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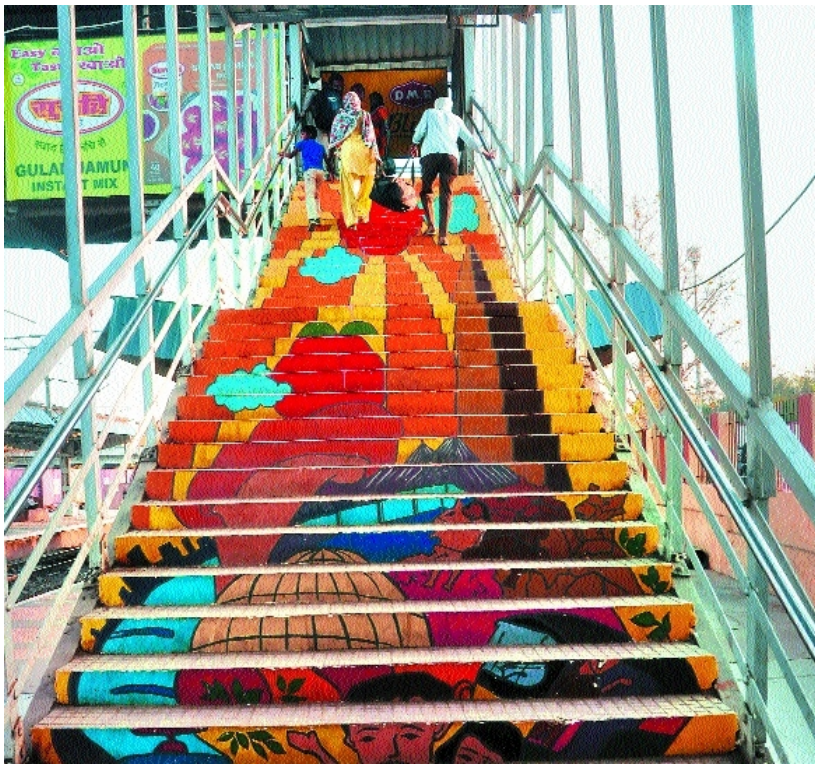
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City artist transforms Ajni rly station into bright art gallery

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By Sagar Mohod

Art is not something that should remain within the confines of four walls of Art galleries. Art has to provide meaning to the lives of people. Driven by this passion, a city artist descended at Ajni Railway Station and provided a touch of her artistry to otherwise mundane walls and pillars. What a transformation she has done. The general drab railway station now basks in the vividness of bright colours, perfectly.

The person who has transformed the Ajni station is Priyanka Wankhede, a city girl who aspires to give a facelift to Nagpur that is fast becoming the most happening place. Priyanka wondered why not make the most of her talent and thoughts by giving a new look to contemporary walls and steps of Ajni railway station. Priyanka's enthusiasm got wings following local railway officials' in-principle approval to her plan.

After getting the green signal in the last week of March, Priyanka got to work, all alone. She painstakingly worked hard to make her creativity get a touch of class. She started by giving a new look to the compound wall.

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Believing in -- The first impression is the last impression -- she says, "A gaze on the bright colourful walls with vibrant pictures gives a different impression about the city to the visitors."

The steps leading to foot-over-Bridge (FoB) also have various pictures. She attempted to incorporate city's structures in her paintings. Upcoming metro rail, the Zero Mile Stone, the Geographical Mile Stone, a part of heritage as well as history, are on her wide canvas.

Similarly, life at the railway station has vivid reflection in the images that include a person taking a selfie, the latest hobby, especially among youths.

Although diminutive, Priyanka has set her sight on towering heights as she shares her dream with 'The Hitavada' of painting the cooling towers of Koradi Thermal Power Plant (KTPS). While entering city one sees huge overhead water tanks on top of buildings and she is dreaming as to how they would look if draped in colourful motifs. Yes, she accepts these are quite challenging tasks but are determined to find ways to don them with her creativity.

Such paintings are common in Mumbai as almost all railway stations have been painted by local artists. Similarly, in Western countries, the cooling towers of power plants are smartly painted, she added.

For Priyanka, the helping hands on part of railway officials assured that her task accomplished smoothly. Otherwise, unlike foreign countries where crowd-funding easily provide support to such thoughts, projects in India are bit difficult.

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