

Universal Human Beings Week

One of the most important ways people connect is through their humanity. Literature, history, art, and music all expand on human emotion and life experiences and in-world full of definitions, love is what defines the best in humanity. Universal Human Beings Week takes the time to reflect on those ideas and encourages people to take action, promoting human rights and making impactful changes that help communities everywhere.



#JKK

Action-packed Weekend



Visitors thronged at Jawahar Kala Kendra this weekend to attend the Dance-drama, 'The Game of Dice from Mahabharata' and 'Sang Kabir' programme.



Tusharika Singh
Freelancer
writer and city blogger

The Jaipurites were in for a cultural treat this weekend as the art and culture hub of Pink City, Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK), witnessed a plethora of dance, music, art and theater events. Here are some glimpses:

The Game of Dice
On Saturday, the Delphic Council of Rajasthan organized its first-ever on-ground event - 'The Game of Dice from Mahabharata'. The Rangayan Auditorium of JKK was jam-packed as the multi-media dance-drama by renowned dancer and choreographer, Santosh Nair was staged. The programme was organized in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Rajasthan.

The production drew from 'Kathakali' with its rigorous, dramatic and vibrant outlook, 'Mayurbhanj Chhau' with its high energy control and martial art inspired spirit as well as contemporary dance with its creativity and experimentation. The elements were brought together through the medium of an episode of the national epic of India, Mahabharata. 'The Game of Dice' which has a fantastic breadth of vision, a riveting plot and a compelling dramatic structure.

The performance gave a unique depiction of women empowerment rooted in traditions. It was centered around Draupadi, the main character of the epic Mahabharata. Although the events in the drama were taken from the Mahabharata, the main focus was on the disrespect towards women and the apathy of the society on witnessing such atrocities.

Sang Kabir
Another highlight of the weekend at JKK was the 2-day 'Sang Kabir Music Festival' in collaboration with Bikaner based cultural organisation, Lokayan and Rajasthan Kabir Yatra. 'Sang Kabir' was organized with the aim to increase communal harmony, spirituality and encourage creativity. On the first day of the festival, the audience enjoyed mellifluous performances by renowned artists like - Kaluramji Bamaniya & Group, Murshidabadi Project and Mir Basu & Group.



Kabir Cafe

Kala Kendra for their impeccable collaboration to host the two-day music festival. In an energetic and captivating address, Dr. Kalla said that Kabir is a poet of the people and all of Kabir's creations make new revelations in each reading. He also encouraged the youth to develop interest and enthusiasm for music, literature and arts for a fulfilling life.

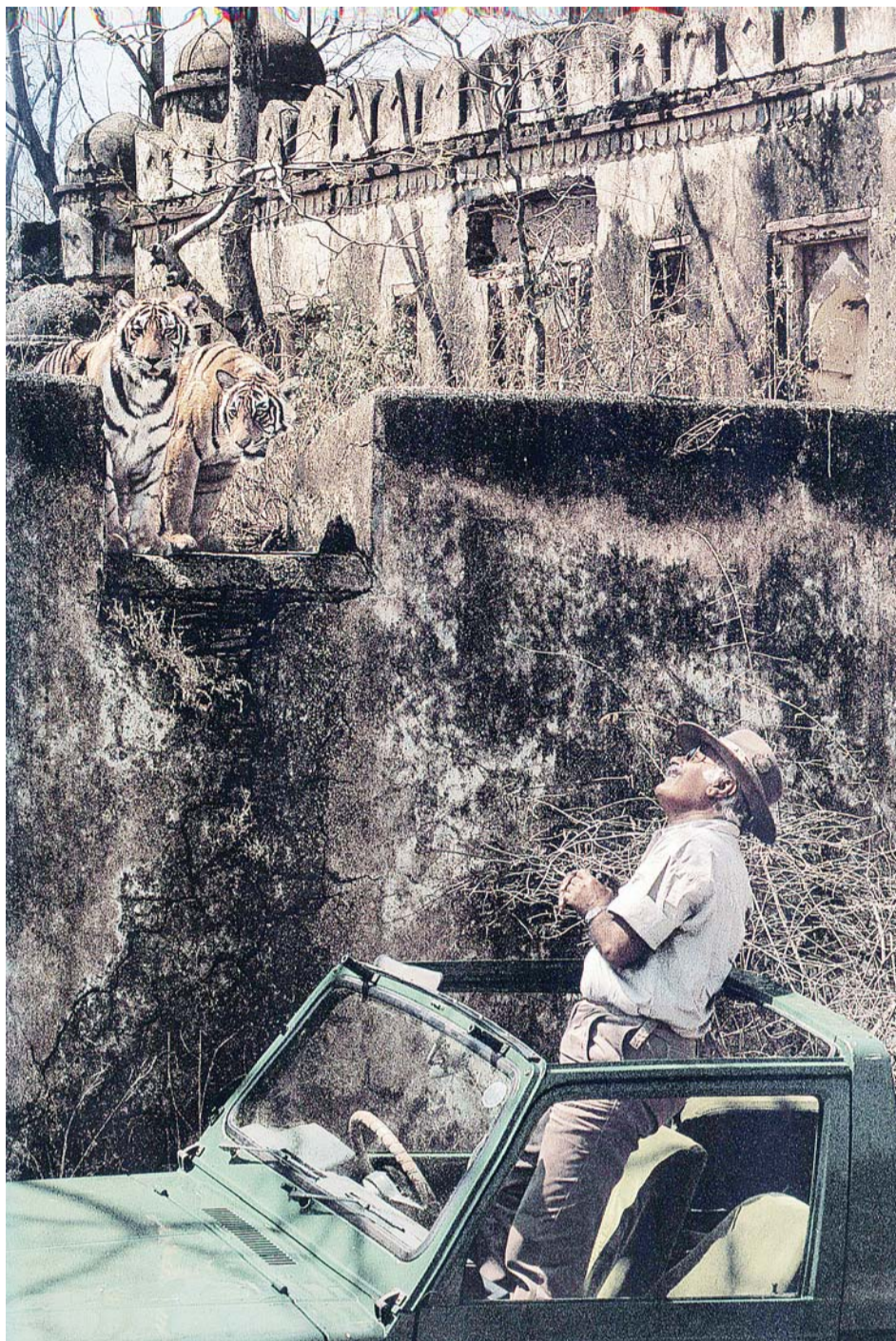
Kaluramji Bamaniya & Group from the Malwa region in Madhya Pradesh enthralled the audience during the 'Kabir Bhajan' performance with Bhakti Ras and Bhajans. They showcased the vibrant tradition of bhakti singing with the spirit of Kabir and Meera. His impish wit added colour to the simplicity and soulfulness of his songs. The audience could not resist grooving to the beats as he wove magic on the 5-stringed Tambura and Khad-taal. He was accompanied by his troupe on Dholak, Violin and Manjiras.

This was followed by 'Souds of the Sufis' by Murshidabadi Project from Murshidabad in West Bengal. The evening turned magical with soulful Sufi music performances that explored and experimented with Sufi literature and Indian music. It was the perfect relief to shed the stress and worldly affairs for a while and drown in tranquility. It featured Sweetketu Banerjee on Sitar and Soumyadeep Murshidabadi on Vocals. The evening concluded with 'Melodies from 'Thar' by Mir Basu & Group from Pugal in Rajasthan. He presented the long lost melodies of Kabir that still thrive in the majestic desert. The group captivated the audience through their bold vocals and soul-stirring voices.

Destango & Kabir Cafe
On the second day of 'Sang Kabir Festival', the evening began with 'Kabir ki Dastaan-Musical Dastangoi' by Himanshu Bajpai from Lucknow who is a Sahitya Akademi Award winner and Vedanth Bharadwaj from Chennai, also renowned for scoring the music town Marwari, Hindi and English to express himself succinctly despite a limited vocab. He also had a terrific body language. Sometimes it was pure theatre. For instance, he would describe a tigress in heat calling out for a mate! With gestures of his eyes, movements of his hands, legs and whole body along with producing all kinds of deep guttural sounds, Fateh would communicate the

story of the love-love tresspass in a way that connected the listener to him instantly.

Legendary Stories
Fateh was star material. A great actor. And his antics swept the people off their feet. They loved to go for a drive in the forest with FS to look for the Tiger! I have this image in my memory of the most immitable Mr. Fateh Singh Rathore, in his characteristic that, at the wheel of his open gypsy, full with visitors. And there are some legendary stories about Fateh's driving. Following a tiger, he would take his jeep where most would fear to tread. I recall the time when he drove us off the track and up a steep gradient, not realizing that on the other side, was a treacherous slope full of cactus and big stones. We were perched at the top in a hopeless situation where it was possible to turn around and equally impossible to go nose down the other side. There was imminent danger of toppling over! I guess when the going gets tough, the tough get going. The Rajput warrior in him got into action as the indefatigable Fateh struggled with the gypsy's gears, wheel and tyres to twist and turn and slowly inch forward from that impassive while we held on to our seats tightly. In the end, it was a well fought fight and when we approached



Field director Fateh Singh Rathore.

Photo by Raghu Rai



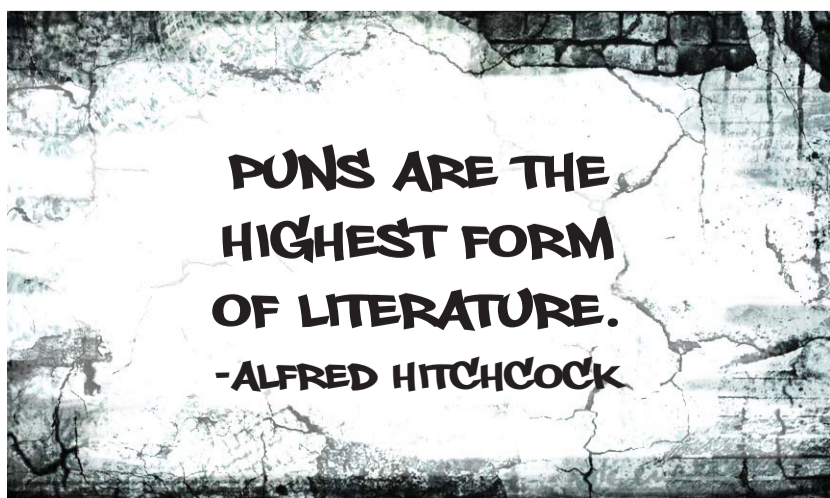
Nihal Mather
Filmmaker,
writer, bon vivant

If I were to write a piece on Fateh I would title it "The Most Unforgettable Character I've Ever Met." In the 1960s, that was a title of a long-running series in the Reader's Digest that presented pen portraits of those who left their stories behind. Well, Fateh certainly did. And he was a great story teller himself!

Fateh Singh Rathore, Ranthambhore and Tigers are synonymous. But FS or Fudgy, as he was various called by friends and family, was more than just a "Tiger Wallah". He was truly a character. Although he wasn't a tall and handsome Rajput but he certainly had the ruggedness and the romance of a one from the desert! And he had those moustaches, with a twirl! His naughty eyes that looked so big were really small when he took off his reading glasses. He wore best outdoor clothing in rhythm with the jungle he lived in and topped it with a bush hat, sometimes with a feather! Such panache!

And boy! Could he talk! He definitely had the gift of the gab. Playing with words, he would effortlessly shift between his native Marwari, Hindi and English to tell his story. He was a man known for performing length and breadth of the state and congratulated Jawahar

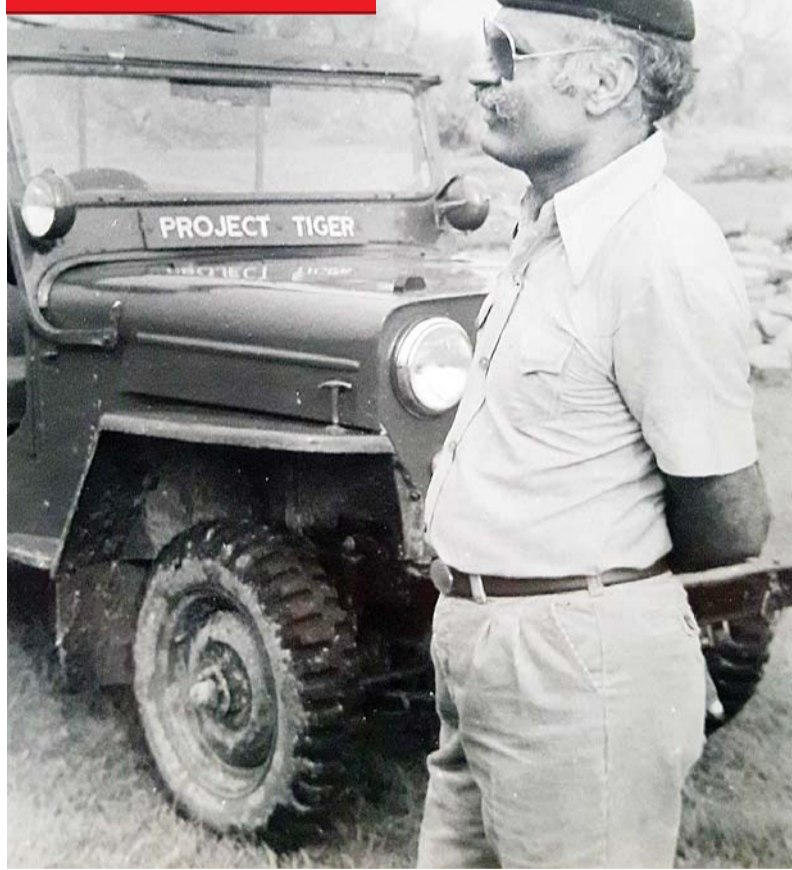
THE WALL



Few years later, Raghu Rai immortalized FS when his astonishing full page picture of Fateh talking to two tigers appeared in a story written by Geoffrey Ward for Nat Geo issue of May 1992. It was Geoff who told his good friend Bill Clinton "in Ranthambhore, go only with Fateh and nobody else". But when Bill came in 2000, Ranthambhore was officially out of bounds for FS. But they had to recall FS because Bill will not have it any other way. With such reputation and high recommendation, it was with some trepidation that FS said, he went with Bill because, he had not been in Ranthambhore for some time and had no idea about what was happening with the tigers. But mercifully, the tigers of Ranthambhore did not fail him and there were good sightings. Despite being tutored by the American protocol to address Bill as "Mr. President", FS completely bungled while talking to him, sometimes calling him Sir, other times calling him as Your Excellency, or Your Lordships etc. Till Bill interjected: Fateh, just call me Bill. OK?

So Fateh Called Him Only 'Bill'

#PERSONALITIES



Fateh Singh with Rajiv Gandhi

level ground we could still feel the adrenalin. In this exciting journey into the wild, FS would also make you understand the language of the forest by listening in silence to the sounds and signs of the jungle. When he drove he was on the lookout for pugmarks by the side of the jeep tracks. He would stop to pick up a dried piece of tiger scat. With his big naughty eyes he would say "Tiger Tatti", "Tiger Tatti" and distribute crushed bits and pieces of dried faeces to those accompanying, saying: Look sambar hair: Tiger Tatti! FS brought good cheer and laughter easily in people and that was very endearing about Fateh. Time was when FS had every tiger by its tail in Ranthambhore. And that was before radio collars and satellite tracking became widely available. FS created a simple system to monitor the movement of the tigers that his unlettered Forest Guards could understand and execute. FS met his team of forest guards every morning after they returned from their beats. Each guard updated the movement of the tiger by tracking pug marks and other signs in his beat. This the guard drew on a double spread of an old newspaper using an improvised brush made from a stem of a plant with a strip of cloth tied at the tip. Dipping it in ink, each guard drew the movement of the tiger in his beat by indicating landmarks on the map. For instance, the map showed the tiger emerged from the grassland here and then went to the water hole there and finally lost track of pug marks that led into the nullah. Few days later the forest guard of the adjoining beat would report pug marks emerging from the other side of the nullah and going towards the Rajbhag lake and there beside the pavilion, under the banyan, the guard would report sighting a tiger.

Tiger Movements
When FS collated all the beat maps he began to get a larger picture of the big cat movement in the Park. He knew for instance, where Laxmi is at a sambar kill and is not likely to move for the next couple of days. Or Noon is on the prowl. Or Padmini has not made a kill in almost a week etc. Fateh had a fairly accurate idea of tiger movements in the Park. Naturally, sightings became more frequent since FS knew with some certitude where each tiger was, on a daily basis. I recall one day when some high ranking guy from IUCN or perhaps WWF was to come and FS told us that he would be able to show him a tiger on the hunt because Genghis has not had a kill for last 10 days and will definitely be out on the prowl and very possibly make a kill. As anticipated, FS quickly tracked Genghis by listening to the signals of the forest and then gradually followed him to the banks of Rajbhag where in a show of a spectacular splash and chase in the lake waters, Genghis made a successful kill of a sambar.

Later that evening, setting aside all fine dining arrangements, the distinguished visitor instead chose to accept Fateh's invite and joined him at the camp fire. Always the one for some mischievousness, FS candidly told him, "Your hotel provides only 5 star rooms but my Jogi Mahal offers you a million star accommodation" pointing to the star lit heavens. And indeed, Jogi Mahal sitting on the banks of Padam Talao was an incredibly beautiful place to stay where from the balcony of your room you could forever watch the pheasant tailed jacanas walk on lotus leaves, see crocs basking in the sun or if one was lucky, catch a tiger on the far banks. And Fateh was a gracious host who was not intimidated by the rich and the powerful. And that was because he was a completely uninhibited, free flowing and spontaneous person to whom conversation came naturally. So did music. He loved to sing and would burst into an impromptu and passionate delivery of a Gulam Ali gazal "mae apli dhun mein rehta hoon." or some folk song from his native Marwar, with equal ease.

Ssafed Chiriyas
His love of whiskey and music was matched by his love for women. And women loved FS for his flamboyance wit and humour. They came under his spell almost immediately and there are many stories legion about his amorous affairs. In his own words, he loved the migratory "safed chiriyas" that flocked to Ranthambhore every winter. But there was one woman - Diana Wordworth - who came in his life like fairy godmother. It was Diana who polished Fateh's persona and turned him into a style

"Aey Gafudoo, soda la re " And then he would regale his audience with stories. Although the memory is hazy but I do recall one such story about a time when a big hotel honcho was to visit Ranthambhore. His hotel crew had made all arrangements, including a ride in the Park, albeit without FS. That needed fixing. So just before his arrival, FS called up the entry guard to lock the gates, stopping the honcho in his tracks. When FS was called, he apologized and rushed to greet the guest personally with enthusiasm and charm that was irresistible. Thereafter, Fateh literally pulled him out of his entourage with such ease and finesse that left his retinue speechless and whisked him away in his jeep to showcase the Park.

Later that evening, setting aside all fine dining arrangements, the distinguished visitor instead chose to accept Fateh's invite and joined him at the camp fire. Always the one for some mischievousness, FS candidly told him, "Your hotel provides only 5 star rooms but my Jogi Mahal offers you a million star accommodation" pointing to the star lit heavens. And indeed, Jogi Mahal sitting on the banks of Padam Talao was an incredibly beautiful place to stay where from the balcony of your room you could forever watch the pheasant tailed jacanas walk on lotus leaves, see crocs basking in the sun or if one was lucky, catch a tiger on the far banks. And Fateh was a gracious host who was not intimidated by the rich and the powerful. And that was because he was a completely uninhibited, free flowing and spontaneous person to whom conversation came naturally. So did music. He loved to sing and would burst into an impromptu and passionate delivery of a Gulam Ali gazal "mae apli dhun mein rehta hoon." or some folk song from his native Marwar, with equal ease.

Ssafed Chiriyas
His love of whiskey and music was matched by his love for women. And women loved FS for his flamboyance wit and humour. They came under his spell almost immediately and there are many stories legion about his amorous affairs. In his own words, he loved the migratory "safed chiriyas" that flocked to Ranthambhore every winter. But there was one woman - Diana Wordworth - who came in his life like fairy godmother. It was Diana who polished Fateh's persona and turned him into a style

icon. And Fateh remained a devoted son to Diana till her end. Those were the days when almost every day some dignitary or other was coming to see the famous tigers of Ranthambhore. The Park hit big time when Rajiv Gandhi chose Ranthambhore for a New Year's holiday with family and friends in 1986. It is well known the two were on first name basis. Few years later, Raghu Rai immortalized FS when his astonishing full page picture of Fateh talking to two tigers appeared in a story written by Geoffrey Ward for Nat Geo issue of May 1992. It was Geoff who told his good friend Bill Clinton "in Ranthambhore, go only with Fateh and nobody else". But when Bill came in 2000, Ranthambhore was officially out of bounds for FS who was apparently being punished by state bureaucracy jealous of his success. But they had to eschew their pride and recall FS because Bill will not have it any other way. With such reputation and high recommendation, it was with some trepidation that FS said, he went with Bill because, he had not been in Ranthambhore for some time and had no idea about what was happening with the tigers. But mercifully, the tigers of Ranthambhore did not fail him and there were good sightings. FS related that despite the fact he was tutored by the American protocol to address Bill as "Mr. President", he completely bungled while talking to him, sometimes calling him Sir, other times calling him as Your Excellency, or Your Lordships etc. Till Bill interjected: Fateh, just call me Bill. OK?

There are just so many stories about Fateh that it would take a book to tell them all. In fact there are several that chronicle Fateh's career, his pioneering work in making trails, convincing the villagers to move out of the Park, surviving a fatal attack by the local cattle grazers, his running battle with his own Department, the bureaucrats and the politicians for being politically incorrect, his encounters with poachers, his awards, his philanthropy and his NGO 'Tiger Watch' to mention a few. Above everything else, Fateh was a deeply philosophic person who firmly held in his heart that "nobody can steal my destiny". He was truly a free and fearless person. Many times I heard him say "Tiger is my God. Tiger gives me everything." And it did. Tiger was his life. My friends who were there tell me that the day Fateh passed away on 1st March 2011, a tiger came up to his place, Mea Farms and roared as if to bid him farewell, as he lay in final rest. Fateh may not be around with us but his spirit still permeates Ranthambhore. Once known for Hamir and his women who committed jeaar, now history will also recall Ranthambhore for Fateh Singh Rathore and the tigers he brought back from the brink. |||||

writetoarbit@ashradoot.com



Fateh Singh with the President Bill Clinton and his family in Ranthambhore.

#TRIED&TASTED

Vrat-friendly Recipes

There is a different tradition behind the entire fasting culture and this tradition is called, Siddha Yoga Path

Mahashivratri, a festival where Lord Shiva is worshipped all over the India. The festival begins on the morning of Shivaratri day and ends only on the next day morning. In the morning, devotees perform Abhishek with milk and water and offer different items including Bilva leaves, Bilva fruit and Dhatura. To show their faith toward Lord shiva, the devotees does fasting the entire day which will in return give them the blessings of Shiva. Some observe a nirjala fast where they do not even consume a drop of water, others consume only fruits and milk. There are also people who opt for light, saatvik food on the day. If you are also planning to fast with only light foods to go about the day until you open the fast, we have some quick and easy recipes right here that you can try on the day of MahaShivratri.

Vratwale Paneer Rolls



Ingredients	Preparation
2 potato, boiled	1. Take boiled potato and paneer in a bowl together.
2 cups paneer, mashed	2. Add green chilli and ginger to it.
1 Green chilli	3. Mix them well.
1/2 tsp ginger	4. Add cumin powder, sendhana-mak, raisins, black pepper, cardamom powder, nutmeg and coriander leaves.
1 tsp cumin powder	5. Mix the ingredients well and make a dough.
1 tsp sendhanamak	6. Make rolls out of the dough.
7-8 Raisins	7. Now take ghee in a pan and put the rolls in it to pan fry.
1 tsp black powder	8. Fry till the rolls get golden brown.
1 tsp cardamom powder	9. Serve hot.
A pinch of nutmeg	
2 tsp coriander leaves	
2 tsp ghee	

Kuttu Ka Cheela



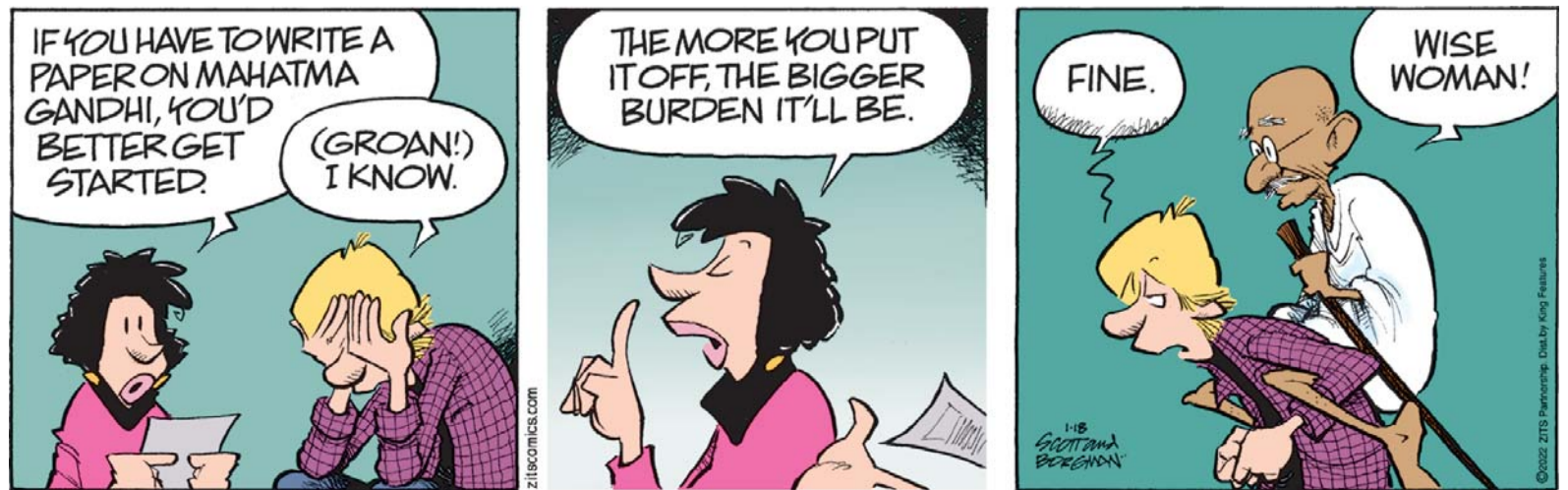
Ingredients	Preparation
100 gmskuttukaataa	1. Make a batter of pouring consistency using kuttukaataa, sendhana-mak, cumin seeds and green chilly.
1 tsp rock salt	2. Grease the hotplate (you can use a non-stick pan as well) with desi ghee.
2 Green chilli, finely chopped	3. With the back of spoon make a round pancake and let it cook till it leaves the side.
50 gms cottage cheese, grated	4. Top it up with grated paneer and shredded ginger.
20 gms desi ghee	5. Serve hot with tamarind chutney or coconut chutney.
10 gms ginger shreds	
1/2 tsp cumin seeds	
For Tamarind chutney:	
100 gms tamarind	1. Soak the tamarind in water till soft and pulpy.
400 gms water	2. Strain and add water to have a thin pouring consistency.
15 gms ginger powder	3. Add remaining ingredients and bring to a boil, then simmer over low flame, till it thickens a little. Cool and serve.
1/2 tsp red chilli powder	
80 gms sugar	
1/4 tsp black pepper powder	
1/2 tsp rock salt	

BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman