From weekend duffels to family-sized hard-shell trolleys, we have your travel needs covered.

American Tourister & VIP: Built for durability and maximum packing capacity. Perfect for frequent flyers.

Skybags: Stand out at the baggage claim with vibrant prints and lightweight designs.

Luggage Accessories: Don't forget your travel locks, luggage tags, and packing cubes to keep everything organized.



EVERYDAY UTILITY & ELEGANCE: BACKPACKS & HANDBAGS

Upgrade your daily carry with options that blend fashion and function seamlessly.

Lavie & Tommy Hilfiger: Discover our fresh arrivals of elegant handbags, totes, and slings that bring a touch of sophistication to any outfit.

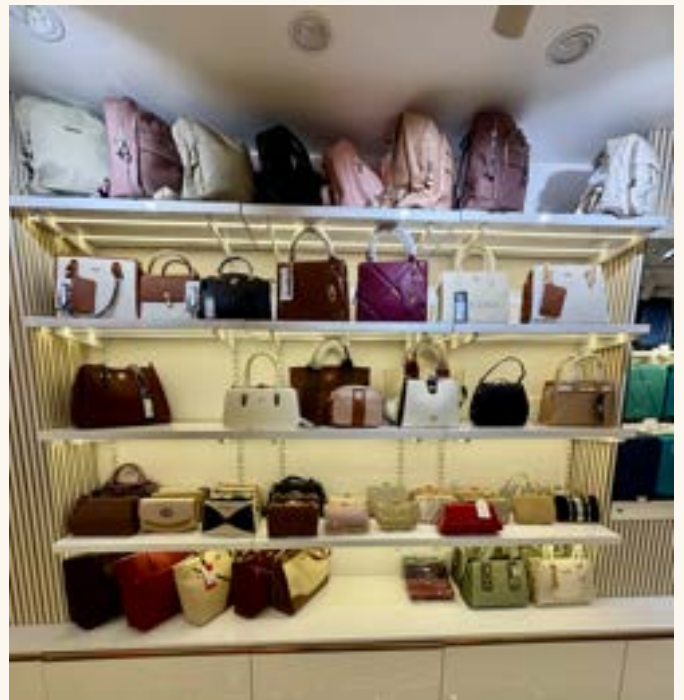
Wildcraft & Rakamari: Explore our rugged, ergonomically designed backpacks and school bags, perfect for students, hikers, and daily commuters who need reliable storage on the go.

THE FINISHING TOUCHES: BELTS & WALLET

The right accessories tie an entire look together.

Premium Leather Wallets: Slim, secure, and stylish options for both men and women.

Classic Belts: Durable, everyday belts from top brands to complete your professional or casual wardrobe.



Stop by the store this week to feel the quality for yourself and find your perfect match.

Stay Stylish,
The Team at Rakamari



SHUVAM SAHA
Manager of Rakamari Brand