

THE GLOBAL TIMES
QUARANTINE
Special

This edition that you hold in your hand is a special one. It is a compilation of the best of GT Quarantine Special editions that Amitians churned out with thoughtful articles and beautiful illustrations, donning their hats of creativity during the lockdown period.

The nine lives

Which One Would You Choose?

Universe and unity: From the clean Ganges water to the levels of pollution reducing globally, the stride to survive is universal. This pandemic has helped us in adapting to the changes taking place all over the world. And none of this would've been possible without us universally adopting an understanding of this matter.

When attitude ameliorated...
As we all deal with this unfortunate event, we are learning the powerful lesson of building resilience and character in the face of the problem.

Gratitude and growth: We have all learned to be grateful to our resources for survival, our families and teachers for support, healthcare and policy workers for saving lives, and The Global Times for this platform. As we introspect, we realise that learning to be truly thankful- of people and circumstances- is the rebirth of a man's mind and personality.

Satisfaction and smiles: With his acceptance of reality, it looks like the evolved man has paved his path towards happiness. A happy and content life in such times is not any less than a life-saving miracle.

Freedom and fairness: It took us generations of colonisation to respect the virtue of freedom, however, it took just one microorganism to truly understand the value of freedom in our lives. The freedom of breathing in pure air and the freedom of normalcy- the essentials of life, but at the cost of life itself? No. Thus, the evolved man is now saving himself now by curtailing his freedom.

When relations meet revelations...
As we proceed to continue our busy lives,

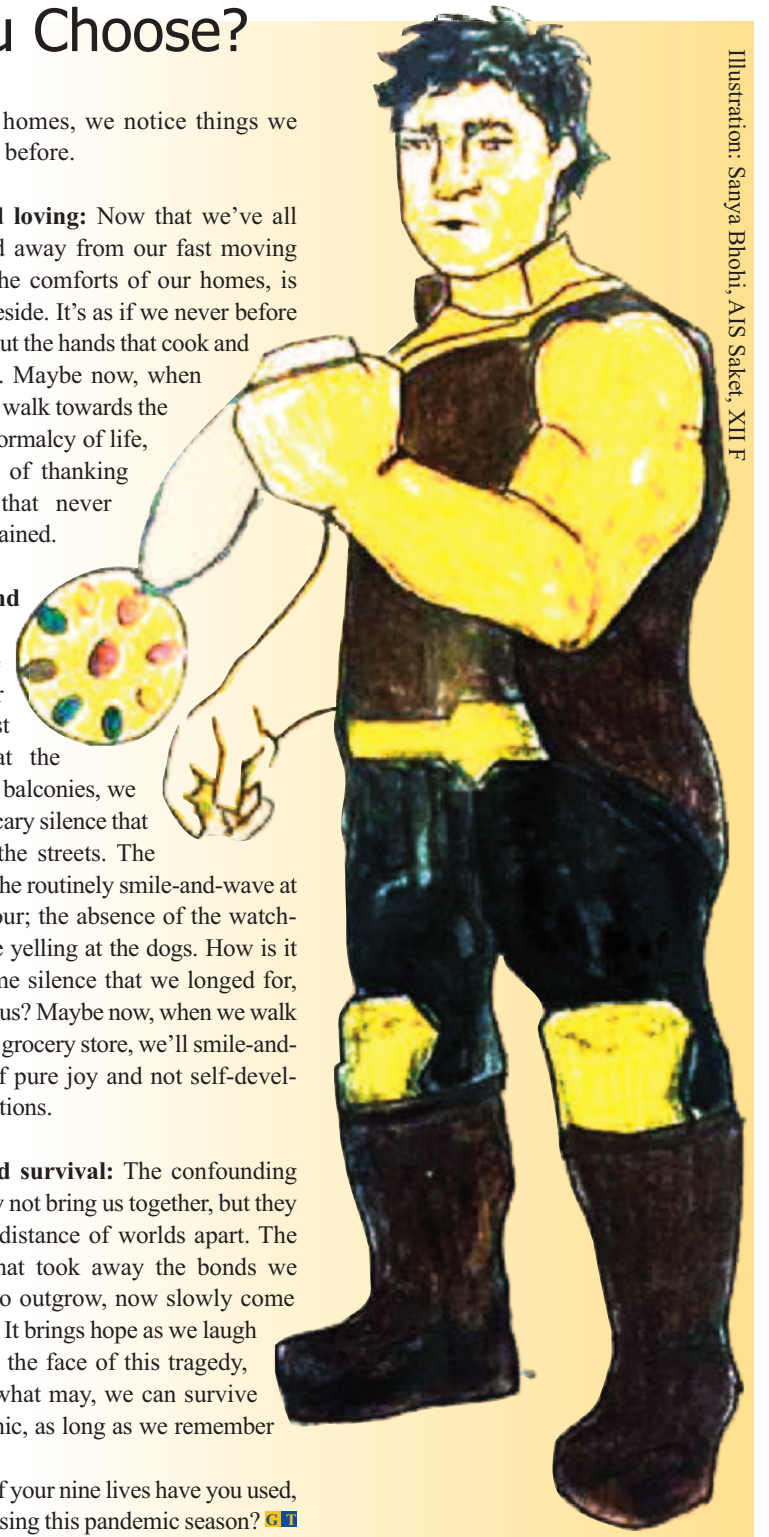
within our homes, we notice things we overlooked before.

Living and loving: Now that we've all been forced away from our fast moving lifestyles, the comforts of our homes, is where we reside. It's as if we never before thought about the hands that cook and pray for us. Maybe now, when we begin to walk towards the abnormal normalcy of life, we'll think of thanking the faces that never once complained.

Within and without: With the fresh air running past our face at the edge of our balconies, we notice the scary silence that falls upon the streets. The absence of the routinely smile-and-wave at the neighbour; the absence of the watchman's voice yelling at the dogs. How is it that the same silence that we longed for, now haunts us? Maybe now, when we walk towards the grocery store, we'll smile-and-wave out of pure joy and not self-developed obligations.

Storms and survival: The confounding screens may not bring us together, but they reduce the distance of worlds apart. The distances that took away the bonds we swore not to outgrow, now slowly come back to life. It brings hope as we laugh together, in the face of this tragedy, that come what may, we can survive any pandemic, as long as we remember to love.

So, which of your nine lives have you used, or plan on using this pandemic season? 🇮🇳



Resham Talwar, XII C, Sapriya Sharma, XII F & Vibhu Khare, XII C
AIS Saket

This pandemic that we are facing is a constant reminder that we are fighting a battle. Tasked with saving oneself from this danger, the most powerful tool man has is that of continuously adapting and evolving, putting us in the same bag as our furry friends, the felines, who narrowly escape death with their superhuman abilities of climbing, running and hiding, making it look like they have nine shots at life. This story is a look at man's nine lives during this lockdown as he evolves in the following ways.

When situations shifted...
Shifting our comfort zones, we humans are finally respecting our surroundings.

Food and frolic: As life metamorphosed from fast food to home-cooked meals, we all moved towards an improved diet. The fitness freak inside all of us has awakened and is pushing our lazy, lethargic selves to give up on more food. To retreat from these temptations and to understand the need to remain healthy, is what rebirth truly looks like.

Technology and transformation: Many questions- classes, grocery shopping, entertainment; there is only one answer. Digital methods are helping us become the best versions of ourselves. If you can operate that laptop you own, you've acquired a priceless skill that stays with you in your new life.

INSIDE



Innovation in isolation, P4



Corona warriors, P6-7

AMITEpoll

Do you agree with government's decision to put a ban on Chinese apps?
a) Yes b) No c) Can't say

To vote, log on to
www.theglobaltimes.in

POLL RESULT

for GT issue February 10, 2020

Which party, according to you, will win the Delhi Legislative Assembly elections 2020?



Coming Next
TEDx Talk

What it takes to save lives?

A Doctor's Take On Working Round The Clock To Safeguard The Lives Of Others



Dr Ritesh Rathee, resident doctor
JNMC, Ajmer

Eshaan Ramaul, AIS Gur 43, X A

The word 'superhero' has been redefined in the wake of COVID-19. Superheroes are no longer the ones in long flowy capes but the ones in gloves, masks and full PPE gears; the doctors, nurses and the health professionals. One such hero serving in the war against the virus is Dr Ritesh Rathee, resident doctor at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Ajmer. With sweat, toil and risk of infection, he is pushing forward through it all to help his patients fight away the virus. Read on as he shares his experience of working in the current scenario.

Rising to the challenges

COVID-19 brought with itself, the fear of uncertainty, a major challenge that doctors had to deal with. The reason being, young doctors like me had never seen or worked for a pandemic before. We had no experience whatsoever in handling such a critical situation where the guidelines of treatment were constantly evolving, with no clear picture as to how big or small the impact of this deadly pandemic would be.



Dr Ritesh Rathee gives treatment to a patient in COVID ward

Facing the fear

Like any other individual, the fear of getting infected was initially there but it did not last too long. With time, we started getting more clear information on how to deal with the patients while also keeping our safety in mind. After all, it was not the first time that we had been exposed to a critical disease. Before COVID-19, we have had Swine flu, Hepatitis -B reactive, tuberculosis and others, and we did manage to find solutions to cope up with them too. But the real psychological turmoil cropped up during the quarantine period when one had nothing to do except wait. It

was a true learning experience.

Following the rules

The main precaution we had to take was wearing the PPE kits. There is a specific method to wearing and taking off the PPE kits, called donning and doffing respectively. The doctors are also given prophylactic treatment of hydroxychloroquine to combat infection. Apart from these measures, we live in hotel rooms. One has to be cautious not to bring back any infection from the hospital, so, on returning, the first thing I do is to take a bath and wash my clothes including the footwear I wear.

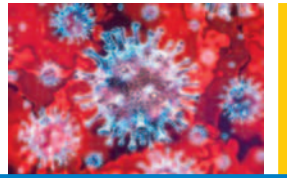
Paying the cost of safety

Wearing PPE suits, affected our efficiency and speed. The suits restrain movement as it is worn in three layers. The suits also cause a lot of sweating. The sweat would accumulate even in the N95 mask, making it extremely difficult to breathe ultimately. While wearing the PPE suits, we have to hold urine and not drink water for almost six hours, causing dehydration along with the feeling of lightheadedness. But since, PPE is expensive and for one time use only, we have to be careful.

Speaking the truth

We are fighting against an invisible enemy and we are fighting hard. The lockdown period won't last that long. It will be lifted sooner or later and we will have to resume our normal lives. So, all we can do as we proceed further is to take necessary precautions. Remember to wash your hands thoroughly, to wear your masks and to maintain atleast 3 feet distance from others when you step out. Along with this, it is important to have a nutritious diet for strong immunity. We must not forget that the fight against the virus is a long one. Try and be safe! 🇮🇳

Coronaviruses are a large group of related RNA viruses that can affect and cause diseases in mammals and birds.



Coronavirus

In solidarity we stand

When A Pandemic Knocks On The Door, Stand Together To Fight And Survive

Saanvi Vaish, XII C &
Arshya Gupta, XII G, AIS PV

What do you do when you are stuck with difficult times like these? You utilise your capabilities and become compassionate towards the less fortunate ones just like Priyanka Sarkaar did. Forty year-old, Priyanka is a freelance communication consultant, and deals with four NGOs. Her work speaks volumes about how each individual can contribute for a better society. Read on to get inspired...

Lending a hand

In the present trying times, all one can do is to offer a helping hand to those who do not have access to the basic day to day necessities. We have organised 'Dry ration drive' which comprises ration kits of 10 kilos flour, 5 kilos rice, 3 kilos of lentils, cooking oil, sugar and salt, turmeric, 2 packets of biscuits and 2 soaps. Basically, it includes the standard ration required for basic sustenance. These kits are distributed around Charmwood Village, an area close to the Delhi border where there are small slum pockets.



Priyanka Sarkaar's team distributes ration kits to daily workers; (Inset) Priyanka Sarkaar



Ration kits for the distribution

Initially, we began with the distribution of 100 kits and now, we have managed to go up to 260 kits with the distribution in 4 slum localities. People are willing to support us. So, hopefully we'll reach around 300 kits in near future.

Reaching out

Our primary target groups are daily wage workers like the roadside florists. We also distributed some kits to the maintenance staff of our colony like the garbage pickers. All of them are facing

a similar situation as they don't have a steady income with the implementation of lockdown. They are unable to buy the basic ration for their family. We also have been in touch with RWA, and they have helped us reach many slum pockets near our colony. Even the local police have helped us to identify such people and the distribution of these kits.

Overcoming challenges

While distributing the kits, one of the challenges we encountered was to make

people understand the norms of social distancing and its importance. We had to constantly remind them to cover their faces with masks or any cloth. Most of the times people were concerned about what we are providing them instead of the spread of virus in the community. We also had to take care of our own health by taking appropriate safety measures.

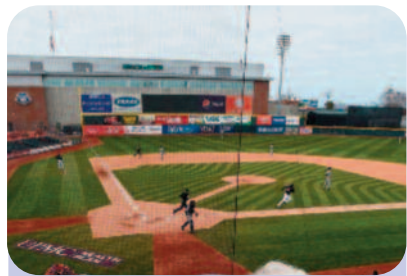
Staying together

I think that after this pandemic, we're going to emerge more compassionate.

We are all looking out for each other and supporting each other to the best of our abilities. At this hour, social distancing is important but so is the need to be together. This is the only way we can survive and come out victorious. Follow the rules and regulations laid by the government for the crisis situation, stay inside your homes, keep helping the less fortunate ones in every possible way you can; let us all together bring about a new dawn for ourselves and for humanity at large. 🇮🇳

Around The WORLD

GT keeps the newswire ticking by bringing you news from around the globe



MEXICO

Withdrawal of Professional Baseball season

Mexican baseball league announced the cancellation of the country's prestigious baseball season for the first time in almost 95 years to ensure the safety of its players and spectators - another major setback for the country that recently surpassed Spain to become the sixth worst affected country by the coronavirus outbreak.

RUSSIA

Putin for President



Vladimir Putin, Russian President, has been granted the right to extend his rule in the country till 2036 by Russians' overwhelming support and vote in favour of the constitutional changes that allow the same, in a weeklong plebiscite that concluded on July 1, 2020. 78% voters espoused these amendments.

MYANMAR

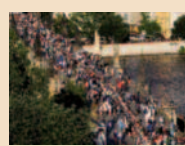
Landslide at a jade mine



Around 113 people died due to a landslide at a jade mine in northern Myanmar. The landslide, prompted by the monsoon rains, triggered a huge wave of mud and water, burying over 200 workers, the search and rescue process for whom is still ongoing. Jade industry's poor regulation kills dozens each year.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Goodbye COVID-19'



The country's capital city, Prague, celebrated its coronavirus 'farewell party' on the medieval Charles Bridge with a 500-metre-long dinner table, marking the end of the deadly disease in the country. The locals brought homemade food, sharing them with neighbours.

NEW ZEALAND

Health Minister steps down



David Clark, Minister of Health, has stepped down from his post owing to the several lockdown breaches and an acute mishandling of the quarantine facilities on his part leading to the re-emergence of COVID situation in the country, days after it was officially declared as being fully exterminated.



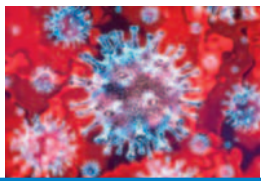
INDIA

Country's First plasma bank

Delhi CM, Arvind Kejriwal, inaugurated the country's first plasma bank at ILBS hospital, Delhi on July 2, 2020. This has been seen as a much awaited measure as plasma, derived from a convalescent COVID patient, helps the critical patient recover faster, and thus, an institution for it would make it easier for people to donate and avail plasma without any hassles, reducing the number of coronavirus deaths simultaneously.

News Flash

► **China:** A new national security law passed for Hong Kong that penalises any act of succession, subversion and collusion with external forces, as against the country's central government ► **Africa:** Over 350 elephants have been found dead in 2 months



Back to school

An Account Of What Student Life Post COVID Would Entail



Pratul Gupta & Tanya Ganguly

AIS Saket, IX B

Friday
May 22, 2021

Dear diary,
It's been more than an entire year since I've stepped out of my house due to the coronavirus outbreak, that wreaked havoc in humankind's natural order and way of life. The only form of outing during the lockdown for a kid like me was then walking to the nearby convenience store, armed with a small bottle of sanitiser and my face fitted with a protective mask. This small chore brought tremendous excitement though.
We all, in fact, got accustomed to the whole 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' thing real soon and followed it

to the tee. But now that the world has opened up again, after more than a year of anxiety and pressure, going out feels so strange and even unnecessary, ain't it? There are huge noticeable changes. Monday was the first day of school after a very long time. I was thrilled and couldn't sleep at all the night before in anticipation of the day ahead. I was up on mom's first wake-up call, got ready fast instead of trudging on with the morning routine and sprinted to the bus stop to meet my friends. And that is where I first started noticing the difference. I only saw faces covered with masks of different colours and patterns, with fearful, uncertain eyes above them. I couldn't recognise anyone. A special seating pattern had been devised for us to maintain social distancing throughout the journey. At school, we were scanned with an infrared thermometer be-

fore being allowed in. Inside, I saw more of the same, an endless sea of masked faces. We were told to keep away from one another at all times and to ensure this, all activity periods were cancelled and teachers sat in the classrooms during recess. Seeing all this, my spirit was a little dampened. Everywhere else too, we have had to follow stringent safety protocol. We have become so dependent on machines in these past fourteen months that we have forgotten to do the simple things that once came so naturally to us. Now, in the name of exercise, jumping onto the recumbent bike comes more naturally than going out to cycle. Entertainment has become endless hours of Netflix instead of going to the neighbourhood park or going out with your family.

The exciting yet calming feel of the library, a great portal to unknown worlds, lays somewhere in my mind as a forgotten memory. The texture, smell and sound of the turning of pages of a real book are an out of practice experience and, while I have spent the endless hours sitting at home, exploring the world, this too has been through my virtual library on the AnyBooks app.

But, hopefully one day this way of life goes for a reboot too. Once again, the world starts to go back to the ways of social coexistence; swimming pools then won't be sites of paranoia and eating out will not be shrouded with fear of acquiring the terrible virus. As time goes by, hopefully we will learn to appreciate the value of things that earlier seemed petty and mundane. Well, hopefully!

Yours truly,
A student full of hope 🇮🇳

Finding solutions

Virtual Libraries At Your Desk

Dear students,
Just when the global pandemic forced the schools to shut down, the entire education system went for a toss. Online classes were the only solution to keep all of you engaged as well as update you with the regular school curriculum. On one hand, the subject teachers faced challenges to find new ways of interesting teaching. On the other hand, school librarians like me faced a somewhat similar challenge as to how can the best of library resources reach each one of you? Just because the libraries are shut, it doesn't mean students would stop reading. With this aim, we stepped up and developed resources for virtual library classes with the help of technology.
At Amity Global School, Gurugram, we came up with Continuous Learning Hubs for each grade. These hubs allow each one of you to connect to library resources through Follett's Destiny Discover, which provides access to various resources, including eBooks, digital audiobooks and interactive books. We collated all these resources at one place where both educators and students can pick and choose whatever is required. It is an empowering experience for everyone involved. The students, specifically, love to share, read and listen to stories during interactive sessions on Microsoft Teams.
During these unprecedented times, one thing's certain and that definitely is the evolution we are all undergoing by constantly learning new things. School librarians like me have learnt the art of collaboration, research, and use of technology. We have found innovative ways to work with our fellow teachers, coordinators and students to keep both learning and engagement together. We are building amazing digital libraries and remote learning spaces for one and all, as we believe that it is the need of the hour.

Yours truly,
Kamna Shahi
AGS Gurugram, PYP Librarian

Present ma'am!

Types Of Students You Encounter During An Online Class

Vrinda Gupta, AIS Gur 46, XI H

Well, who can say that online classes are any different from the regular school classes we used to attend before the lockdown took place. The teachers are same, the syllabus is same and when it comes to seeing the wide variety of students, it is all just the same. Here, meet the typical students who are present during every online class, all geared up with their never ending excuses.

The fault lies in bad network

It is no surprise that there is always one student whose internet connection goes extremely slow with the onset of online classes. This student floods the chat box with statements like "Ma'am I can't hear you" and "Ma'am the screen isn't visible." Somebody should try and make him understand that with little patience and a good internet connection, he can hear it all pretty well.

Fake mic! Fake mic!

When lessons are over, it's time for some grilling. But who likes to be grilled, probably no one. Whenever it's time to answer a question, the microphone suddenly loses its ability to function.



And there's one student who simply writes "Sorry ma'am, I'm unable to access the mic" in the chat box. And, lo and behold, our teachers – not seeing any other option – "let's leave him, next!" Smart one, isn't he?

What's a chat box?

There is always this one annoying student who

just doesn't understand the concept of a chatbox. He has to unmute every time the teacher asks a question, even when it is strictly prohibited. With every "Ma'am, the answer is 6," the rest of the students lose just a little bit more of their composure. It is maddening, just understand. Maybe, it won't happen from now on *wink*. Well, it preferably and hopefully should not!

Attendance matters

What did the teacher say in the last few minutes? Can't recall. Because the likes of this student rarely pay attention to the lessons. The only thing they are worried about is whether the attendance has been marked or not. Well, to them, all we can say is that attendance is definitely important but what the teacher says is of supreme importance.

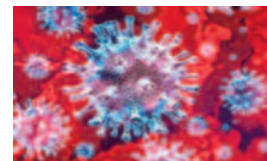
How did the mic go unmute?

It's not just about one typical student. We have all experienced this during the online classes. The mic somehow becomes sentient and unmutes itself. What happens next is not hidden from anyone? Everyone hears the commotion going on around us. And then comes the voice of the teacher to press the mute button (aka 'the most embarrassing moment in a person's life'). A moment of silence for all the students who have fallen prey to their wretched mics.

Excuses and more excuses

Of course, no class is complete without someone making excuses like "I wasn't late because I was sleeping, ma'am! The internet wasn't working!" "I didn't submit the assignment because it wasn't letting me submit it, not because I didn't do it!" This student is replete with excuses throughout the class. Everyone except the teacher believes you.

So, the next time you're in class, be sure to keep an eye out for these clowns. Oh, and don't forget to tell us all about them and their antics. Until then stay home, stay safe!



Dispatching corona

The Only Tea Party You Need To Host, Attend And Enjoy While The Pandemic Lasts



Megha Chattopadhyay
AIS Vasundhara 1, XII A

Amidst the global pandemic of COVID-19, as humans are locked inside their houses, the newly modified guest list for the elite tea parties looks a little different. With Miss Face Mask, Mr Handkerchief, Madame Gloves, Master Sanitiser and Mr Soap being the attendees, the high tea conversation sounds a bit like this...

Miss Face Mask: Omg! I am loving all the attention that I am getting these days. Humans love me and it's not even after-Diwali yet.

Mr Handkerchief: That's only because they don't understand that unless they are fighting COVID-19 on the frontline, tying me across their face is sufficient. They don't need to hoard you, Miss Face Mask, because you are more needed by the health professionals.

Madame Gloves: It's mainly their hands they're catching the virus in; our hands have folds and the viruses stick to the skin and get good lodging in those minuscule crinkles. You see, how useful I'm here!

Master Sanitiser: Well, it's known how good I am at keeping hands clean. The alcohol I contain attacks the protein

enveloping the virus, while also disrupting their genomic material.

Mr Soap: Don't forget friend, that I'm here as your superior counterpart, while you Master Sanitiser, are only helpful when you have 60% or more alcohol. On the other hand, every soap functions like a demolition team, breaking down the germs. We are made with 'amphiphiles', ie, fat-like compounds similar to lipids in virus membrane. So, we bind to the membrane and cause disconnection of it from the body of the virus, forcing the virus to disengage from the skin surface and get drained out with water.

Master Sanitiser: But it's more convenient to use me! When humans are in public places, it's always easier to just dab me on their hands than keep washing their hands every 2 minutes. We sanitise their hands without needing a single drop of water! Also, to sanitise objects like mobile phones, countertops and doorknobs, we undoubtedly have an edge.

Mr Soap: When humans rub their hands with sanitisers or wipes, it's a little hard to ensure that every small part of the hand is covered and the virus is completely soaked in alcohol for long enough to kill all the viruses. This is a lot

easier with soaps, thanks to our lather-forming property and the fact that hands should be washed properly for 20 seconds with soap and water!

Miss Face Mask: I just received an update from WHO which says that hands should surely be washed with soap and running water when visibly dirty and if they aren't visibly dirty, frequently cleaning them with alcohol-based hand rub works well too! Wearing a face mask or handkerchief is sure to give you an extra layer of protection. So, now stop arguing and enjoy the high tea as all of us have become an indispensable part of human lives. 🇮🇳

Innovations in isolation

Local Mavens And Their Quarantine Chill



Suhani Malik, XII B, & Nalin Jayaswal, XI C, AIS PV

When most of us are suffering from IMMS (I Miss Momos Syndrome) and trying hard (and failing) to not binge-watch Netflix, some people are reaching out to their inner superheroes. During this quarantine period, they have turned themselves into real-life Avengers, contriving widgets to help make this pandemic a bit easier for us.

Talent from Taiwan

Necessity is the mother of innovation and this has been proved by elementary school

children in Taiwan who used lego blocks to build an automatic hand sanitiser dispenser. It has ultrasonic sensors to sense a pair of hands and dispense the sanitiser from a regular spray-bottle. This not only prevents the transfer of germs via the plastic sanitiser bottle when used by many, but also shows the world that something so helpful can be built with something as ordinary as a toy. Guess who's next ordering lego blocks?

Dil aur dimag se, Dilli wale

Three high school students in Delhi have created a prototype of a robot 'Prithvi' to deliver food and medicine to patients in



hospitals. It also connects doctors to patients via a smart tablet app. This device could help minimise the spread of the disease to healthcare workers who are at maximum risk and has been receiving brilliant responses from all over the country, with a production cost of less than 5,000 INR .

From Volkswagen to ventilator

A team of volunteers from Ireland's IT Sligo have developed ventilators from easily available parts of a car and other electronic gadgets or computers. Lack of ventilators

has been a major roadblock in proper treatment of the virus and has resulted in multiple fatalities. The team's target is to make 5 ventilators a day which could make a difference between life and death for many. Teenage girls from Afghanistan have undertaken a similar project and so has Elon Musk's Tesla Inc. That's as big as it gets, right?

All's well in Wales

Wyn Griffiths saw his wife face problems when visiting hospital; she had to touch the door-handles which could potentially be contaminated. To ease her

trouble, he invented a hands-free door pull to open and close doors without touching them so as to stop the virus from spreading. Similar efforts have been made in UK. His design now has multiple variations as hospitals have taken to using these. Not only has this man been a good husband, but an ideal citizen too.

Inspired yet? Take the inspiration and look for ways to help people globally. Even if you end up with nothing, you'll still have a bit more knowledge and yes, a huge feeling of satisfaction, to not to miss. 🇮🇳

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, dry cough, and tiredness. Other symptoms are aches, nasal congestion, headache, etc.

It happens for the good



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

My dear Amitians, I hope you all are doing good and keeping safe at home. In the past few months, the world has changed like we could never fathom before. I am proud to see that my Amitians rose to the challenge and unleashed their inner power to engage, explore and evolve. The 'Quarantine special' e- edition series, so meticulously put together by my young GT journos, will forever stand testimony to the fact that 'whatever happens, happens for good'. In one of the series I had shared the story of Akbar and Birbal, which I would like to share once again through The Global Times for those who missed it out. One day, Akbar accidentally cut his finger with a knife. All the courtiers rushed to the king's help while Birbal consoled the king by saying 'whatever happens, happens for good'. Anguished, Akbar ordered Birbal's imprisonment. Next day, Akbar went on a hunting trip to the forestland and lost his way. He was caught by a group of tribals looking for a man to sacrifice before their God. While getting him ready for the sacrifice, they realised that Akbar had an injury and that they couldn't sacrifice a wounded person. Akbar realised the value of his wounded finger and immediately went to Birbal and asked, "My injury saved my life, but how was prison good for you?" Birbal replied, "O king! Had I been out on the trip with you, those tribals would have sacrificed me instead of you as I'm not wounded." So, my dear Amitians, keep the spirit of hope high. Times are tough but as Buddha says, 'This too shall pass'. This time, too, is full of millions of new opportunities, togetherness with family and discoveries outside and within self. 🇮🇳

Pen & passion



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

When the world underwent lockdown, our young scribes showed to the world the power of positivity through their articles, illustrations, etc., meticulously put together as 'GT Quarantine Special e-editions'. What you read today is an extract from the best of over 60 such special editions uploaded on the respective school websites. It is indeed encouraging to see how Amitians translated this challenge into an engaging opportunity as they took to their pen and impressed on paper (well, word document) their soulful thoughts. While each edition had stories from their school, there was one story that ran common in all. It was the story of young corona warriors (Read page 6-7). The stories featured one initiative of any teen in and around us who has emerged as the true hero, inspiring others to beat COVID-19. Be it the scientific innovation like wearable automated disinfectant device for healthcare workers or social initiative like helping people download Aarogya Setu app, the young GT journos showed they are responsible reporters. These stories were also featured as part of World Teenage Reporting Project along with stories by over 50 students across 19 countries. Change is the only constant and has happened in a big way. And now as we move forward with regular GT editions, I want to say that life is uncertain, but if we handle our challenges in a certain way, then it is certain that it will be sculpted into a beautiful story of victory. This best of quarantine special e-edition stands testimony to all the 'Corona Warriors With Pen & Passion'. 🇮🇳

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Humanity grounded

And Now The Tables Have Apparently Turned, For The Better

Illustration: Prisha Bansal, AIS Gur 43, VI D

Riddhi Rastogi
AIS Gurugram 43, XI D

Forget internet, forget mobile phones and for that matter, forget all the advancements that we thought brought the world together. The narrative has changed. It is in fact the novel coronavirus that proves this world is connected in every sense, that in the end, we all are humans chasing different ambitions in life. Now, it has finally got us introspecting.

Value and values: These dreadful times have taught us way too many lessons than we had anticipated. What started as an insignificant threat to only one part of the world soon penetrated every nook and corner of the globe. The first lesson we learnt was to worship the values that we had buried somewhere amidst this rat race towards luxury. We forgot that these values were what made us human in the first place. We learnt the importance of home that we took for granted so conveniently, so often. We realised the real value of everything that we thought we were entitled to, something as simple as that one football game in the evening, or the delicious roadside *puchkas*.

Sensitive and sensible: With so many events that testify as violence for humanity against humanity, it took a microscopic entity to end this long-standing war, or perhaps pause it for a considerable period of time, to say the least. From Gurudwaras always opening their doors to the ones in need, to music artists sparing their time and unleashing their musical magic on social media platforms, to each and every human standing in solidarity against the global villain, regardless of any difference, we have proven that even though we don't bring it out much, hints of compassion still reside in us somewhere, with the greatest potential to sustain harmony and peace in the society.



Nature and nurture: As coronavirus managed to disrupt the daily life of a human, it has also restored tranquility and jubilation in nature, something that was long owed by us. And now that we have stopped excavating natural resources for a while, recovery is evident. Case in point, the sudden visibility of Dauladhar ranges as witnessed by the residents of Jalandhar 213 kms away; crystal clear blue semblance of the Grand Canal in Venice after generations, due to absence of motor traffic; the appearance of injured wild habitat in Australia after the bushfires, all prove that we had been simply un-

dermining nature in our quest for urbanisation and a lifestyle of leisure. Look at us now, our hands tied by the mighty nature itself.

Note the irony? We are trying to be our compassionate best in the times of social distancing, when we cannot really manifest our love and camaraderie in person. There is abundance of fresh air outside, but we cannot venture out easily to experience the freshness of it. But one thing will surely go down in history- once upon a time when humans were grounded, humanity bounced back. 🇮🇳



Taking A Break And Reviving Life For Good

Gopika P Prasad, AIS MV, XI D

Another 'Earth' day passed this April 22, but this time without any celebrations, functions, discussions, tree plantation, etc. Many of us might have felt bad that the COVID-19 pandemic has stopped us from celebrating this numerically wonderful year of 2020. But I think the mother earth has got its own plan for the day. COVID-19 pandemic has put the entire human society into a complete lockdown, putting a break to all our routine activities. Apart from our job

and other daily chores, this also includes the excessive abuse of natural resources such as air, water, soil, resulting in complete imbalance in the natural design of the earth. The quarantine/lockdown made the extremely polluted air much cleaner and air quality index has also been reversed to normalcy. Water in rivers, ponds and water bodies have become purer and potable. It has been observed that river Ganges has become much cleaner which we could not do even decades after the commencement of the project Clean Ganga. Similar is the case of other rivers like Yamuna, Godavari, etc.

The soil has become less polluted by complete reduction in pollution which we have otherwise been producing. All these happened naturally and automatically without any human effort i.e a micro-molecular sized organism causing such great catastrophe. This was something unthinkable of, right? It feels like the mother earth has deliberately pressed the reset button to make our lives much better and make us understand! So from now on let's judiciously and efficiently use everything given to us by nature, else we may face another reset action by mother earth! 🇮🇳



GT M@il

Dear Editor,

One ought to extend a hearty congratulations to the entire team of The Global Times for publishing Quarantine Special e-editions during these testing times. The newsletters served as an engaging platform for the students of Amity, who participated spiritedly and sent writeups related to COVID-19 every week. The process not only enlightened them about the situation, but also made them empathetic towards people. The facts, figures, although unnerving, sensitised them towards the severity of the situation and further prompted them to fight against the monstrosity claiming so many lives around us. The coordination with which the students have worked with their mentors and classmates helped them to communicate and connect with each other even when social distancing was the new norm.

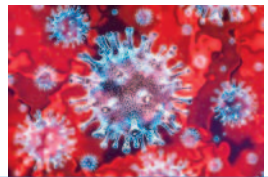
While working for the newsletter with the children, the process of guiding and listening to their ideas has been indeed an unforgettable experience for me. The vigour with which the students worked, wrote, created and served has been quite overwhelming for me as one of the mentors. Seeing the students of AGS Gurugram work so hard has restored the faith that this too shall pass. 🇮🇳

Lata Verma

GT Teacher Coordinator
AGS Gurugram



Coronaviruses are large, spherical particles with bulbous surface projections, and have an average diameter of around 125 nm.



Amity's Corona Warriors

Driving Away The Darkness Of The Pandemic To Create A Safer And Better Future

No भय of corona

As Sanitation Band Comes To Rescue

Saanvi Vaish

AIS Pushp Vihar, XII C

COVID-19 is perhaps the greatest supervillain humanity has ever seen. As the virus sets out on a rampage to destroy the world, there are superheroes who are putting their best foot forward to save the world. But while these superheroes fight the pandemic, they need all the help they can get, and to aid their burden, Shivam Mukherjee, a student of Class IX D at Amity International School, Pushp Vihar, has invented a sanitisation band titled ABHAY.

"This pandemic has brought our world to a standstill and we don't know when this will end, which is why it was important for me to do my part in helping the world," says Shivam when asked about the motivation behind ABHAY. "One day as I was watching the news, I saw the doctors wearing hazmat suits. It made me wonder how tough the situation must be for them. I wanted to do something that could help them," shares the young changemaker.

This desire to help is what lead to the birth of ABHAY. A Hindi word, translating to 'no fear', the band aims at supporting the medics to battle the disease without fear of

contracting the same.

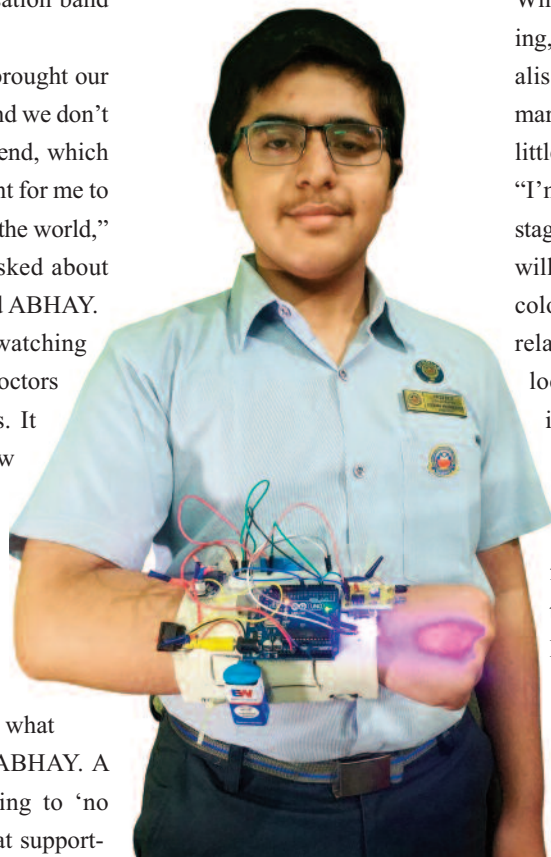
It is a simple band that can be worn around the wrist. Equipped with an inbuilt proximity sensor and UV light, it can sense when the wearer's hand is near an object and automatically disinfect the object via UV light and alcoholic spray. Extremely wearable, the band is computer-controlled and can be operated via an app. Further more, it is refillable – when the alcoholic spray is nearly empty, a reminder is sent to your mobile for a refill."

But every invention goes

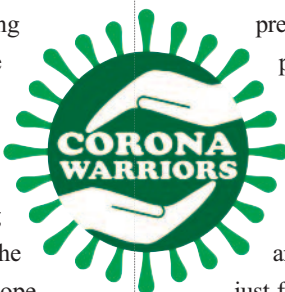
through its share of roadblocks, and so did this sanitization band. "Due to lockdown, it was very difficult for me to transform the idea into an actual product. Initially, acquiring the parts needed to make the band was a struggle but my school delivered all those to me at my doorstep from the school's ATL lab," he recalls, when asked about the challenges he faced. "I can't thank Chairperson ma'am, Principal ma'am, and my family enough for all the support they had to offer," he further added.

While the band seems promising, its true potential can be realised only once it hits the market. But there seems to be a little time before that happens. "I'm currently in the testing stages, but I am sure the band will pass with flying colours. After the relaxation of the lockdown starting April 20, I am planning to approach the officials and hopefully make ABHAY reach the ones in need."

In a world guided by fear, there are warriors like Shivam, who are not only the future leaders of tomorrow, but are also the shining hope of today. Here's to ABHAY scaring away all our fears!



Shivam Mukherjee poses with his invention 'ABHAY'



A local watchman wears Faceshield



Satyam distributes the face shields to local authorities

'Shield'ing from the crisis

Fighting Corona, One Mask At A Time

Kreetik Thakur

AIS Noida, XII D

The novel coronavirus brought chaos in our otherwise seemingly peaceful lives. While we tried to keep ourselves safe by taking every precautionary measure possible, Satyam Mehta, a student of Class XI from AIS Noida, decided to step up and ensure safety not just for himself, but others around him. Thus, 'Faceshield' – 3D printed face mask, was born.

Phase 1: The know-how

It was in the summer of 2018 that Satyam was introduced to 3D printing, when his father suggested he pursued a course in it. "When my father pitched it to me, I laughed it off but after attending a session I found it exciting," re-

called Satyam. It was through this very course that he crossed paths with his teacher Avikshit Saras, who was instrumental in the production of the masks.

Phase 2: The brainstorming

"Having been a part of Amity for so long, I have always been inspired to make a change. So when crisis came knocking, the decision to create masks using 3D printing was an easy one," says the young corona warrior. But what Satyam struggled with was making the mask comfortable, breathable and reusable. After much thought, he and his teacher Avikshit, decided on a minimalistic design featuring a transparent sheet of plastic that would cover a major part of the face. "Even though only one standardised size has been printed so far, it is a comfortable fit," says Satyam. Other than the comfort factor, the masks also rank high in terms of usability, as they can be

easily sanitised and reused.

Phase 3: The production

Procuring the materials for the mask production was a challenge, given the lockdown. The transparent sheets used for the masks were made of OPH plastics, as general plastic was harmful. He shares, "Printing one mask takes about 45 minutes but varies as per the capacity of the printer. Adding the sheet adds another half an hour to the process. I wanted to create enough masks to be able to offer one to every helper in my sector. Thankfully, I was able to do so."

Phase 4: The distribution

"My grandparents were against me venturing out to distribute the masks. So, convincing them was a task," Satyam remarked. He has currently distributed over 100 masks to the local watchmen and vendors. "It felt good to see them wearing it even after so many days have passed."

M'app'ing safe routes

Battling COVID-19, With One Download

Nalin Jayaswal, XI C & Suhani Malik, XII B, AIS Pushp Vihar

As COVID-19 continues to corner humanity, humans have found solace in the World Wide Web. Today, we are more reliant on technology than ever. From groceries to education, all is being achieved through the digital route. In fact, it is the digital way that has been mapping the route to safety. Steps in 'AarogyaSetu', an app launched by the Government of India to track COVID-19. The app notifies users if they cross paths with someone who has

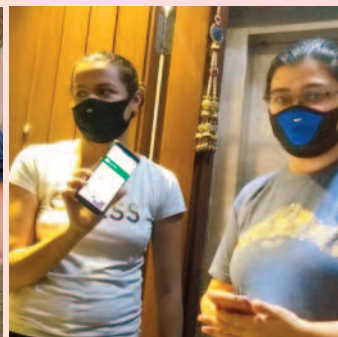
tested positive for the virus and guides the user through self-isolation. Sounds pretty simple – one click, one download and you are on your way to safety. But it isn't that simple when you are trying to penetrate through a population of 1.3 billion, a major chunk of which is still adapting to technology. And then, there is another part of India that is hell bent on making 'impossible' to 'I am possible'. A group of three students (Charvi Mendiratta, Harshaa Kawatra & Isha Agarwal) from Amity International School, Pushp Vihar, set out to change things. Persuading and

helping others around them to download the app, they were on their way to fight the pandemic. "We approached our neighbours, the security guards, relatives, to download the app. We engaged in personal conversation through calls/texts, explaining the significance of the app. For senior citizens and support staff like the society guards, we downloaded the app on their phones and taught them how to use it," shares Isha Agarwal, one of the team members.

But helping those in the immediate vicinity wasn't enough, when the entire world struggles to fight



Harshaa Kawatra



Isha Agarwal



Charvi Mendiratta

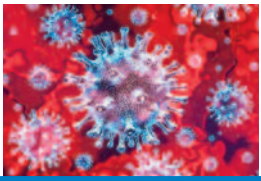
the pandemic. The battle had to be taken further. "We used platforms like Instagram and Facebook to reach out to people. We also developed a working volunteer system where we asked our friends to spread awareness about the app in their immediate circles," Isha continued. The journey had begun, but came with challenges. "One of the major challenges was working with the 50-60 year olds. Since they are not very tech savvy,

teaching them how to use the app was a challenge. But since they are also the most vulnerable, this section could not be ignored either," says Charvi Mendiratta, another member.

While there was the tech challenged group on one hand, there was tech savvy on the other, bringing its own hurdles. Harshaa, a team member, adds, "The youngsters had their own worries. Since the app requires Bluetooth and location settings to be on at

all times, there were a lot of privacy concerns."

So how did the team steer clear of the scepticism? "We pointed out the difficulties in overcoming the current situation. So, between privacy and safety, the latter should be an obvious pick." At present, the team has helped over a 1000 people download the app. But as a wise man once said, the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, in this case a single download.



It spreads primarily from person to person through small droplets that come out of the nose or mouth of a COVID carrier while s/he coughs, sneezes or speaks.

A masking marvel

Caring For The Ones Neglected Till Now

Sayantani Dubey
AIS Gur 46, XI I

As the world paved its way through the raging coronavirus pandemic, hope seemed to be in short supply. People rushed to keep themselves safe and 'masks' became the new oxygen. But who knew that 'mask', the new saviour of our life, brought challenges for a whole community of people who suffer from chronic respiratory diseases like asthma, bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, etc. Realising the struggles of having to wear a mask for a long time period for people suffering with such diseases, **Nadish Gulati and Dhruv Gupta, two students of Class X A of AIS Gurugram 46,** came up with the concept of

'Smart Mask'.

An idea is born, a flame is lit

It all began on a hot, summer day of the ceaseless vacation that the lockdown had put them in. "Wearing regular masks for longer durations was uncomfortable for us, so we couldn't help but ponder how arduous it must be for people with respiratory problems," said Nadish Gulati. Dhruv Gupta added, "Our elderly neighbours told us that wearing regular masks for a longer duration hindered their breathing and they felt conscious in removing it to even drink water when there were people nearby." And hence the duo thought of switching to a better alternative, by spending their time in the invention of the much required smart mask.

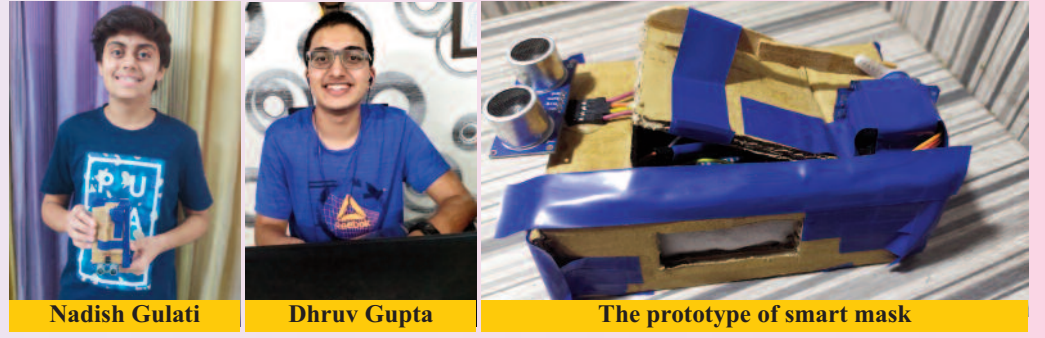
The design of novel mask

The helping hand, smart mask

was invented using Arduino Uno, an open source microcontroller board and ultrasonic sensor. The sensor plays a significant role in the mask as it identifies the distance between two people and whether they are at a safe distance of 2 metres or not. If the distance is fine, then the mask automatically opens with the help of servo motor attached at the top of the mask and shuts down again if the distance gets reduced. Hence, helping people with chronic respiratory diseases to breathe freely without worrying to get infected by the deadly virus.

Bitter toils and sweet victories

There is no victory fully acknowledged if it wasn't won over obstacles. Nadish and Dhruv, too, faced their set of challenges. "Design was our biggest challenge. We wanted



Nadish Gulati

Dhruv Gupta

The prototype of smart mask

the mask to be handy, but adding additional features to the mask increased its weightage and occupied a lot of space, so we had to figure out how to keep the features intact and reduce the weight. The planning process didn't make this struggle any easy as we couldn't physically meet to solve the issue due to the lockdown." But then again, there is no hurdle that cannot be overcome, and after researching, laying out designs through video calls and online meetings, the mask was created, proving, once again, that where there is a will, there is a way. And none of it could have been possible without the support of their parents or their school. "Our science teacher

and our class teacher were both a constant source of inspiration for us and helped in solving any problem we faced in the process. Without their support, it wouldn't have been possible!" both expressed.

Making of a masterpiece

The mask is environment-friendly, and also reasonably priced. "One unit of the mask costs 550 INR to assemble. We are looking for lighter and smaller alternatives to the machinery as compared to ones which we are currently using. That will significantly reduce the weight, size and price of the machinery," explained Dhruv. After having tested the utility of the prototype of mask on grandparents and neighbours, the duo

plans to make their invention commercially available in near future. While we continue to regard this pandemic as a diabolical tragedy, it is helpful to associate it with epiphanies like the one Dhruv and Nadish turned our attention to, both standing as an epitome of how one is never too small to bring about a big change. Starting their journey with compassion, these young innovators, with their earnest hard work, crystal clear vision, and touching hopefulness, aim to help the world. "We are all in this together, which is why we will all get through it together and come out stronger," is what our corona warriors, Dhruv Gupta and Nadish Gulati, firmly assured. 🇮🇳

A rhythmic remedy

Striking The Chord With Each One Of Us

Kuhu Saha
AIS MV, XII G

The world today is stuck at home fighting an invisible enemy. On one hand, people are devising new weapons everyday while on the other, there are some who have introduced new possibilities of survival, by taking the first step towards it, i.e. sensitising people. And to spread awareness on the issue, one such corona warrior, **Jayas Kumar, a fourth grader from Amity Global School, Noida,** and a young singing prodigy, resorted to the power of music to do his bit for the society. Jayas grasped the urgency of the situation and realised the need to spread awareness. "The ignorance of people about the current scenario demanded me to create awareness. As I am too young to go out, I decided to pass on my message musically" shared young Jayas. "He was just 2 and half years old, when we discovered the singer in Jayas. We decided to fuel his passion for singing," said Surchi Rajeev, mother of Jayas. With the support of his family and Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group Of Schools & RBEF, who firmly believes in nurturing the talent of children, Jayas became a popular

face on national singing reality platforms. Jayas was well aware of government initiatives such as Aarogya Setu, an app to track the spread of COVID-19, therefore, he thought of imbibing the same in his music. The result: Aarogya Setu Anthem, a song to



spread awareness about the pandemic. "This scenario is making everyone apprehensive. So, I thought music can help as it would engage people more easily," he elaborated. While making the song, Jayas had one aim: the edification of as many people as possible and in a diverse country like India, his music must speak to the locals. Hence, the anthem has been made in eight languages where Jayas sings in Hindi and Marathi and other talented singers lend their voices in diverse languages.

But every journey comes with hurdles. "Finding a suitable place for recording was difficult as studios were closed. So, I recorded the anthem within the house, inside an almirah to get a good vocal and it took 10 to 12 days to turn my idea into reality" shares Jayas.

Overcoming all odds, Jayas composed the anthem and promoted it on digital platforms with his parents' help. "The anthem has received 18,613 views on YouTube and 13,00 views on Instagram which is overwhelming. I would love to record it in other languages, and make it a global anthem." 🇮🇳



Jayas Kumar performs the anthem song



The humanitarian tale

With COVID-19 coming in, every person around the world is fighting a new battle with each passing day. And there are some who have made this battle a mission to aid the less fortunate around them by providing them face masks and food. Young heroes of this battle, **Sunay Bajaj, VIII A & Pushpak Bajaj, VI B, of AIS Gurugram 46,** narrate us their humanitarian tale in their own words, proving that the solution lies in 'all for us, one for all'.



Sunay and Pushpak distribute rations to the ones in need

"As coronavirus was declared a pandemic, everyone realised the importance of proper hygiene, sanitisation, and most importantly – face masks. We looked at them in a new light, and understood their importance in the fight against this virus. To help our loved ones and ensure their safety, we aided our mother in procuring 4,000 cloth face masks, which we sold to the residents of our society. But as we helped the ones around us, we wanted to help those too who couldn't afford to buy basic necessities, let alone masks. We collaborated with NGOs like Rasoi On Wheels and Masks For India arranging ration kits and face masks for the needy and distributed them in various areas of Gurugram. We have distributed masks to all – from police personnel to fruit vendors to homeless people, going as far

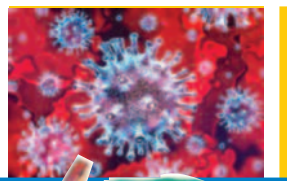
as visiting our school and providing extra masks to security guards on duty. Seeing our school reminded us of the values preached by our teachers and we felt proud to practice the compassion that has been ingrained in us by Amity. Overall, we managed to help 6,000 people till now, and the best reward we receive in return is always smiles and blessings. Yet we felt the need to do more, which is why, along with our neighbour, Maanya Pagare, we founded the

website www.youthtransformers.com to mobilise the youth for the community. As we realised that there were thousands of people whom we could not reach, we initiated a campaign titled 'Ask For Masks' on our website and invited students from all over Delhi-NCR to distribute our masks to the ones in need around their home. Starting from our own home, we donated around 400 masks to essential workers and even provided around 1000 masks and 1500+ sanitary pads to Lioness Club, Gurugram. To make a real change, we need not 3 but 30, 300, 3000 kids like us. It's time that we all come together and fight this virus, because we can't survive and thrive until it's all for one, and one for all." 🇮🇳



Sunay and Pushpak gather essential items to be distributed

As of today, there are no vaccines or antiviral drugs that can prevent or treat human coronavirus infections.



When, it was finally here...

Illustration: Swadha Tripathi, AIS Noida, XII J



Storywala

Aayushi Bawa, AIS Noida, XI

I woke up one morning in good spirits and why not? It was my mom's birthday after all. It was a bright, sunny day and birds were chirping their usual melody. But as I went out in my balcony, I observed an eerie silence in the society. There were no cars on the road, not even one person walking on the street and all the gates were shut. It was confusing; I couldn't understand what had happened. That's when I heard an announcement by a core team member of our welfare association, "Every resident is requested to stay inside their home, no one is

supposed to come out. From today onwards the society is under complete lockdown." Within an hour or so, police and health officials started appearing, barring people from entering or leaving the society gates without any purpose. That's when I realised, it had reached my doorstep. Yes, the deadly coronavirus was here. It had infected a resident in my society, in a tower exactly opposite to mine.

I turned on the television and guess what, my society was on every single news channel. The news channels reported that the person who had been infected had just returned from France and had not been quar-

antined after thermal screening at the airport. The society had been instructed to be on lockdown for the next forty-eight hours. Imagine even street dogs couldn't be spotted in the vicinity.

While me and my family were discussing about the lockdown, my mother's phone started ringing. Naturally, we assumed that the calls were birthday wishes. However, we were proved wrong. All the calls were just to confirm the news with a swarm of questions like "Is it true?" "Is the new case from your society?" "Have the other family members also tested positive?" "Is the entire building sealed?"

I spent the whole night wondering why the traveller wasn't in quarantine. And my question got answered the next day, when a newspaper headline surfaced, "Many took meds to dodge isolation." So apparently, students coming in from foreign countries took paracetamol before landing in India to lower their body temperatures so that the thermal screening machines could not detect the suspected coronavirus patients.

I still wonder why would someone do that, threatening their own lives and as well as of the others around. And just like that, from normal citizens, we became the famous people among our friend circle and relatives because the 'new coronavirus case' had been confirmed in our society, giving us the fame that no one would actually want. [GIF](#)

WORDS VERSE

Our warriors

Shubhangi Lakhanpal
AGS Gurugram, IX

Don't be afraid, crisis will fade
Teaching us the importance
Of sweepers, drivers and maids
Let's start respecting and valuing
People who we kept neglecting
There's plenty they've done
Catering us out under the Sun
Police force, doctors and nurses
All of them are taking care of us
But all we do is make a fuss
Let us all now quit whining
And acknowledge the fact
That they are the ones dying
All we have to do is stay inside
And take Corona for a ride



Let us salute the people
Who have made sure we're safe
Who fight Corona- the evil
They are truly our motivation
And warriors of the nation [GIF](#)



It's high time

Jasnoor Kaur Pruthi
AIS Mayur Vihar, XII A

The air I inhaled this morning
Was untainted, clean and pure
It felt as if in all these years
I had not been really breathing
But smoking it all in, instead
Like a delayed dose of Nicotine
We aren't witnessing a pandemic
We are witnessing Karma itself

For the trees were ruthlessly cut
And all the birds died in pain
Other beings murdered by us
Are now avenging their deaths
They would now rest in peace
And those alive see us detained
As this lockdown is a prison
But for nature, it is her freedom
Everyone knew it was high time
Still we never cared for our home
Now the nights are all silenced

And the mornings shine and sing
As skies become clear till far
We sleep under a quilt of stars
The winds pass through the trees
And the farms in happiness sway
Maybe such a time was needed
Not to grant us pain or grief
But to reveal Earth didn't give up
That all can still fall in place
It's time we realise it's high time
And start mending our ways. [GIF](#)



Bullet Shots

Hardik Singh

AIS Vasundhara 6, VIII E

Ingredients

For the shots

Carrot (grated)1 cup
Cabbage (grated)1 cup
Green pea (mashed).....½ cup
Green chilli (chopped)1
White flour1 cup
Cumin seeds1tsp
Red chilli powder½ tsp
Saltto taste
Black pepper (crushed).....6-8
Green coriander (optional)
Oil.....as required

For the dip

Tomatoes (medium size)....2
Cumin seeds1 tsp
Coriander seeds.....1tbsp
Red chillies4-5
Vegetable oil.....2tbsp
Ginger garlic paste....to taste
Saltto taste

Method

Spicy dip

■ Wash tomatoes and roast them on a perforated steel grill.
■ Flip the tomatoes frequently to make sure they get roasted from every side.
■ When roasted keep them aside so that they cool down.
■ Now, peel-off the skin of these tomatoes and cut them into pieces.
■ Take a frying pan and in it,

put vegetable oil and heat it.

■ Add cumin seeds, coriander seeds and dry red chillies to it.
■ When they turn a little brown, add ginger garlic paste.
■ Cook it for a minute and add tomato pieces into it.
■ Cook the mixture well for 5 minutes on a medium flame.
■ Now, place this mixture in a mixing jar to grind.
■ If required, add very little water to make it consistent while grinding.
■ Your spicy dip is ready!

Bullet shots

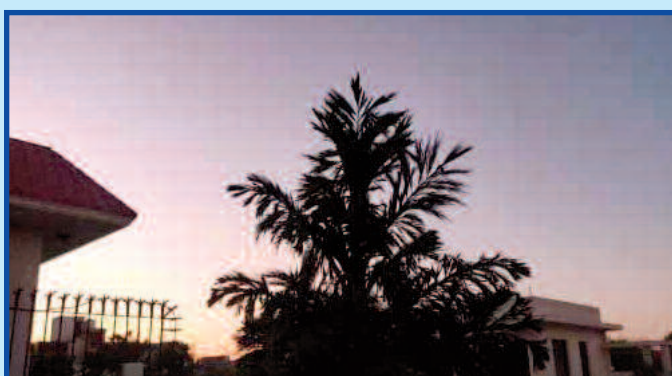
■ In a pan, roast the white flour slightly.
■ Now, transfer it in a bowl and add some grated carrot, cabbage, cumin seeds, red chilli powder, finely chopped green chilli, black pepper and a pinch of salt; mix it all well.
■ Add some water to this mix and prepare a tight dough.
■ Make little *laddoo* shaped shots from this dough.
■ Now, take a frying pan, put oil and heat it well on a medium flame.
■ Put the shots in the heated oil one by one and deep fry till they turn golden brown.
■ Take the shots out, strain the excess oil and serve them hot on a plate with the spicy dip.



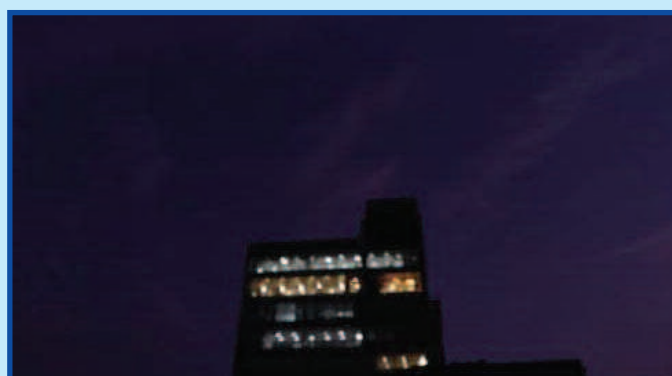
CAMERA CAPERS

Kasak Jain, AGS Gurugram, IX

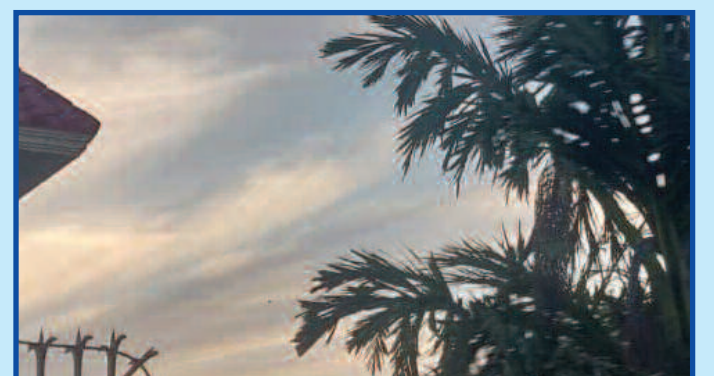
Send in your entries to
cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in



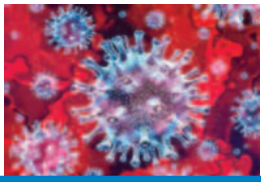
The story of a silhouette



The light through darkness

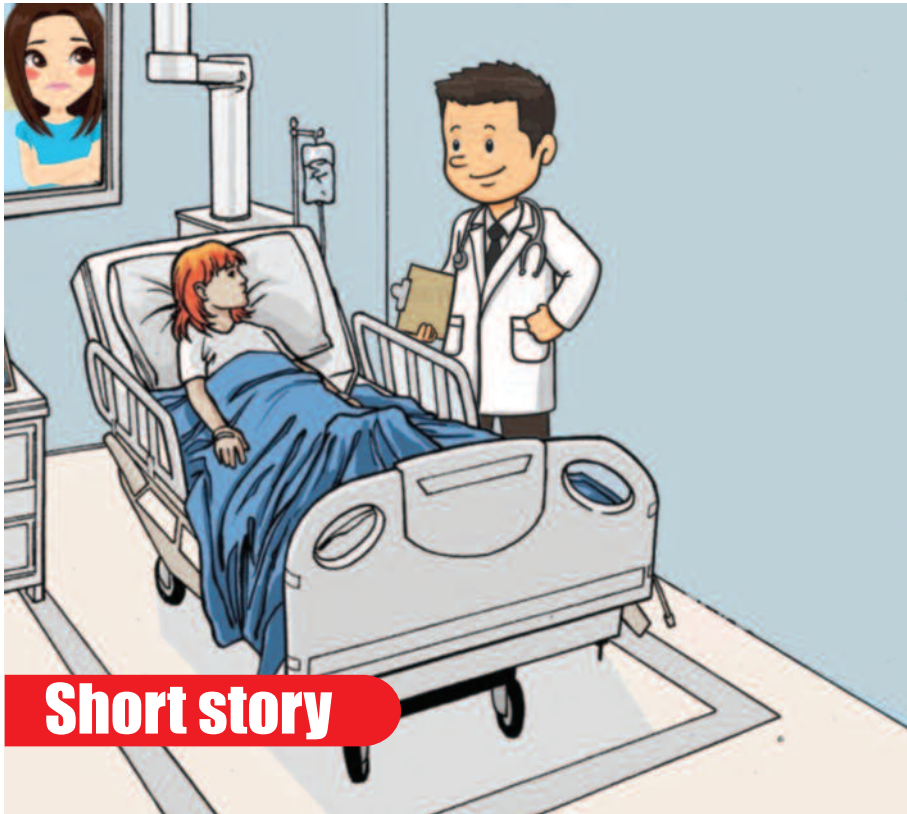


The canvas of nature



The name was derived from the Latin word 'corona' which means 'crown' or a 'wreath'.

Someplace beautiful



Short story

Aditi Mishra, AIS Noida, VII C

As Anita was done wearing the hazmat suit, she hurried up on her way into the hospital. "Good morning, Mrs Gupta," she was greeted by her doctor. Being in a frenzy, she simply nodded back and rushed up the stairs. Anita pushed through the doors. And at last, there was the little girl, barely seven years old, her little girl.

She waved to her mother through the glass screen, while Anita tried to hold back her tears. She quickly pulled up a chair and picked up the phone. "Hi, mommy!" her

daughter spoke feebly from the other side of the glass screen. "Guess what? Nurse Anna told me...that I am going somewhere beautiful in a few days..." she paused, "but where is it mom? ... And why do I need to go there? I don't want to leave you or dad... Why can't I just go home?" Lakshmi coughed a lot as she spoke.

Anita was finding it hard to control her tears but still gathered up all the strength that she had and said, "Lakshmi beta..." sniffing, "Daddy and I will be there. I promise." Lakshmi smiled radiantly. Anita had to stifle her sobs as she realised that this radiant smile would never be there to light up their home

again. For, little did Lakshmi know that she had contracted the lethal coronavirus.

Her condition was so severe that doctors had almost given up all hopes. But this was Lakshmi that we are talking about. She would be smiling even when her heart stops beating. Such was her persona. "Mommy?" Lakshmi's frail voice jerked Anita out of her thoughts. "Where am I going...? Do you know?" "You're going somewhere- someplace beautiful, sweetie." Anita said between sobs, "Don't worry."

Lakshmi's innocent voice and weak frame was too much for Anita to bear that she finally broke down. She just couldn't take it anymore. Kissing the glass screen to give her little daughter a little peck on her cheeks, she picked up her purse and walked out of the room, crying unconsolably. Tears flowed down her eyes like a river. The thought of not getting to hug or give her daughter a goodbye kiss was killing her.

As she mustered up a little strength, she went back into the room to be there with her daughter. There, she sat the entire day, praying to God, wearing all the protective equipments and gears. And as if God heard her and didn't want the duo to part ways, Lakshmi survived.

Yes, Lakshmi overcame the deadly pandemic and came back home in a few days. Was it her mother's strength and love, the power of prayer or Lakshmi's will to live. But something happened in that touch and go moment. Yet, all Lakshmi cared about was that she finally got to visit that beautiful place - her sweet home, only this time, it was forever. [G I](#)



Make your own sanitiser

Ankana Sangar

AIS Vasundhara 6, III C

Material required

Filtered water-1 cup
Rubbing alcohol*-1/2 cup
White vinegar-1/2 cup
Lemon -15-20 drops
Spray bottle-1

*It is suggested to use rubbing alcohol with a minimum of 40% alcohol content.

Procedure

■ Pour some water, rubbing alcohol, white vinegar and

lemon drops into a mug.

■ Mix all the contents well with the help of a spoon.

■ Now, transfer this mixture in a spray bottle.

■ And you are all set to go! Your homemade hand sanitiser is ready to use.

■ You can spray it on your hands, mobile screens, laptops, door handles and it will act as a perfect disinfectant.

Ankana made this sanitiser during the quarantine period in the wake of spreading awareness.

Poems

Fight corona

Garvit Sharma

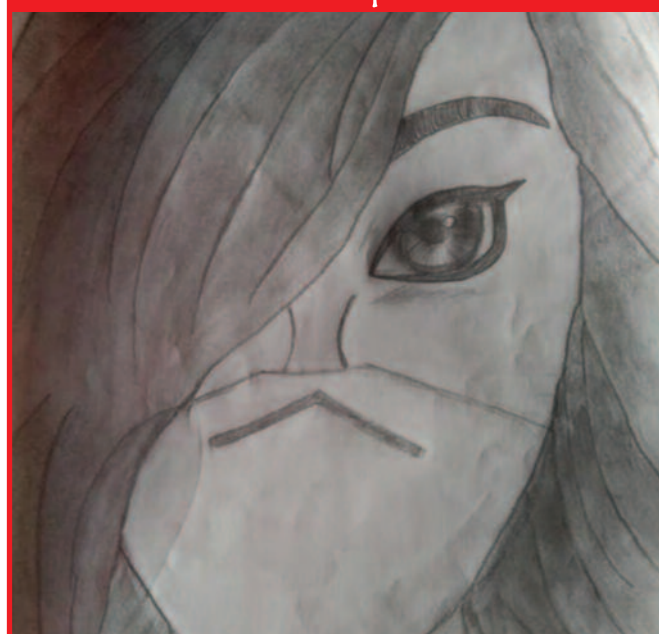
AIS Vasundhara 1, V C

It's not too much of a task
To ask you to wear a mask
Washing your hands is right
We need to win this fight
With extra effort, all our might
If your carelessness increases
Our population will decrease
Isolation is the only way



To fight corona, I say
Take this pandemic seriously
So we can fight it furiously. [G I](#)

Artistic Expression



Bikramaditya Mankotia, AGS Gur, VII

School away from school

Ayvaan Talwar, AIS Gur 46, IV F

Hurray! Vacations were getting over
Reopening of school's getting closer
New class and teachers were waiting
And the thought of it was pulsating

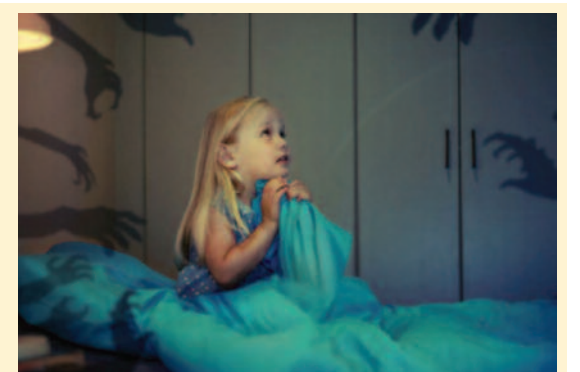
Suddenly, Corona came with a bang
And spread everywhere like a gang
With its rise, the schools were closed
And we were asked to stay indoors

Staying at home was not at all fun

I was missing school a million ton
Then, I heard about a unique plan
Drafted by the teachers of Amity clan

Soon, the online classes begin for us
My room became the new classroom
Thanks to our school for working hard
In order to bring our curriculum at par

I feel blessed to have great teachers
As their support shall make us shine
Now, it is our responsibility and turn
To show commitment in return. [G I](#)

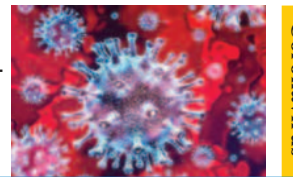


A nightmare like no other

Diya Arora, AIS Saket, VII B

You wake up with a start
Dreading your sub consciousness
Wish you could reverse what happened
Wish you could lie there motionless
But the fear tramples you
Causing you to think about it
And reliving it is even worse
This time, even more realistic
You start to think of what scared you
Not realising you were calling to it
The memories caused a sharp pain
Almost like being hit by a bullet
A nightmare, ghastly and unkind
Climbs up the ear and into the mind
It paints a picture of death and defeat
A nightmare that makes you skip a beat
But I have always heard
Face your fears, don't run from it
For I know, I'll be stronger when
I know, I can stand my ground. [G I](#)

The virus that causes COVID-19 is a part of the family of viruses called Coronaviridae and antibiotics do not work against these viruses.



AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF CORONA

Ishani Singh, AIS Noida, XI

As Much As You Hate Me, You Cannot Escape Me

Let me begin by introducing myself. I am the youngest among the Coronavirus brothers and the third among those that can affect humans. My journey began at a central market in Wuhan, a city in China, where I was born. I first originated from obscenely graceful mammals known as bats, as the humans call them. Well, being a virus, I like to explore different animals as human beings like to travel around the globe. I had explored bats and was on my way to getting transferred to other animals. But these human beings, they came in between and got themselves in a trap. I didn't know that the Chinese devoured those animals, ultimately entering the human body. I never wanted this to happen, but maybe this is what the humans desired. I am confused, why do humans put themselves in a trap of death? Do they like dying? At least, I don't. Speaking of this, here's another fact that strikes my mind which the human world surely needs to know- what humans call 'infection' is a way of survival for me. The conditions which lead to the infection are necessary for my survival. Truly, despite knowing



this fact, I still try to restrain myself from causing discomfort to the human body I enter. However, I am only able to control this for five to six days. And

after that, humans start noticing the symptoms of infection. After five to six days, I am forced to start working in order to survive. I enter into the lining of the

throat, airways, lungs and establish a virus factory there. This is where the destruction begins. I skew out a huge number of viruses that infect yet more cells.

Right now, I am spreading like a deadly forest fire in all parts of the world, killing and decimating thousands of people. So much so, that I am myself left

awe-struck by the degree of destruction I am causing. I used to be a teeny virus and here I am, all grown up, spreading uncontrollably. Let me remind you, the reason behind this too is the carelessness of humans. I only enter the human body through the air they breathe, if someone infected by me coughs nearby, or when humans carelessly touch a contaminated surface and then their own face. I know, humans feel that I am their ultimate enemy today, which naturally I am. But I still have friendly advice for them- stop the carelessness! The reason I am giving them this advice is because I am just a virus, I can only kill people and animals, gradually affecting nature, but humans are the most precious gift of God. Both destroying and saving nature is in their hands, this is what they think. I value nature to the extent that if I was brainy enough, I would have even told the humans how to get rid of me and save themselves. However, I don't have the slightest worry about that, because I surely know humans will use their witty brains to fight and destroy me, like they have always done. But as of now, all I can wish is a big fat good luck to the earthlings! 🇮🇳



Quarantine and chill

A Letter From Netflix To Its Viewers

Pragya Pandey

AIS Vasundhara 6, XII D

Hello world, "How you doing?" If you did not read that in Joey's voice, I'm sorry, we can't be F.R.I.E.N.D.S! I know a lot of you are couch potatoes and just love binge watching your favourite movies and series on me. Oh wait, didn't I introduce myself? Let's do this again. Hi there! Netflix this side. I hope you're staying home and are safe. And watching me. World's best boss, Michael Scott said and I quote, "I want people to be afraid of how much they love me." Well, people around the globe are hooked on me. Students who should be studying have officially declared me as their 'guilty pleasure'. Don't lie, I know I am your favourite pass time this quarantine season (and in general).

Let's talk some business now. The world economy is crashing. The stock market is stumbling. Not many industries are able to survive this global pandemic. But, I am fortunate enough to say that I am currently on my 52-week high stock price. With people staying home during lockdown, they have been indulging in a lot more screen time. As

much as it sounds bad, it isn't false to say that this pandemic has led to my growth and a very good one if I can say so.

These are trying times for all of us. There's no cure yet, other than practicing social distancing. We, at Netflix tried to save internet servers from crashing, by reducing high-definition streaming. We have uploaded 10 documentaries and short films on YouTube to boost online learning and help teachers around the world during the coronavirus lockdown. We have donated \$15 million to non-profit organisations providing emergency relief to crew and cast who've been left without jobs in countries-across Europe, Latin America and Asia.

Not gonna lie, I liked it better when there was competition in the economic world. Now it's just too boring out here. (Can't believe the entertainer itself can be bored too? Well, some things are just not in our control. *sigh*) Oh, I hope we get back to normal very soon. Anyway, until lockdown (and after), you don't have to worry about how to kill boredom. Remember, you have ME! Because "I'll be there for you."

Your partner in boredom, Netflix 🇮🇳

A global outlook

World Strategies To Flatten The Corona Curve

Dhruv Banerjee

AIS Pushp Vihar, XI G

With regard to the coronavirus outbreak, there are problems everywhere as well as a plethora of solutions. While some mitigation plans work, others end up as Greek tragedies. Here's a sneak peek into how different governments across the globe try to flatten the corona curve and protect their beloved economies (and occasionally, fail miraculously):

The herd immunity

The rationale behind herd immunity is that everyone contracts the disease, soon become immune to it and live happily ever after! But, what isn't realised is: people also die because of the disease. And as a result, when Prince Charles and PM Boris Johnson contracted the disease, it made the British government realise that they had messed up big time.

Die, but don't be unemployed

Though the virus spread quickly in most of the European Union, responses by governments were stern and well planned. Countries like France put special emphasis on protecting businesses and ensuring that people did not get laid off from their jobs. This was accompanied by massive care packages, amounting up to 110 billion Euros, which will create a hell-shaped situation of deficits for the government.

It's all China's fault!

Ever heard the saying, 'No point crying over spilled milk?' The Americans haven't. The government's primary response to the outbreak has been only to crib and crib. The country even cut off WHO funding to protect the economy and didn't go for a complete lockdown. This however proved to be detrimental for the health of Americans, as well as for Trump's election hopes.

Test, test, test!

South Korea is the class topper in the present scenario as they are tackling the outbreak quite well. The government made comprehensive plans to handle it as far back as January. Testing for the disease was done on a massive scale as test kits were produced and distributed efficiently. Furthermore, citizens were kept informed about the situation, through innovative methods. Knowledge is power and power is knowledge, remember?

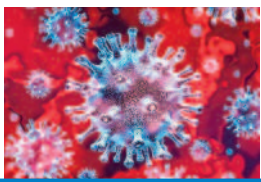
Stay at home and clap your hands!

In India's case, the government's prompt response for a complete lockdown has proved fairly wise. On the economic front, the government has provided an emergency package, while new RBI measures are in place for financial stability. In the meantime, Indians have developed a broad skill set by playing instruments like 'plate' and singing hits such as, 'Go Corona'.

Corona what? China who?

Yes, the world started taking coronavirus seriously when cases surged in these two countries. For a long time, Iran had callously turned a blind eye towards people coming in from China, to keep trade with China alive. Unfortunately, ignorance did not prove to be bliss and Iran was hit badly by the outbreak. In Italy, the virus was confused with influenza and pneumonia. Shocking, right? 🇮🇳

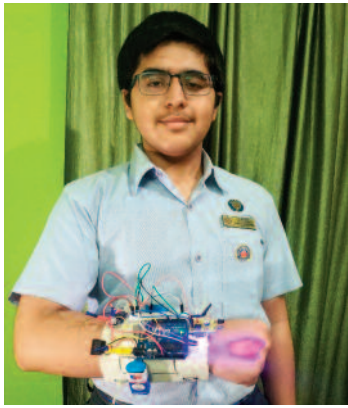




Coronaviruses were first discovered in 1930s in chickens and in 1960s in humans.

Telling the untold stories

GT Reporters Shine Bright At World Teenage Project



WORLD TEENAGE REPORTING PROJECT COVID-19



Stories of innovation and change featured by World Teenage Reporting Project COVID-19

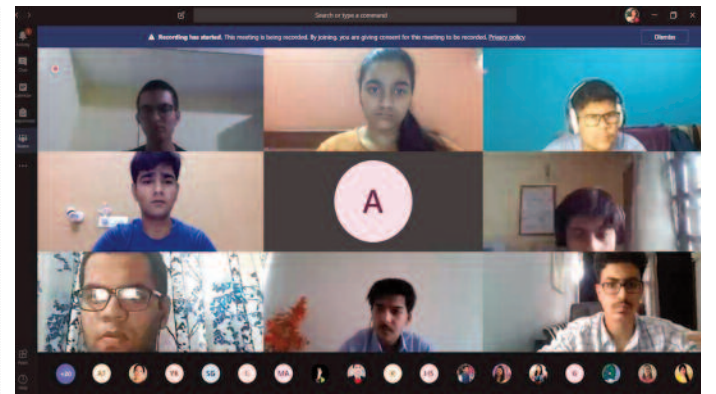
The Global Times

Eight young reporters (Editors-in-chief and writers) of The Global Times from 5 Amity International Schools of Delhi/NCR, reported untold stories of their teenage peers helping society during the pandemic, as part of World Teenage Reporting Project COVID-19, an initiative of The Global Youth & News Media. The Global Times was the only student-led newspaper representing India at this prestigious journalism platform in which 34 news media from 19 countries participated. Over 50

stories were published out of which 7 were from The Global Times, India. The opportunity extended to young journos by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF aims to nurture the youth with human values, empowering them with the power of pen and creativity to herald change in society. "I am happy to be a part of the World Teenage Reporting Project. With this initiative, we shall create a unique journalistic primer which will shape the future of the world post COVID-19. It will create a world that is more caring towards environment, a world full of love and

compassion, a world full of respect for cultural diversities, a happier and more positive world. World Teenage Reporting Project is truly a boulevard of awakening amongst youth across the globe," she shares. The students who participated in the project were Aditi Banerjee and Kreetik Thakur (AIS Noida), Saanvi Vaish, Nalin Jayaswal and Suhani Malik (AIS Pushp Vihar), Resham Talwar (AIS Saket), Dhriti Seth (AIS Gurugram 46) and Maansi Anand (AIS Vasundhara 1). Their reports of young changemakers like Shivam Mukherjee of AIS Pushp Vihar who designed wear-

able automatic disinfectant gadget for healthcare workers; Satyam Mehta of AIS Noida who made 3D face shields for frontline COVID-19 workers; initiative by the students of AIS Pushp Vihar to help people download Aarogya Setu app and many more were filed between April-May 2020. The stories were published on a global platform divided into three series (three stories in series 1, two in series 2 and two in series 3) on the official website along with other stories from around the world. All stories were uploaded on medium.com and shared through Facebook and Instagram. These were also published under 'Corona Warriors' in GT Quarantine Special e-editions of their respective schools and links were further shared on gtfight-scورونا.com website under 'Corona Warrior' campaign. Reports by the GT journos were appreciated by Dr Aralynn McMane, director, Global Youth & News Media and project organiser. In her words, "The Global Times did a fantastic job by synthesising the accomplishments of teenagers. The stories fit the theme of the project perfectly, showing that stereotype of teenagers these days as a problem is way off the mark."



Students participate in virtual Cyber Buzz

Cyber Buzz' 20

The Annual IT Symposium

AIS Gurugram 43

The school hosted its 17th annual IT symposium, 'Cyber Buzz 2020', on online platform from April 27 – May 23, 2020. The event was the first ever virtual inter-school tech competition, held under the guidance of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF. A total of 250 students from 37 schools across Delhi/NCR participated in 8 dif-

ferent tech-based events like photography, movie making, sway presentations, computer programming, etc. All the contests were judged by eminent professors, school educators, technocrats and alumni of the school. Overall winner trophy was bagged by the host school. AIS Noida secured the first runner-up position while AIS Saket bagged the second runner-up position. All the winners and participants were felicitated with e-certificates.

Skipping to glory

Winning In Tandem



AIS Vasundhara 6

Parinie Gupta of Class X brought glory to Amity by winning first position at Special Olympics Virtual Unified Skipping Competition organised by Zoom and Special Olympics Bharat, UP on May 30, 2020. She skipped 159 steps per minute in tandem with Preeti Toppo, a special needs student. The virtual



Skipping ace Parinie Gupta

event was aimed at promoting sporting experience during lockdown and including children with special needs into mainstream sports especially during times like COVID-19.

Creativity inside out

The First Virtual Inter Class Competition

AIS Gurugram 43

As the world transformed and lockdown forced people to stay home, Amityans brought their inner creativity out and in a big way. On May 6, 2020, students from Class Nursery -XII participated and won laurels in six myriad online creative inter class competitions organised by the school. The competitions comprised collage creation (Nursery – KG & VI-VII), bookmark making (Class I-II), best out of waste (Class III-V), poem recitation



One of the participants showcases her project



(Class VIII-IX), essay writing (Class X) and article writing (Class XI-XII). All the competitions were judged by eminent jury



Illustration made by Vibhushi Agarwal

Amity to Korea

AIS Vasundhara 6

An illustration based on the theme, 'World peace and a world without violence' by Vibhushi Agarwal of Class VIII has been chosen to be displayed at the War Memorial of Korea, South Korea. Her artwork was first displayed at a virtual art exhibition held on May 29, 2020 by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, South Korea to commemorate 70 years of the Korean war. From there, the Korean Embassy and Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) selected it to be displayed at the museum.

Amitian tops innovation challenge

Saving The Frontline Workers With Novel Design

AIS Pushp Vihar

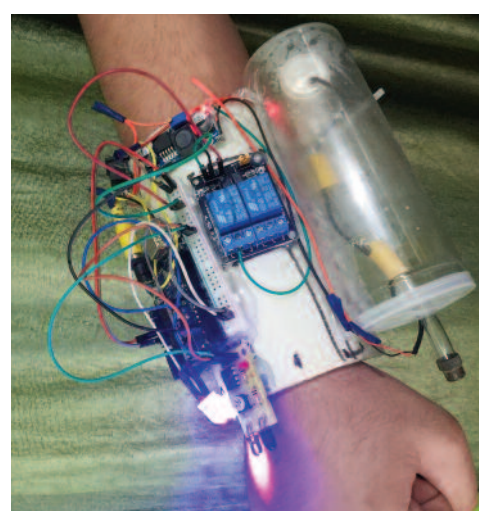


Shivam Mukherjee

Shivam Mukherjee of Class IX brought home laurels by winning first prize amongst 7826 participants at 'Innovation Challenge -2020' held by Smartcircuits Innovation Pvt Ltd and Young Scien-

tists Journal on May 16, 2020. As the world fights COVID-19, Shivam designed ABHAY- a fully automatic wearable disinfectant device along with an app to protect the healthcare workers who are most vulnerable to coronavirus infection. The prestigious competition focused on

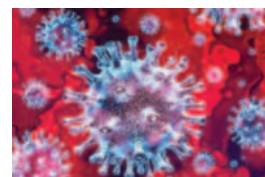
finding innovative COVID-19 solutions that can change the world and was held online and mentored by NASA experts. Shivam was awarded a telescope and an e-certificate signed by NASA experts. Also, his study will be published in Young Scientists Journal.



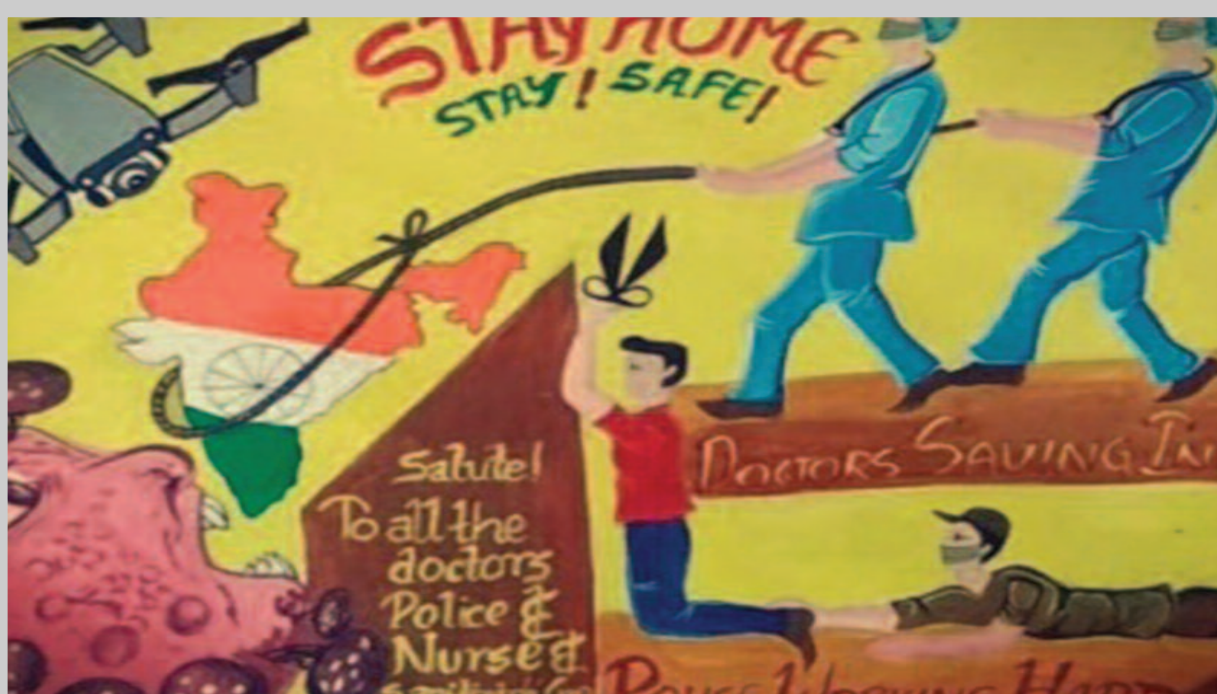
The prototype of ABHAY

Almost 80% of COVID-19 cases can recover from the disease with the help of proper care

All top quotes contributed by Lavanya Srivastava, AIS Vasundhara 6, VI B



Vrinda Garg, AIS Gur 43, X D



Rupsha Sengupta, AIS Vas 1, XI A



Shandilya, AIS Gur 46, XII A



Akshita Bhandari, AIS PV, VIII A



Sakshi Verma, AIS Vas 6, XII F



Rudraksh Bharat, II C & Rudransh Bharat, II A, AIS Saket



Agriam Mittal, AIS Noida, V L



Aarav Sharma, AIS MV, V C