

it's not all bad

7TH APRIL, 2020

REASONS TO...

smile (pg 1)

gratitude is trending
banter bros
#daaru4dadi

think different (pg 1)

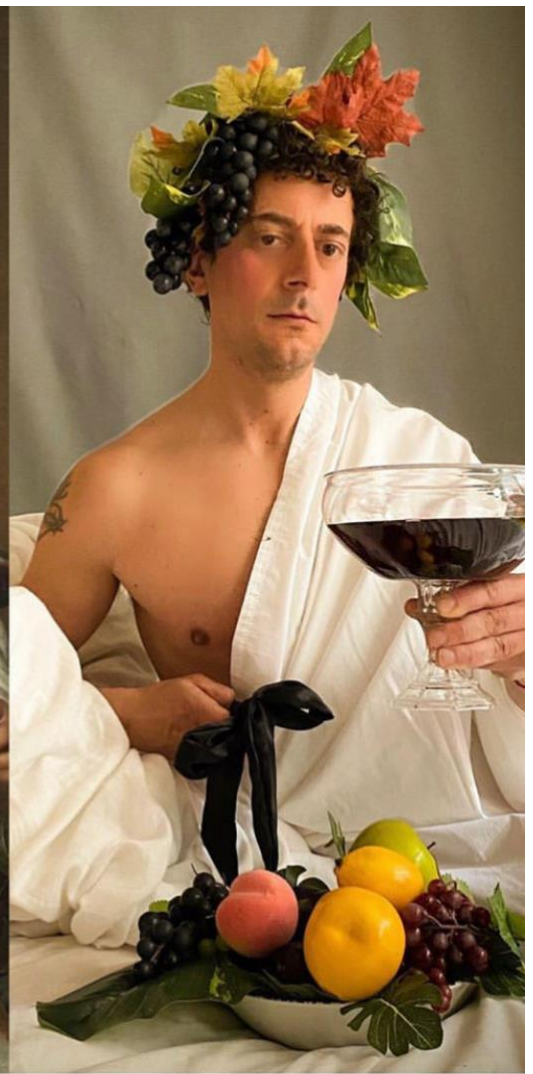
be bullish on data
robot.MD
play the odds

contribute (pg 2)

IIT language degree
fake it till you make it

explore (pg 2)

why not google google?
moonrise + chai
main hoon artist



[Art imitates life or life imitates art? Read more on pg. 2.](#)

Practice what you preach, they say. So naturally, as per yesterday's issue, we decided to say #HelloNetaji and call our BMC Corporator. A couple verses of "Om Namashivay" later, the caller tune gave way to a connection. Enter: [Geeta Gawli](#), Corporator, E Ward. Here's the rundown of what we learned: The BMC is re-assigning its existing workforce to serve food to the poor in the ward, she herself is funding the delivery of cooked food to 200 people, and the workers are keeping track if a person in the ward is running a temperature and helping them self-isolate/ get tested if the need arises. When we asked if we could see some photos of these activities, Mrs. Gawli (trained in the political arts by her '[Daddy](#)') floored us with an iconic line: "I don't believe in media, I believe in service." Nonetheless, merely five minutes after our phone call, Mrs. Gawli shared [several photos and videos](#) on Facebook: workers spray-sanitising the streets, food being delivered by mask-adorning workers etc. While we couldn't get a clear description of agency organisation, it was humbling to speak to our corporator instead of assuming inaction (Mrs. Gawli herself has been involved in [TB awareness campaigns](#), hospital redevelopments, and been a Health Committee Chairperson at the BMC) and create some semblance of impact, even if it was just holding our Corporator accountable for publishing a record of activities. TLDR: pick up the phone, call your representative!



reasons to smile

Gratitude is trending: [Google reports](#) that search phrases “how to volunteer”, “help the community”, “help the elderly” and “food donation” have reached an all-time high, worldwide! It’s reassuring to see people look beyond themselves as an avuncular coronavirus reminds us to say our “thank yous.”

Being quarantined with family means petty squabbles every day, and it’s the same for Cuomo brothers, Andrew (NYC Governor) and Chris (CNN reporter currently battling COVID-19). Their hilarious and supportive [live interactions](#) are proof that no matter what happens, sibling banter is forever.

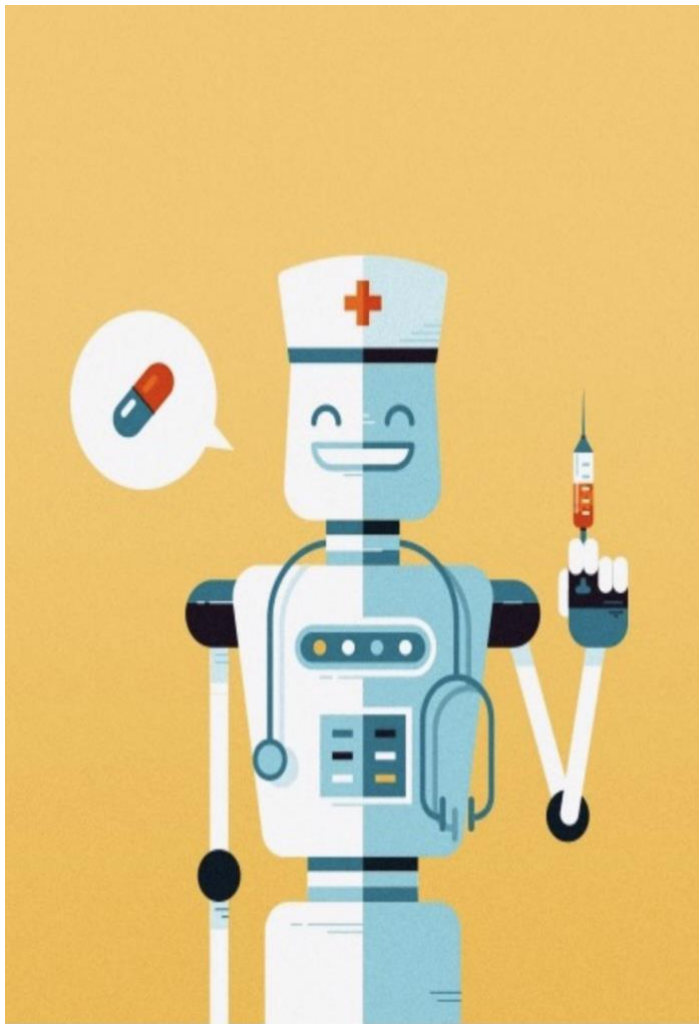
While we worry about the health of ageing family members, it seems that they have different concerns, like [this grandma](#), who complained about her dwindling supply of vodka, specifically Tito’s. Her prayers were answered when Tito’s surprised her with a swag bag of t-shirts and (of course) vodka.

reasons to think different

What else can google searches tell us? A lot, as [some innovative researchers have found](#). For starters, they could help identify outbreak zones early by monitoring unusual increase in search volumes (like “I can’t smell”, or “Non Sento Odori” as the Italians googled before it was officially classified a symptom by the WHO). Not mind-blown just yet? Such data, from billions of queries globally, could also help scientists find potential new symptoms of the virus, like eye pain.

Last week, [robotic nurses were deployed](#) in the coronavirus wards of Tamil Nadu’s Stanley Hospital to deliver medicine and water to admitted patients. In light of Wockhardt and Jaslok Hospitals being declared containment zones, reducing nurse-patient contact is paramount, and this is a welcome development!

If you hated math in school, you should probably skip this one. Still here? Stay with us. Consider a group of 16 potentially infected individuals. There’s a good chance all 16 are negative for coronavirus (India has seen a positive test rate of under 4% thus far). You could use 16 tests to confirm this (or 16×6 if your group includes [Kanika Kapoor](#)) or you could use just 1, by combining the swab samples for the entire group. This strategy, called “[pool testing](#)”, could be particularly critical in low-resource communities like India.



reasons to contribute

[Vision Parabho](#), a 20-member student group at IIT Kharagpur, translated the WHO's coronavirus advisory video into 12 Indian regional languages, making it accessible to non-English speakers across the country. It is an essential project, especially considering that the [breakout search trend in India](#) right now is “कोरोना वायरस टिप्स” — understanding English is a privilege we often forget.

If you've ever been invested in a medical drama (Grey's Anatomy ftw), you've probably wondered how the cast manages to make everything seem just so convincing. Turns out, a lot of it is real and is being put to very good use indeed! Spare robes, masks, gloves and other supplies from the sets of popular shows like The Good Doctor, Station 19, Grey's Anatomy and more are [now being donated](#) to local hospitals.



reasons to explore

Google is a behemoth in the tech world; yet, most of us just use it for a simple search. Why not use this time to explore its other features like [Google Trends](#), which we used in this issue of our newsletter!

Waiting for the next nation-wide team-building mandate from the PM? Don't worry – we've curated the perfect morning for you. On the agenda for tomorrow—8:05am: balcony visit for a rare sighting of a bright pink [supermoon](#), followed by the winning combination of chai + age-old [NYT Crossword](#) (start with the mini - its free!). Can't promise that any of these endeavours will yield [much success](#), but what else do you have going on anyway?

The Getty Museum has launched the [#gettymuseumchallenge](#) for you to recreate famous works of art at home. The results are equal parts hysterical and ingenious. Peruse the collection of [vibrant submissions](#) or add to it via your own creations!

That's it for today! If you liked our newsletter, [please subscribe here](#). Stay safe! M & S.