



International Fairy Day

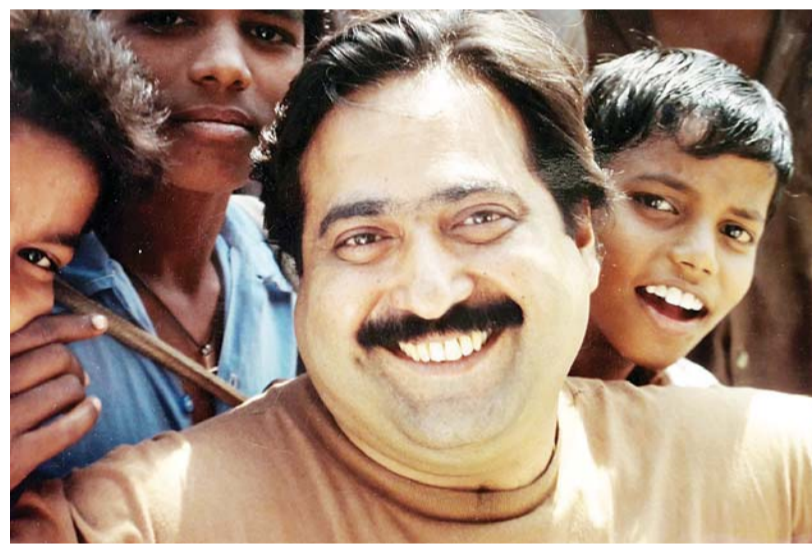
Whether you see them as small winged tenders of the deep natural places of the earth, or as tall stately figures with fair skin and hair, there's one thing for certain. The world has been absolutely captured by the Fairy Craze. These creatures appear on everything from mugs to t-shirts and have been the subject of children's fairy tales and even supernatural romances. International Fairy Day celebrates these incredible mythological creatures that have captured the imagination of people everywhere and their diverse history.

With this issue we are not concluding the series on the Story of Flight, only temporarily pausing it. We shall resume it once again at a more opportune moment. Meanwhile, we hope you enjoyed the new format that will continue to showcase the works of City artists and professionals. Thank you.

-Editor



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Nihal Mathur, Filmmaker, Writer

Nihal Mathur: The compassionate Buddy

Dr Pavan Shorey
Vitreous retinal surgeon, author

Our friendship goes back to the school days, when we cycled down from school to our homes. We shared a common interest in music, literature and movies. In those growing years, Nihal was influenced by Bach and the Beatles. But for me, lyricists like Sahir and Neeraj held sway on my mindscape. In the last year at school, Nihal earned the nickname, AKB or Angrez ka bacca. He went to the Humanities stream while I took up medicine. His occasional visits to my hostel were like a whiff of fresh air unburdening me from the daily grind of the study of dreary tomes of medicine. He would update me on the latest in books, music and poetry. In a sense, he was my cultural Czar. We grow old, health issues etc but the bond remains strong as ever. My clinic is near Nihal's residence and I often stop by for an evening tete a tete (I am an Ophthalmologist). On one such evening, I walked into his office and found him busy on the computer. 'I have no headspace for you, go inside and meet the family.' I was familiar with Nihal's blunt demeanour. After half an hour, he called me, 'See, I have something for you, a collage of stamps representing the Legends in Ophthalmology.' He got it framed and it occupies a pride of place in my clinic. He also presented a montage of stamps on wild

flowers to my late mom on her birthday. Once someone gave me a beautiful Pierre Cardin pen, I already had one, so I decided to gift it to Nihal. He accepted it and in front of me passed it on to his assistant. I was taken aback! 'It was for you, Nihal!' 'You gave it to me, I accepted it but it is now for me to decide how best to use it.' Flustered, I decided never to give him a gift anymore. Years later, we were discussing our attachment to material things. Nihal brought up this incident and said that he was trying to break my attachment to the gift I gave him. He is a compassionate person and he treats the people who serve with respect, calling them his assistants. We were on a trip to Uttarakhand mountains in a car, we stopped at a hotel for lunch. We were three, me, Nihal and our blue blooded Rajput friend. We sat on a table and the driver was looking for a place to sit. Nihal called out, 'Rambabu, sit with us.' Our Rajput friend raised his eyebrows but did not say anything. It is not for me to list out my friend's qualities, suffice to say that he is a person who treats others with kindness. Nothing matters in life - not your riches, not your position in society - what matters is how much at peace you are with yourself and everyone around you. It only comes when a guiding light enters your life, your Guru, the enlightened one. We both were fortunate enough to have a Guru in the time of a crisis in our lives. We are fellow travellers on this spiritual path.

Charles Lindbergh 1902 - 1974

Transatlantic Flight, Kidnapping and Death

Charles Lindbergh was an American aviator who is famous for making the first non-stop flight from New York City to Paris, a distance of 5,800 kms, flying alone for more than 30 hours in his airplane the Spirit of St. Louis in 1927. Although it was not the first transatlantic flight, it was the first solo one which is known as one of the most consequential flights in history and ushered in a new era of air transportation between parts of the globe. For his landmark flight Lindbergh received the highest U.S. Military decoration - the Medal of Honor along with the Distinguished Flying Cross. He also earned the highest French order of merit, the Legion of Honor. Son of a US Congressman, Charles became an Army Air Service cadet in 1924 and the following year was commissioned to the rank of second lieutenant. He worked as a mail pilot for a year and then started preparing for his transatlantic flight in 1927. After his achievement he was not only promoted to the rank of colonel but was also on the cover of Time magazine as the first Man of the Year. In 1932, Lindbergh's infant child was kidnapped and murdered in what the American media called the 'Crime of the Century'. Press hysteria drove the family to Europe and it was only when the Second World War broke out in 1939 that the Lindberghs returned. Charles was openly opposed to US intervention in the war and resigned from Army Air Corps in 1941. Seen as a Nazi sympathizer, he was rejected for active duty. It was President Eisenhower who restored his commission and promoted him to brigadier general in the US Air Force Reserve. In later years he became a Pulitzer Prize winning author, an international explorer and an environmentalist who helped establish National Parks and protect endangered species. Lindbergh died of cancer in 1974 and was accorded status of a national hero.