YOUR 360° GUIDE TO STAY ENGAGED ONLINE
ART GALLERIES & MUSEUMS
The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi is hosting a virtual tour of its repository of several thousand artworks. Virtually created to represent the gallery’s layout, the tour lets you see artworks by Amrita Sher-Gil, Jamini Roy, Ramkinkar Baij and Nandalal Bose, among several others.
AT INDIA’S FINEST ART MUSEUMS

There’s no better way to explore extensive collections of modern and contemporary art with paintings, sculptures and experimental creations, all for you to view in virtual mode — from the National Museum and the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art in Delhi to the Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum in Mumbai, and much more. Enjoy the art!
TREASURES FROM ACROSS CENTURIES

Get an immersive experience of the Kerala Folklore Museum, a unique architectural, ethnography and anthropology museum. It comprises the reconstruction of around 25 heritage buildings from different parts of Kerala, showcasing the best traditional architecture from the region, with one of the largest ethnic collections of more than 6,000 artworks.
ARTEFACTS AT THE SALAR JUNG MUSEUM

A series of video tours lets you explore the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad and its magnificent collection of art objects and antiques of Indian origin, and also of Western art, including a considerable collection from the Middle East and Far East. Don’t miss the enchanting ‘Veiled Rebecca’ marble statue, among the many artefacts on display.
THE STREET IS AN ART CANVAS

Art lovers can get a detailed look at the world of graffiti with overviews, detailed background info on artists, stories of the public artworks and their locations across the world with the Street Art Cities app. Google Arts and Culture also offers street art walkthroughs at cities like Buenos Aires, Lisbon and other global destinations.
Google Arts and Culture offers virtual access to London’s Tate Modern and New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art, among many other landmark museums. Don’t miss tours of the Frida Kahlo Museum, the Van Gogh Museum and the Rembrandt exhibit at the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum.
ANCIENT EGYPT AT THE LOUVRE, PARIS

The Louvre Museum in Paris houses some of the world's most historic artefacts and works of art. Among other virtual shows, The Egyptian Antiquities Tour gives you a look at pharaohs, mummies and hieroglyphs from a rare collection.
ART IN THE AGE OF LONELINESS

The National Gallery of Victoria, Australia’s oldest and most visited gallery, is hosting some of its most noted shows online. Don’t miss the exhibits of Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat among many others, and the special collection, *Kaws: Companionship in the Age of Loneliness*.
ART IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

*How Can We Think of Art at a Time Like This?* is an online exhibition, co-curated by Barbara Pollack and Anne Verhallen, as a platform for the exchange of ideas in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The hosts hope to open a dialogue at a time of social distancing, and are inviting artists to share their thoughts every day. Join the conversation!
Alexander McQueen’s Sarabande Foundation has rolled out a series of free lectures on art and fashion. The Sarabande Sessions include a conversation between fashion photographer Tim Walker and designer Molly Goddard, talks from Turner Prize winner Grayson Perry, artist Maggie Hambling, Andrew Bolton and more.
WITH MONET’S WATER LILIES

Wander virtually in the two oval rooms of the Water Lilies, designed by Claude Monet between 1915 and 1926 in Giverny, and immerse yourself in all of the eight compositions and monumental works of the master impressionist, on the website of the Musée de l’Orangerie, Paris.
JK Rowling has launched an online initiative with an independent website that features quizzes, games and other activities based on the Harry Potter series of books. Also look out for free audio and digital editions of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* on Audible and OverDrive.
Audible Stories lets you listen to audio books for free, with content ranging from preschool to classic literature. No app download, no login required, no ads. Languages include English, German, French, Italian and Japanese.
A WEB LIBRARY FOR THE WORLD’S KIDS

The International Children’s Digital Library hosts an exhaustive collection of books online that is available to read for free. The collection includes region-specific titles, award-winning books and the best of children’s literature from around the world.
FREE BOOKS IN INDIAN LANGUAGES

The National Book Trust, India is offering a selection of titles for free download on its official website — in languages from Asamiya, Bangla, Bodo, Gujarati, Hindi, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Sanskrit and more.
ESSENTIAL BOOKS TO UNDERSTAND COVID-19

Here are two essential books to understand the deadly virus that is taking over the globe: *How Contagion Works: Science, Awareness and Community in Times of Global Crises* by Paolo Giordano, and *Deadliest Enemy: Our War Against Killer Germs* by Michael T Osterholm and Mark Olshaker. Look out for the hardback versions or you can buy the audio book releases right away.
Jaipur Literature Festival is now hosting a series of book discussions online titled ‘Brave New World’, allowing viewers to listen to speakers including Shashi Tharoor, Abhinav Chandrachud and Bruno Maçães, among several others. Get the updates for new sessions on the JLF social media pages.
Mahabalipuram or Mamallapuram on the Coromandel Coast is home to a number of landmark monuments and monolithic cave temples. A popular tourist attraction, rich in artistic wealth, this is one resource on ancient Tamil architecture and sculpture that you just cannot afford to miss.
HAMPi’S MARVELS
FOR ALL SEASONS

Walk along the rocky hills of Hampi and leisurely explore the Hemakuta temples, on this virtual tour. Take your time at the temple courtyards to admire the intricate details of the ancient architecture and sculptural work. Minus the harsh sun and crowds, of course.
GET A BIRD’S EYE VIEW OF BELUR

This virtual tour gives you panoramic views of Belur, on the banks of the Yagachi River in Hassan district — an ancient city cloaked in mystery. Once called Velapura, Belur was an alternate capital of the Hoysala dynasty after the destruction of Dwarasumudra (Halibeedu). There’s a lot more history to learn here.
A VR PILGRIMAGE TO SEE BAHUBALI

This 57-foot monolithic statue at Vindyagiri Hill, Shravanbelagola, in Karnataka, is one of the world’s largest stone statues of its kind. Bearing inscriptions dating back to 981 AD, it is called ‘Statue of Gommateshwara’ by locals, while the Jains refer to it as ‘Bahubali’. Make a virtual pilgrimage to the ancient monument.
Photographer HJ Weber offers a fascinating 360° video tour of the Likir Buddhist Monastery or Likir Gompa (Klud-kyil) in Ladakh, west of Leh, picturesquely situated on a little hill in the Kashmir valley near the Indus River. You couldn’t get any closer to paradise this easily!
INDIA’S LANDMARK MONUMENTS

Get immersive 360°, panoramic virtual tours of the awe-inspiring Lotus Temple in Delhi, the historic Meenakshi Temple in Madurai, Golkonda Fort in Hyderabad, St Mary’s Cathedral in Kerala, and several other landmark historic sites.
WORLD HERITAGE SITES OF INDIA

Here’s the easiest way for you to visit UNESCO World Heritage Sites across India — from the Red Fort in Agra to the Ajanta and Ellora Caves in Aurangabad, the Mughal Gardens of Amber Palace in Amer, and even the Jantar Mantar Observatory in Jaipur. You can even head out on a virtual train ride at Shimla!
NATIONAL PARKS OF THE WORLD

Get a virtual tour of the world’s best national parks with Google’s staggering 360° visuals of the Kenai Fjords in Alaska, volcanoes in Hawaii, the Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico and more.
TAKE THAT VIRTUAL DIVE

Lovers of the oceans and marine sanctuaries can take a virtual plunge for 360° views of Florida Keys, Gray’s Reef, Monterey Bay, American Samoa and more. Try with a VR headset or goggles for the best experience.
COME VISIT THE SISTINE CHAPEL

Take a virtual tour of the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican City for some rare glimpses of the chapel’s ceiling that bears iconic paintings by Michelangelo, including *The Creation of Adam* and *The Last Judgment*.
SPY ON REPTILES DOWN UNDER

Australian Reptile Park has started live streams on a daily basis, bringing their animals to people’s lounge rooms virtually. The landmark wildlife sanctuary is also hosting educational videos for kids, hosted by Tim Faulkner, and live-streaming zookeepers showcasing their favourite animals and answering viewer questions.
The arrival of spring in the US is marked by the blooming of cherry blossom trees. With festivities closed this year, the National Cherry Blossom Festival is hosting a new #BloomCam to allow people to virtually monitor Washington DC’s famous budding cherry blossom trees along the Tidal Basin in real-time as they bloom.
GET SPACED OUT
ON NASA AT HOME

NASA offers 360° virtual tours of the Hubble Space Telescope Control Center, the Langley Research Center in Virginia and the Space Center in Houston. In the NASA Glenn Hangar tour, you can even sit inside cockpits of aircrafts like the Viking and Twin Otter. Don’t miss the Zero Gravity Facility, Ballistic Impact Facility and Supersonic Wind Tunnel.
FANCY BEING A CITIZEN SCIENTIST?

I Naturalist is a crowdsourced species-identification system that connects people with nature, and allows everyone to participate in citizen science. An initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society, the website and mobile app also offers blogs, video tutorials and teaching guides.
ON SONG WITH TCHAIKOVSKY

By composing *Swan Lake*, Tchaikovsky captured the legend of the immaculate bird, to create some of the most beautiful music ever written for ballet. You can catch a performance of the show hosted online by Opera National de Paris.
OPERA IN YOUR LIVING ROOM

The Royal Opera House, London is hosting an exhaustive offering of ballets, operas and even rehearsals on its official YouTube channel. Don’t miss Handel’s *Acis and Galatea*, *Romeo and Juliet* and so much more.
The Metropolitan Opera in New York hopes to brighten the lives of audiences even while their stage is dark. Each day, a different encore presentation from the company’s *Live in HD* series is made available for free streaming, for a period of 23 hours each. The schedule includes complete performances from the past 14 years, starring the greatest singers of all time.
Actress and dancer Madhuri Dixit Nene has teamed up with Kathak exponent Birju Maharaj and ace choreographers including Saroj Khan, Terence Lewis and Remo D’Souza to offer dance lessons on her website. Madhuri’s online dance academy will host two dance classes every week for free.
Andrew Lloyd Webber is making some of his iconic musicals available for free on YouTube, starting with *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Further shows will be announced later, all hosted by the channel *The Show Must Go On*, and each show will be available for a 48-hour period only.
TIME TO CHECK OUT BOILER ROOM GIGS

Nothing is more suited to social distancing than the Boiler Room gigs that were created to connect the world with small gigs streamed online. On their YouTube page, you can enjoy concerts by Saoirse, Diamin and Steam Down among several others.
‘The Philharmonie is closed – so we will come to you!’ That’s the promise from the good folk at the Berliner Philharmoniker, who are now hosting concerts and films free for online viewing on their official website.
PLAY LIKE A ROCK STAR

Fender is looking to inspire aspiring musicians by offering three months of online music lessons — of guitar (acoustic and electric), bass and ukulele — for free. They also offer video tutorials for hit songs by Ed Sheeran, Green Day and Rage Against the Machine, among others.
GET YOUR MUSIC FIX AT THE TINY CONCERTS

NPR’s ‘Tiny Desk Concerts’ are popular for their intimate and acoustic settings with acts such as Coldplay, The Black Crowes, Harry Styles, Taylor Swift and Alt J having featured in the concert series so far.
EDUCATION
Impartus, a video platform for lecture capture and distribution of classroom lectures, is hosting free live virtual classes for schools, colleges and universities. Amit Mahensaria, Co-founder and CEO, said that students and teachers can log on to live.impartus.com and register to directly access the content. There is no need to download the app.
Unacademy is conducting 20,000 free live classes on its platform, available across exam categories — UPSC, banking, railways, etc — over 700 classes per day. Gaurav Munjal, Co-Founder and CEO, said that they are extending these free live classes to April and May as well, as long as the lockdown persists.
Vedantu is offering free access to all their live classes of Vedantu Master Teachers, Study Material, Tests and Assignments to students, parents and schools in Bengaluru, New Delhi, Kerala and Hyderabad. It will cater to Grades I to XII as well as for JEE and NEET. The entire programme can be accessed on mobile, desktop, PC and/or tablets.
‘upGrad Live’ replicates a real-time classroom learning experience by providing greater interactivity, real-time doubt resolution, in-class concept check and session analytics to gauge live session performances. The Live Platform is available to educational institutions and universities free of cost. Ronnie Screwvala, Executive Chairman and Co-Founder, says they have a team of experts “to ensure the best execution in hosting a live class online”
Internshala Trainings is providing free access for students to learn skills in programming, data science, business, design, creative writing and so on through its online training programmes for students from Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Leh and Ladakh. Any bona fide student can enrol in any of the programmes for free until they complete it. Sarvesh Agrawal, Founder and CEO, says, “It is important that we work together with the government to fight Coronavirus at this time”
IIT Madras-incubated start-up GUVI is offering online IT skills courses to prepare students impacted by the nationwide shutdown, for campus placements, free of cost. With final semester exams fast approaching for engineering colleges, students can now courses here for free. SP Balamurugan, Co-founder & CEO, says, “We need to ensure that they have the requisite skills for bright job prospects. We are working towards our goal”
Mindspark, an education research organisation, is offering 60-days free access to all students from Class I to X to learn Mathematics at home with Mindspark Maths. Students can follow their own learning path based on their current level, at a pace they are comfortable with. Students who are already using Mindspark through their schools need to simply log onto the website and continue to learn from where they left off.”
EBSCO and its partners are providing free resources and expanded access to content to help you support your institutions. The company says, “As we all grapple with the impact of COVID-19, the move to online research and learning and the desire for recreational activities have put libraries around the world in a unique position to serve. Libraries have cultivated a rich online experience for years, and the pandemic has forced colleges and universities and K-12 schools to move residential, or in-person learners, to online learners”
GET THE BEST OF SCHOLASTIC INDIA

Scholastic India is offering free e-learning resources amid the COVID lockdown. With Scholastic Learn at Home, you can get free grade-wise learning resources and activities for the next 20 days. These are day-to-day projects to keep children engaged for three hours a day.
UPLIFTING FILMS TO WATCH WITH FAMILY
GAME OVER: BENDING RULES

An intricate thriller starring Taapsee Pannu that offers more than what meets the eye. A wheel-chair bound gamer and her housekeeper have to defend themselves from a dangerous intruder. They get three chances before the game gets over for them.
TRAPPED: LOCKED AT HOME

Rajkummar Rao’s film is a survival drama about a man stuck alone in 35th floor. A call-center employee is stuck in an isolated and empty high-rise building with no one to rescue him. He has to get out, or risk losing his girlfriend who is about to get married to someone else.
BADLA: MURDER AND REVENGE

Amitabh Bachchan, Taapsee Pannu hold fort in this gripping remake. Naina Sethi, a young businesswoman, is arrested for murdering her secret lover. A prestigious lawyer, who comes to her rescue, realises Naina is not entirely honest with him.
CRIMINAL: UK
BELIEVE WHO?

Mind games between criminals and cops. Starring David Tennant, the show is set in a police interrogation room, in which the criminals are being questioned by the cops. What ensues is a cat and mouse game, confined to the single room.
A date goes terribly wrong. When Madhiazhagan (Arunidhi) wakes up, he finds his last night’s date, Malarvizhi (Shraddha Srinath), dead. Worse, he cannot recollect what happened last night. Can he find the truth about the murder to save himself?
BIGIL: FOOTBALL TURNS LIFE AROUND

An engaging football actioner overloaded with Vijay’s antics. A football player-turned-local don is forced to coach a women’s football team to fulfill a promise, and later, for revenge.
KANAA: BOWL FOR WOMEN’S CRICKET

An endearing sports drama that leaves you in tears of joy. Kousalya (Aishwarya Rajesh), a village girl struggles hard to become an Indian cricketer to make her father (Sathyaraj) proud. Apart from poverty and class bias, the father-daughter duo fights many odds to realise their dreams.
JERSEY: RELIVE DREAMS OF GLORY

A brilliant central performance leads this emotional cricket film. Jersey, directed by Gautam Tinnanuri is more than a sports drama. It tells the fascinating story of a 36-year-old ex-Ranji best batsman, Arjun (Nani), who reignites his passion for cricket and sets out with the hope to represent the Indian cricket team.
SAAND KI AANKH: AIM FOR VICTORY

A heart-rendering saga. This biographical drama starring Bhumi Pednekar and Taapsee Pannu traces the lives of Chandro and Prakashi Tomar, the sisters-in-law from Johri village in Uttar Pradesh, who in their 60s, become two of the oldest sharpshooter champions in the world, winning several medals in various competitions over the years.
GOLD: INDIAN HOCKEY HISTORY

A fittingly titled historical sports drama. Written and directed by Reema Kagti, this sports drama is set in the post-Independence era, and narrates the story of Tapan Das (Akshay Kumar), manager of the Indian hockey team, who faces many obstacles as he prepares the first all-Indian team for the 1948 London Olympics, with the sole aim of winning a Gold medal.
PANGA: KABADDI DREAMS FOR LIFE

A roller coaster of emotions. Directed by Ashwini Iyer Tiwari, Panga is a tribute to all working mothers who are also engaged in domestic duties, and at the same time find their passion, and work to achieve their dreams.
SOORMA: THE SPIRIT OF WINNERS

A comeback triumph. Soorma is a sports drama that tosses around an ambitious story of the legendary Indian hockey player, Sandeep Singh, who overcomes paralysis to lead the Indian team to triumph.
BADHAAI HO: A LOVING FAMILY

A lovely take on complex, middle-class sensibilities. Quick review: A simple, normal, genuine, middle-class values-filled film that reminds us to love our parents, and also reminds us that our parents do more than just love each other.
ALA VAIKUNTHA PURRAMULO

Three dads, three sons, and whole a lot of entertainment. Our quick review: Although the narrative follows the blueprint of a typical family drama, the story offers twists and punchy dialogues at regular intervals. There’s comedy, romance, and heaps of emotional drama powered by inventive use of music. As the story takes off, we don’t see Allu Arjun, the star; we only see Bantu
A sweet journey filled with sugar, spice and everything nice. Quick review: This 111-minute film is a cinematic portrait of relationships, and mirrors real-life situations. It brings out the perspectives of three generations and focuses on mid-life crises, at the same time pointing out that it is never too late to turn life around and remake it the way you want it to be. Connect with people and do things that make you happy.
SILLU KARUPPATTI: WITH A LI’L LOVE

Life truths with a bundle of sweets and a pinch of salt. Quick review: This film is the equivalent of a pat on your shoulder, and someone saying, ‘There, there. As long as there’s love in the world, you will be fine.’ In an increasingly cynical time, an anthology like Sillu Karupatti, which shows a lot of love not just for humans, but for turtles and crows too, is a much-needed breather.
A realistic tale of two intertwining journeys.

Quick review: The mix of emotions and humour is so perfect here that it makes one search for tissues to wipe tears of sadness, and in minutes, tears of laughter. It is filled with simple yet adorable things any lower-middle-class person would dream of, like travelling in an A/C train, or wearing a suit. The film encourages us to take a pause, forget all our worries, and relish every single moment of our lives.
INTO BATMAN’S ARKHAM WORLD

Batman becomes a 3D reality, while keeping up the Arkham mythology in *Batman: Arkham VR*. Longtime fans of the gaming series must note, the VR version does not follow the fixed storyline of prequels and sequels of Batman movies and other platform games.
HALF-LIFE COMES FULL CIRCLE

Half-Life: Alyx, one of Valve’s first VR releases, is a mind-bending joyride with a physics system to die for. Head-scratching scientific puzzles, zombie-infested death pits and more make this a Half-Life game that will fill every nook and cranny of your imagination.
As Astro the captain bot, you are on an epic VR rescue mission to save your fellow crew dispersed all over space. In *Astro Bot: Rescue Mission*, you get to run and jump through city skylines, lush jungles, dark caves and golden sandy beaches in 20 unique levels that make full use of PlayStation’s VR capabilities.
A VIRTUAL RETURN TO WORLD WAR II

Here’s a game based on real-life events of the past, and an immersive VR experience that takes you back to the 1940s, faithfully re-creating life during war-torn Europe. As a player on Medal of Honor: Above and Beyond, you need to sabotage the Nazis, survive deadly attacks, offer support to the French resistance, and so on. A must-own for history fans.
NEVER BE ANGRY IN BIRD LAND!

Angry Birds in VR? You got that right! Angry Birds VR: Isle of Pigs gives you some seriously fun gameplay as you get to knock down complex creations overrun by evil little piggies, and also make your own block fortresses in creative mode.
HEADLONG INTO A ZOMBIE UNIVERSE

The Walking Dead: Saints & Sinners is a new VR first-person shooter, based on the comic book series by Robert Kirkman, where you ace the art of killing zombies with some cool weapon mods, a refined physics-based system, and a high level of polish.
ALWAYS
BE ENGAGED!
STAY TUNED
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