

Circuses

Jubilant and alive, impromptu, enthusiastic, fun, grit – tinged with a touch of pathos. Circuses. Indian circuses have always been a site for the coupling of human dexterity and courage with meagre incomes and a life perpetually left hanging, literally.

This dying art form is extremely popular in smaller towns and cities of the country often stirring unprecedented excitement by its arrival. A circus performance is magnificent to watch with acrobats invading the air, clowns performing their gimmicks, little girls in gaudy dresses darting through rings of fire, artists performing unbelievable stunts with such ease as if its nature, ferocious animals subservient to the master of them all – man.

The panorama is fascinating, as are all the stories that are hidden backstage. A sight to behold, and not just metaphorically.