




The Write Track Season 4



E-BOOK



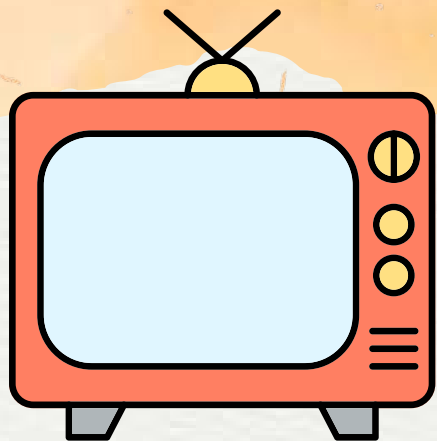
Note from the production team

We are happy to present to you, The Write Track Season 4 Edition 1. The four of us had a wonderful time working on this issue together. All in a day's time! Even in this very short journey, we learnt many things we definitely enjoyed reading the articles and compiling them together into this e-Book. We hope you too enjoy reading the articles!

**- TWT S4 EDITION 1
PRODUCTION TEAM**

TABLE OF CONTRIBUTORS

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Lazy days? They have a lot in them too!

-Maitreyi Aravindan

Some days we are active and feel like doing everything we want to do like there's no tomorrow! We are euphoric the whole day, running around everywhere. But on some days, we don't feel like using our energy for anything productive. On those days, one may love not stepping out of the house the whole day!

I feel lazy only on rainy or cold days. I don't like stepping out during those days. I would love to be inside and spend my time doing nothing productive on that day!

One of the best things I love doing is listening to music and drawing my thoughts at that time. I love doing that while watching the rain. Rain always gives me peace of mind after a hectic day. The soft drops of water hitting the ground outside help my mind relax! As you know, rain always turns a stressful mood into a wonderful, happy mood. I listen to calming music while watching the rain alone as I love spending time with myself.

On a winter day, I would love to stay huddled up for the cold and watch a thrilling movie with all doors closed! A movie

can take you to a special place where you feel like you're a part of the movie.

However, though I have so many activities to do on a lazy day, nothing beats spending time with my cat! Lazy days turn out to be the most memorable ones when I spend time with my pet cat! She always makes my days better than they already are!

Along with these amazing activities, I love cooking as it's enjoyable! What's better than eating?



Traditional shops/bazaars or supermarkets/malls?

- Akshara A

Nowadays, shopping is more than just what it is. Day by day, as the money in our pockets goes up, our obsession with buying increases largely. Honestly, I am no different. Over time, my preferences for shopping changed. I used to be the girl who wanted luxury inscribed in everything I do, see and possess. Hence naturally, I preferred malls and hypermarkets. However in recent times, the cliché “quality over quantity” has seemed to embed itself in my mind. I started to explore roadside markets and bazaars, and I was not disappointed by it.

The first element of attraction has to be its simple and subtle nature. There are no jazzy lights or heavy music. It's just the shop, the environment around it, and us, making it easy to focus on the product and service provided. They leave the perfect imprint in our heads.

Secondly, as I already mentioned, the quality of the product/service is generally higher. This is because bazaars are usually a culmination of small businesses, that thrive in packed crowd scenarios. One of the most significant ways to attract customers like me is to produce quality – and sometimes one-off – products.

Finally, I've learnt a lot more about the products I purchased in local markets than malls because those who tend to us are extremely knowledgeable when it comes to the specifications and details. As a person who loves exploring and learning, this feels much more satisfying and wholesome as an experience.



Protecting Seniors in the Digital Age

-Jayani Neelam



As the world moves faster and further into digitalisation, senior citizens are left behind as they cannot cope with the changes. They are vulnerable to exploitation and cybercrime issues. Thus, it is high time we educate them.

Firstly, it can start off with their own children teaching them about technology like digital payments, mobile recharging, etc. However, their kids also might not be aware of potential threats. Therefore, organisations or NGOs can come forward to organise programmes where they not only teach the elderly to handle gadgets and other digital tools but make them aware of the dos and don'ts, and threats too.

Nevertheless, some people might not be ready to participate in those schemes and some areas might be left out during those schemes. Thus, since social media is a powerful tool these days, videos or posts that can be a direct explanation or interesting and creative methods like role play, or posters can be uploaded and be asked to share with the elderly.

From the smallest of posts that can be viral, to the biggest of schemes, everything can make an impact in creating a digital world where everybody uses digital technology when needed appropriately and effectively and are aware of the benefits, threats and limits and nobody is left behind.



A World Without Penalties - Paradise Or Chaos?

-*Sthuthi Arun*

Imagine a world free of law. No restrictions, no supervision, no retribution. All strings unattached. It sounds delightful, doesn't it? However, in such an ideal society, would human beings really be able to sustain it? Would things go as smoothly as one would expect?

The short answer is: "No." Although we humans have evolved over the hundreds and thousands of centuries, many of our ancestors' animal instincts have been passed down to us. A major one of these is non-compliance – the strong urge to go against the rules and break them.

It is human nature to do things the way we wish to. This can be clearly witnessed in the Indian freedom struggle several decades ago. Indians detested being subordinated by the British. They yearned for freedom. This led to them standing up for themselves and battling the oppressors head-on.



There is no denying that this is a good trait to have. It is basic human nature – the desire to have things go your way. Without this trait, Indians would never have gotten their independence. This quality is imperative for the growth and development of an individual. However, in the pursuit of satisfying this desire, one cannot cause others to be denied their wants and wishes. How is that reasonable?

Thus, in order to maintain peace and tranquillity in society, there is a paramount necessity for a legal system to be put into place. One that everyone follows meticulously. Of course, there is no guarantee that the ideal world of flawless perfection might ever come to be, but it would certainly be a better civilisation than one without rules.

Think of rules and regulations as carrot bait. It is much easier to lure a stubborn donkey by holding bait in front of it than by pulling it along forcefully with a rope.



Change in everyday habits helps our environment

- Jayani Neelam

Though many citizens are becoming eco-conscious as they switch to battery vehicles and plant more trees, one thing that has a serious impact on the environment is waste management.

The first step we can take to do the right thing from our side is segregating the waste. People segregate wet and dry waste, but we must separate the dry waste into plastic, glass, cardboard and medical waste. However many people think that it is not their responsibility and that trash collectors should do it. This misconception of many must change.

Community people can be made aware of our environment through campaigns and social media and trash collectors can be made aware through programmes too.

Kitchen waste can be turned into compost for people who have plants and any leftover food that is not too old can be kept for animals.

Furthermore, there can be weekly or fortnight DIY recycling activities for kids or community people, such as making garden lights from glass bottles to promote the 3R or Reuse, Reduce and Recycle and make people understand that taking simple steps together can build a better society, nation and world.



Convenient Radio; Engaging Video

-Daya Lakshmi Mukundan

Over the last few years, shorter forms of media such as reels or concise articles have become prevalent, leading to the majority of content being made in this form as that is what is currently appealing to audiences. Podcast episodes can range from a dozen or so minutes to even hours. This can make it hard for listeners to pay attention, especially since we are used to quick and brief content.

Audio content also faces a massive roadblock in that the absence of visual stimuli can make it hard to focus on the material. It makes it a lot easier to get distracted from the topic. Radio interviews also lend no insight into the physical state of a person or the emotions they showcase apart from their voice.

Why do some people prefer audio-based media? Well, they only provide one stream of content, so it's far easier to tune in while preoccupied or in need of background noise. Conversely, videos and TV are things that you must give your complete attention to, or set time aside for. You could listen to a podcast while washing the dishes or drawing.

Ultimately, radio and podcasts can be very convenient, but video content is usually more engaging and offers a different layer of information. Both styles of content should be able to coexist and should be appreciated for their respective merits.



Upholding Truth and Accountability in the Press

-Akshara A

In recent times, media in all its forms has become a huge part of our daily lives. As the public now has wider access to information – thanks to social media – we now have greater freedom of speech, and the ability to spread inaccurate information. Misinformation is the greatest consequence if more freedom of speech is granted to people. In this case, what's best for all the stakeholders of this situation has to be a compromise in freedom of speech in order to ensure credible information reaches the public.



If everyone is allowed to broadcast or post news reports, soon we will not be able to distinguish between what is fake and what is real. However if media channels are governed only by the central government, a lot of information could be underreported or not reported at all. Although, in the latter case, whatever information is reported is likely to be from the most credible source.

Personally, what I feel could be a balanced approach has to be one that is unbiased, provides thoroughly researched information and be a voice of the collective public. In addition, the media should provide news that speaks good or bad about all political parties. This is important, especially in democratic countries like India, where it's of high importance that the public can form their own opinions of the government.



Unearthing memories

-Maitreyi Aravindan

It is always amazing when you find your old memories whether it was your diary or journal, or pictures with your old best friend. You always feel great joy in your heart. I felt the same way when I excavated my old diary from deep under the shelf.

I was cleaning my shelf and suddenly a small book fell out. I thought it looked familiar. Before I opened the book, I had a train of thoughts as to what would be written in that book. I wanted to guess the contents so I didn't open that book but nothing struck me, so I kept that book away and continued cleaning. After cleaning, I kept that book on my table and went to talk to a friend. As we were talking, she suddenly showed me a picture from a movie I had watched about 8 years ago. I suddenly had an epiphany of the content in the book!

After speaking to my friend, I ran to my room and took the book. I finally realized that it was my writing of my feelings on memorable days. I had watched the same movie on the day I wrote.



I opened the book. When I started reading, it was a wonderful journey back to my childhood. I felt as if the time had gone back to the past. Of course, my writing and language were hilarious and I couldn't help laughing at myself.

That wonderful diary had so many memories. The best one was when we all had pranked one of my friends by inviting her to a “tea party”, only to pop a water balloon on her! I showed the book to my friends too. That day, that diary took all of us back to our old times.

I love writing diaries and always did because those are the best records of memories. Time may not bring back all the past, but memories do bring the effect of the past. Remember to make the most of these days because you will never get them back. Take pictures or write down your feelings and experiences of your day. I have experienced beautiful memories.

Future in the hands of the present

~ **Adithi R**

We are in the 'Decline of our Environment' Era.

Change is inevitable, we all know that. However, habit is a vicious cycle. Any action that becomes a habit is impossible to get out of. Earth is ageing as the generations grow. Littering on the roads, using air conditioners, plastic bags from markets and production of single-use plastic – these are just a few of the many habits that are slowly but definitely destroying our world.

Small steps sometimes have great impacts. On that note, everyday habits like failing to take cloth to a nearby store to get addicted to using air conditioners are posing inevitable risks to the environment. The rate of mortality due to plastic use is increasing by 0.2% every year and the emission of Chlorofluorocarbons from air conditioners is a major contributor to global warming and eventually climate change.



There's no big process that is happening behind the scenes, every action is having a reaction. Abnormal temperature fluctuations and a decrease in the population of marine and terrestrial ecosystems are the results of our lethargicness.

Let's start simple – taking cloth bags to supermarkets, avoiding littering on the road, carrying your own water bottle, limiting the use of air conditioners. It's going to be difficult to step out of our habits and take the extra mile to save the environment, but what has the proverb “something is better than nothing” taught us?

The future generation deserves a better place to live. The world has thrived for 4.5 billion years and it can survive 4.5 more, with a little effort from us. Small beginnings are the first steps to a bigger and better world. Regardless of how small it is, with determination and persistence. Simple things make a difference too. The man who wishes to move a mountain starts by picking smaller stones first. Let's build a better world, together!



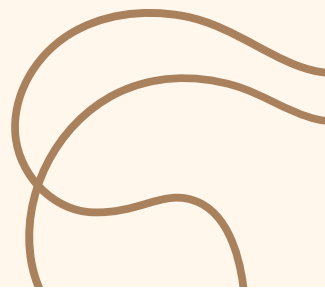
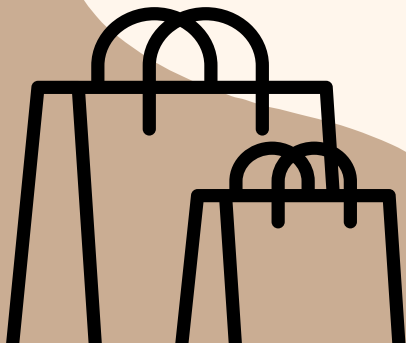
Let the bazaars and malls coexist

~ **Daya Lakshmi Mukundan**

Both traditional bazaars and malls have their own benefits.

If you have a wider budget, and a very clear or specific idea of what you want to buy, a mall would probably be the best option for you. The prices tend to skew higher, but shops in malls often sell higher-quality products, with multiple different options based on colour, size, etc.

However, if your budget is lower and you have only a vague idea of your purpose, a traditional bazaar would be optimal. The prices are generally lower, and you may haggle with the shopkeeper to find a more reasonable price. However, the items are sometimes of lower quality or have been exposed to the elements.

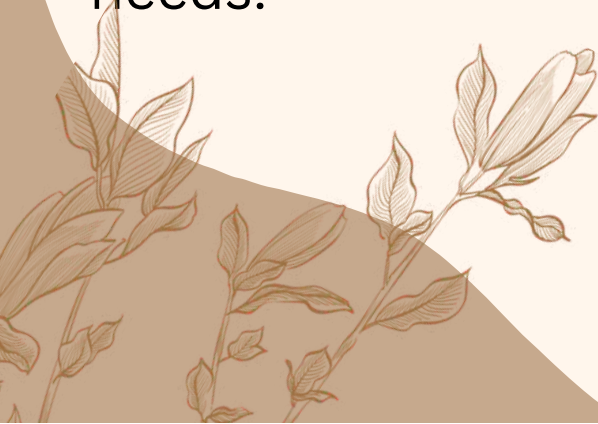




Different people have varying needs and preferences and should make their decisions based on what best suits them. For example, clothes in a traditional bazaar may not fit you exactly, while malls will usually have the item in every size possible. While the items in a bazaar may not always be of good quality, mass-produced items from a supermarket can also be defective.

Buying clothes from a bazaar can help support the local craftsmen and communities. Malls can also aid in a bonding experience; to go shopping with your friends or family.

I hope that supermarkets and malls never replace the local bazaars, so they can both cater to our needs.



Make a change. Cultivate Self-Acceptance

- *Adithi R*

Mental health awareness is so overtalked, and yet there are millions suffering from poor mental health. Among the many reasons that lead to this, non-constructive criticism is a major contributor.

Judgements about how we could instead look, how we could perform a particular task, how we could be like the perfect neighbour kid and so much more.

Constant comparisons and continuous judgements are deteriorating the health of many teenagers. The teenage phase is like a flower in a budding stage. How the bud blooms into a beautiful flower depend on the quantity and quantity of so many factors. Too much water, highly acidic soil or lack of sunlight could inhibit the

growth of the bud. How a teenager becomes an adult depends on so many other factors too. It's a phase of change. The best exposure could result in the best adult. If I were to campaign for one cause, I would campaign for the betterment of teenagers' lives!



Let's stop comparing the kids, let's stop judging them for who they are. Instead, let's energise with the best positive affirmations! Day in and day out let's compliment their looks, and appreciate their efforts. It's time we started practising accepting our flaws and spreading only positivity. Negativity could kill a person.

Deconstruct the thoughts about the perfect human being. No one's perfect! Let's accept ourselves and work on ourselves not because society wants us to be in a certain way but entirely because we want to.



Review: *Vaathi* – a positive change in the corrupt education system

-*Jayani Neelam*



There are several movies that are getting released each year and some of them gain a lot of popularity too. One such film is reasonably popular in the south Indian industry

whose streaming partner was Netflix was 'Vaathi' in Tamil and 'Sir' in Telugu.

It is a movie worth watching especially for the age groups of teens to parents. Though it won't be really engaging for small children and grandparents, it spreads a good message to anybody who watches it.

The story revolves around a young junior lecturer at a private college who is shifted to teach at a government college and his will to prevent education, a powerful and sacred tool to change society from being turned into a corrupt business.

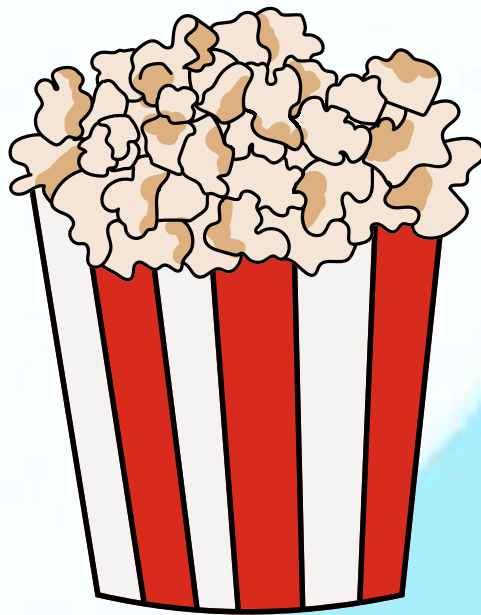
The lecturer's role is wonderfully played by the Indian film actor Dhanush and in par with his action is Samuthirakani playing the villain role. The heroine in this film is a teacher too and has the vision to teach for free in remote areas The music director, G.V. Prakash Kumar has done a good job as the songs were reasonable and the song '*Vaa Vaathi*' has become quite popular and there are some other inspiring music and songs too.



In my opinion, the story is the highlight and the director, Venky Atluri has done an amazing job as he courageously depicts the corrupt side of the education system. It is an inspiring story for the youth to watch as they realise how many people struggle to fulfil their dream of getting educated and getting proper resources, a school and staff in the first place and how many obstacles they go through as their dreams get crushed due to financial disability or other social barriers, out of which corrupt education too stands as a barrier to many students and that how we as students who

get access to all kinds of facilities, can aid and share our knowledge for free and make a change.

There is a beautiful scene that has the dialogue “*Panam eppadi venum naalum sampathikkalaam, Aana padippu than mariyathaiyai sampathichu tharum*” which translates to “We can earn money any way we want. But it’s only through education that we can earn respect”. The movie truly motivated me to make a positive change in corrupt education systems or at least help students who are financially disadvantaged and respect education and its power and ability.



Nostalgic notebooks

~ **Daya Lakshmi Mukundan**

I always love to find the stories I wrote when I was younger. Sometimes, I can remember the exact circumstances under which I created them, and other times I can't recall a single thing, and am looking at it with fresh eyes. Either way, I can look at them and instantly know when they were written – based on the references I make and any evident influences I have.

Many of the earliest things I wrote were simply me rephrasing some scenes of my favourite books, only tweaking the characters and the settings they were in. I believe that is the single best way to find joy in writing (although you cannot imitate forever).

Reading an old story of mine is like having a look into my brain from back then. Is it optimistic, cynical, creepy or absurd?



Kids are known for being extremely imaginative, and that is something I can see in my own work from back then, as well as in my relatives now.

It's always very exciting and nostalgic to unearth something that was made when the world was a different place, regardless of whether it was nine years ago or 900. It can emphasise growth and show you what you have learnt from it. In a way, going through your old things is sort of like archaeology of the self!

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DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

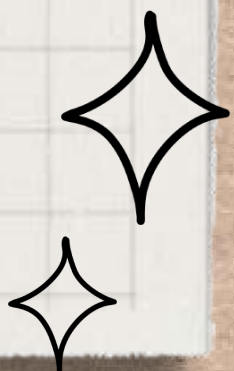
-Maitreyi Aravindan

Elections are held in different states of India at different points in time for the people to elect a new government that will rule the state. For the central level and for the state level, elections are held once in 5 years. The next election for the central government is in 2024. The state of Karnataka recently had elections on May 10, 2023, and the results are yet to be announced.

There is something called the Election Code of Conduct which talks about the dos and don'ts of the parties during the elections. This comes into effect as soon as the Elections are announced by the Election Commission of India.



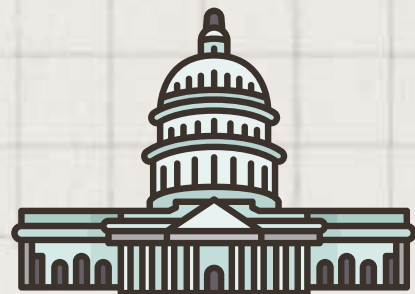
**YOUR VOTE
HAS POWER**





When elections are announced, each party starts their campaign to gain votes from the people and to form the government. They also nominate the contestants on behalf of their party. There are also independents who do not belong to any specific political party. Each party comes up with their own manifesto. These contain a set of promises that they intend to fulfil if they are elected power. Each party has its own way of campaigning. Many leaders give powerful speeches to the people in order to get elected. There is a lot of fun as candidates throw a lot of mud at each other! Finally, it is the people's vote or mandate that decides the government.

All parties have to stop campaigning 48 hours before the elections as it gives the citizens time to think and vote. On voting day, people vote for the most favourable party or candidate to them. Physical ballot papers were used in the olden days.





As technology has advanced, Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) are used now. There used to be many debates in terms of whether EVMs are safe and whether or not they can be manipulated. Finally, it was found that they are safe.

After the voting day, the EVMs from different constituencies are collected and stored in places where they are guarded till the votes are counted. Again, there will be much speculation from the day of the elections till the results are announced in terms of who will win. Finally, after the counting gets completed, the party that received the majority votes, is declared as the winner and they are asked to form the government.

In Karnataka, the results of the elections haven't been announced yet and all parties and people are anticipating for the results with crossed fingers! Naturally, everyone will be looking forward to the party they had voted to be the winning party. The entire exercise is like a festival and no wonder it is called the festival of democracy.



*Thank
You*

for reading!

We welcome your
feedback

-Team YOCee

