

## INSIDE



Media Fest 20, P3



The wisdom of the old, P7

## AMITe poll

With various potential COVID-19 vaccines in the trial stage, do you think we are closer to finally defeating Coronavirus?

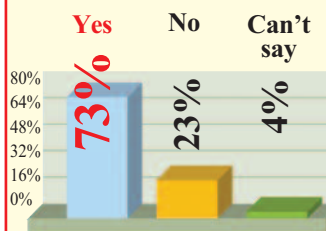
- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Can't say

To vote, log on to  
 www.theglobaltimes.in

### POLL RESULT

for GT issue July 20, 2020

With more than 30K COVID-19 positive cases in a day, do you think the country should be put on lockdown once again?



Results as on July 23, 2020

### Coming Next

Rags to riches

# The race to play

## Should We Bid Goodbye To Sports Events Or Find Them New Norms?

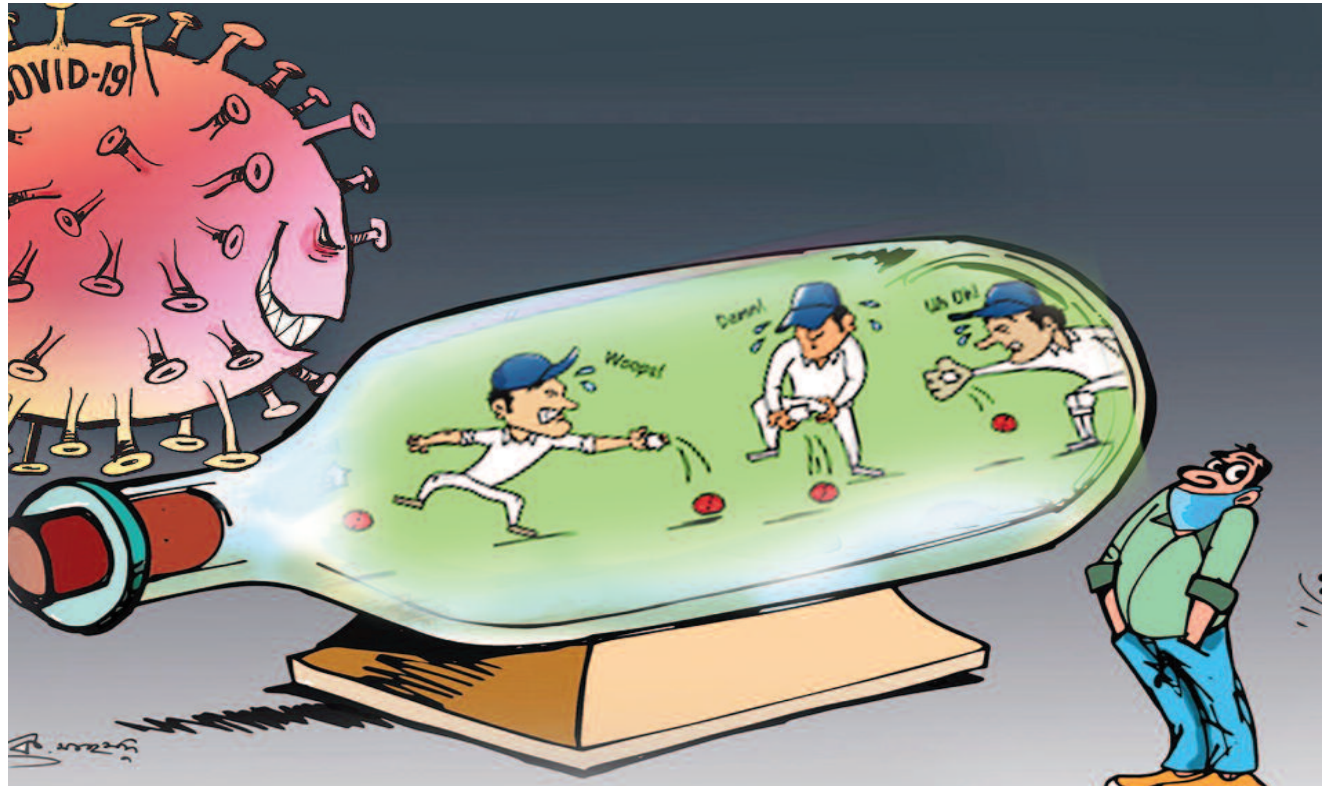
Imaging: Pankaj Mallik, GT Network

Stuti Kalra, GT Network

The world, as we have known it, is no more and with Coronavirus taking over the globe, the dream of going back to 'normal' seems to be crushed. But from education to work, as every sector struggles and yet carries on changing its tactics in the evolving society, the world of sports looks to be standing in the deeper end of the river. Casual neighbourhood cricket bats and badminton racquets are left abandoned and every match is maligned with the need of social distancing. Does this mean that the innings of sports have finally run out?

### The hurdle

As Novak Djokovic became the 4th tennis player to test positive for COVID-19 after Adria Tour, sports events came under fire for being the flagbearers of the virus. But with global sports industry estimated at 471 billion USD in 2018 and contributing to various economies, a lock on stadiums' door was bound to witness many tears. The cancellation of T20 World Cup cost Cricket Australia around 174 million USD, whereas saying goodbye to IPL was worth 3869.5 crore INR to BCCI. The postponement of Tokyo Olympics to 2021, according to Nikkei Asian Review, could still end up hurting Japan's economy by 6.32 billion USD. The livelihood of athletes, team staff, and thousands working at sporting events have taken a major hit and so has the revenue from broadcasting deals, sponsorship contracts and match tickets profit. With every great sports event, from London Marathon to NBA season, bidding us adieu for the near future, a new reality has dawned on the world which lingers with the havoc of COVID-19.



### The comeback

What does sports teach us if not to get back up when we lose? With the same spirit and a will to adjust to a newer regime, the world of sports is also making a comeback. Germany's Bundesliga football league, Korea Baseball Organisation, Ultimate Fighting Championship, PGA tour and New Zealand's Super Rugby were some of the firsts to make a comeback and cricket also saw a ray of hope as England hosted West Indies in a test match series. But changing times called for changing measures with new rules to ensure safety. With no mascots, no child escorts and no team photos, social distancing has been implemented at every step. Health check-ups are done

regularly, players are required to wear face masks and maintain physical distance, but without those moments of playful togetherness, will it still feel the same?

### The finish line

Players are stepping on fields again, but they will be doing so in silence. With 13.8 million confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide, social distancing calls for matches being played behind closed doors. German football, UFC events, cricket matches, etc., all witness zero crowd support as they resume. Where Taiwan allows 2,000 people to buy tickets for a match, South Korea replaces actual audience with cardboard printouts. But fans, being the soul of every game,

can only stay away for so long! From watching events live from home to constantly staying updated on social media, technology has become the biggest saviour. Remote Cheerer, an app by Yamaha, allows fans to select cheers, chants, or boos, to contribute to the atmosphere of the match and Germany's Bundesliga. Australia's National Rugby League also turned to AI for cheers and claps. With no echo from the fans, these animated cheers seem to be the only thing that keeps the sporting spirit alive.

This pandemic has changed the way we live, but, with sports becoming a perfect example, it can be said that when there is a will, humans will always find a way. 🇮🇳

# Computing computers

## Meet Parosh Abdulla Who Reiterates How IT And Research Always Go Hand In Hand



Dr Parosh Abdulla, professor of Computer Science, Dept of IT Uppsala University, Sweden

Yashasvini Verma  
 AIS Noida, X C

They say, "Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought." Keeping up with every bit of this phrase, Dr Parosh Abdulla, professor of Computer Science at the Department of Information Technology, Uppsala University, Sweden, has authored innumerable research thesis, enlightening the world more on the science of computers and has won him sev-

eral awards and accolades. As GT reporter caught up with him for an exclusive interview on his visit to Amity University, Noida for Confluence 2020, he spoke about his various feats and computer science. Here are a few excerpts from the same.

### What inspired you to choose the professional field of Computer Science?

Computers were a fascinating subject for me because I had only heard about it while staying in Iraq. There was no scope to pursue it and hence, I became an electrical engineer, something more close to the background of computers, thinking that one day I will get an opportunity to study computer science. And when, as a refugee I shifted to Sweden, my dream of studying computers came true as I could explore anything I wanted to study. Gradually, I started gaining interest towards this subject, something which was new and unplumbed.

You have written several research papers. How do you



Felicitation of Dr Parosh Abdulla at Confluence 2020

narrow down your research matter from the vast spectrum of choices available and how do you go about it?

There are two aspects to every subject matter that I take up for research. One is that you need to assess the market — to talk with people who are the direct users of these applications and to educate yourself on what's more relevant for them. The second is a bit scientific. You research, or you try and meet problems that are not trivial but useful and at the same time not beyond your calculative probabilities. Thus, it is a two-way street.

How do you think technology has changed the education system from when you were a student to now that you are a professor yourself?

Technology has impacted our educational mechanism a lot over the years. Internet has further added to this change immensely. One can now conduct or watch lectures with just one click. Even though my teaching methods have not changed much, but the mode through which it is reaching others has undergone a drastic change. Now, a teacher is more under pressure than ever before. Because now you're not

just competing with yourself but with several other online videos. Likewise, students now have access to a lot of information available on the net, which makes accessibility to all sorts of information easier but at the same time it complicates the process a bit more owing to the sheer amount of information that is available everywhere.

Any piece of advice for the students of Amity and all those who wish to follow in your footsteps?

Work hard, budding learners. Now that we are competing globally, learn and acquire as much knowledge as you can for, there is no end to learning. And once you are aware enough, go out and choose a specific stream on the basis of what you really want to pursue - whether you want to do something which is application-oriented, industrial or more basic science, explore and choose. These are some very important decisions to make as you move forward in your life. So, take your time, learn and choose wisely. 🇮🇳



Located at the height of more than 7,000 feet above sea level in the Andes Mountains, Machu Picchu was named one of the New Seven Wonders of the World in 2007.



Machu Picchu

# India this week

Pragati Singh, AIS VYC, IX

While we sit on our couch just breathing, a lot of things happen around us, and sometimes in our very own country. We bring you the ones worth mentioning.



## Privatisation of state-owned banks

**News:** In order to restore the banking industry post Coronavirus and deal with the economic losses endured, Indian government is planning to reduce its state-owned lenders to just 5 by privatising the rest. At present, India has 12 government-owned banks, out of which it plans to sell its majority of stakes in Bank of India, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, UCO Bank, Bank of Maharashtra and Punjab & Sind Bank.

**Views:** India should anyway have 5-6 public-sector banks only, as it would increase their global standard, making them fit to compete internationally. Moreover, privatisation would only pump in more money into the banks, reinstating the economic equilibrium our country had before this pandemic.

Anushka Shankar, AIS VYC, IX



## India's COVID fatality rate nosedives

**News:** India's COVID-19 mortality rate is currently estimated to be at 2.49%, amongst the lowest in the world, confirmed the Union Ministry of Health and Welfare. Attributing this effectuation to rapid changes in the containment strategies, ag-

gressive testing, and standardised clinical management protocols, the Ministry extended gratitude to both the Centre and State governments, and the healthcare workers for their extraordinary efforts. With an outstanding recovery rate of 62.86%, the country further shows vital growth in its handling of the pandemic.

**Views:** This one has definitely come as a breather for the Indian populace. Stressed over the incessant spread of the virus, with no effective vaccine in sight as yet, people can finally be hopeful and take a sigh of relief, as recovery now has an upper hand. But still the need to follow the social distancing norms and taking care of the high-risk groups - the old and sick is cardinal.

Mandavi Sharma, AIS VYC, IX

## Consumer Protection Act 2019 enforced

**News:** Replacing the old Consumer Protection Act 1986, the new CPA 2019 has been enforced from July 20, 2020, which entails the establishment of the Central Consumer Protection Authority in order to keep a check on and impose penalties (up to 10 lakh INR and two years of imprisonment) for any unfair trade practices by any commerce platform, including those online. The consumers would now get a more simplified dispute redressal mechanism including provisions for e-filing and mediations.

**Views:** The very fact that now a consumer can file a complaint electronically, or physically with the jurisdictional consumer forum located near him, instead of filing it at the place of purchase, relieves the consumers, providing overall procedural ease and reducing their harassment. Mediation further



makes this process quicker, reducing the pressure on consumer courts who already have truckloads of cases pending before them. Such quick dispute adjudication and strict fines would definitely discourage any practice of fraud on the part of the sellers, greatly benefitting the consumers.

Ojasvi Singh, AIS VYC, IX



## Private trains for the country by 2027

**News:** Indian Railways, in an attempt to offer world class travel experience to its passengers, has come up with the Private Trains project, according to which a total of about 151 new private trains will be rolled out by 2027 for 109 pair of routes across the country. All set to be opened for financial bids by March 2021, the project would involve a private sector investment of about 30,000 crore INR. Private companies would also have a right to fix their own fares, ensuring profits for them along the way, and an equal penalty in case they fail to meet the performance standards.

**Views:** Since the project holds the private companies responsible for the design, construction, maintenance, punctuality and overall upkeep of the trains, and has pre-specified penalties for anything iniquitous, it would keep the winning firms on their toes, simultaneously improving the quality of travel, catering, hygiene etc., which is a must in the post-COVID world. However, one thing that needs to be taken into consideration here is that these new services don't clog the routes for both passenger and freight services already active on these routes. Now, whether these actually benefit us or act as an affliction is what remains to be seen.

Kainaat Arif, AIS VYC, IX

## Around The WORLD

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



USA

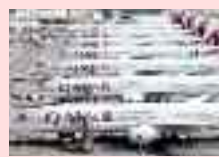
### Chinese consulate in Houston closed

Tensions between US and China rose sharply with Trump administration's decision to close the Chinese consulate in Houston in an attempt to protect 'American intellectual property and private information'. Chinese foreign ministry commented on the matter and asked "US to withdraw its erroneous decision, otherwise China will make legitimate and necessary reactions."

QATAR

### Qatar Airways demands compensation

Qatar Airways has targeted Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt for an international arbitration seeking at least 5 billion USD as compensation for blocking it from their air, land and sea over accusations of supporting terrorism. Denying any such charges, the airline demands recompense for the damages endured.



SOUTH KOREA

### Country goes into recession

Recording its worst performance in more than 20 years, South Korea's economy contracted 2.9% year-on-year in April-June after a fall of 1.3% in the 1st quarter. This was the fastest decline for the country after the 1998 Asian financial crisis. As a highly trade-dependent economy, its exports plunged 13.6% in the second quarter, making it the sharpest decline since 1974.



INDIA

### Flood wreaks havoc

Assam has seen the death of at least 90 people and displacement of lakhs after heavy monsoon burst the banks of Brahmaputra River, causing more than 2000 villages to be enveloped in floods and mudslides. Hundreds of animals have also drowned in the flooding, including 9 endangered rhinos living in the famous Kaziranga National Park.

TURKEY

### Protests against rising violence

The murder of 27-year-old woman named Pinar Gultekin has sparked outrage and protests in the country, shedding light on its shockingly high femicide rate. In 2019 alone, 474 Turkish women were murdered, and such cases of violence against women are only expected to increase in 2020.



AFGHANISTAN

### Airstrikes kill 45

Airstrikes carried out in Herat killed a total of 45 people including civilians and Taliban members, an investigation on which is being carried out currently. A spokesman for the US confirmed that they had no role to play in the airstrikes as America is winding back troops under an agreement with Taliban struck in February.



**News Flash** ▶ **Israel:** A firm named Betalin Therapeutics has created micro-pancreas to cure diabetes and aims to submit a request for its human trials ▶ **Saudi Arabia:** Due to COVID-19, Hajj, the annual Islamic pilgrimage will only see 1000 devotees this year





The site is believed to have been built by the 9th ruler of the Inca, in mid 1400s.

# Media Fest' 20

## A Platform To Get An Insight Into Emerging Trends In The Indian Media Industry

### AUMP

With an aim to spread awareness about the emerging trends in the Indian Media Industry, Amity School of Communication, AUMP organised its two-day media fest from March 4-5, 2020. As one of the most awaited events for the university, the fest was nothing short of a journalistic masterpiece, educating the enthusiasts more on the Promethean role that media plays globally. Read on to know more on what transpired during the two-day event.

**Day 1:** The first day of the event was initiated with an inaugural speech by the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Amity University, Madhya Pradesh, Lt Gen VK Sharma, wherein he discussed the importance of digital communication and its ill effects with everyone in the audience. Dedicated to the 'Editors' Conclave 1.0', day one was graced by 8 eminent editors and journalists from across the country including Shri Paranjay Guha Thakurta, Smt TK Rajalakshmi, Prof Jagdishwar Prasad Chaturvedi, Prof Jawari Mal Parakh, Sarvapriya Sangwan, Shri Prabir Purkayastha and Shri Rajkumar. The day was further split into 3 sessions wherein the eminent speakers expressed and shared their opinions on various topics such as 'The Role of Media in Indian Democratic System', 'Media in 21st Century: Governance, Credibility, Accountability and Social Responsibility' and 'New Forms and Practices of Journalism: Digital Media and Citizen Journalism'. Every panel session was followed by an interactive question and answer session in which the media and



Senior journalist, writer, media educator, Paranjay Guha Thakurta addressing the audience



Panel session in progress @ Editors' Conclave



Felicitation of actor, Yashpal Sharma at film festival



Standup comedian, Sanjay Rajoura performs an act



Actress, Swara Bhaskar attends the film fest

journalism students posed inquisitive and insightful questions and got a first-hand opportunity to interact, listen and learn from the eminent media educators, journalists and industry experts themselves. While each session of the conclave was informative in its own sense, its central theme revolved around media being the backbone of any democratic society today.

**Day 2:** The second day of the media fest, 'Amity Film Festival 2.0' saw actor, director and producer, Yashpal Sharma, renowned Bollywood star, Swara Bhaskar and standup comedian, Sanjay Rajoura walking on the stage. While interacting with the students, Yashpal Sharma laid stress on the fact that a coherent story, a strict screenplay and a logical outcome altogether define

good cinema, and it is something Bollywood must adopt. He added that cinema is for entertainment but it must have a good social impact too. On the other hand, Swara Bhaskar, highlighted the importance of film festivals to keep the essence of cinema alive. She appreciated the efforts of ASCO for organising such a grand film festival that witnessed a variety of critically acclaimed, award

winning films from across the world. Finally, the two-day media fest came to end with a stand-up comedy act by Sanjay Rajoura, where he reinvigorated the audience with his whimsically amusing jokes related to daily life anecdotes and humorous repartee. 🇮🇳

(Report by: Ayushi Sharma, Muskan Agarwal, Vanshika Charnalia and Oly Banerjee, BJMC IV, ASCO)

# An in(k)teresting journey

## It Begins With All The Zest, But Then We All Know The Rest \*Wink\*

Rimjhim Sayana  
AIS Noida, XII D

**Day 1:** It's the first day of a new academic session! I'm going to do everything right this time. I already bought 3 black and blue pens each, 2 pencils, an eraser, a backup eraser and a sharpener. All my notes from today are going to be complete. I will understand all my subjects from scratch and revise every lesson taught in the class the same day. I'm positive that 'nothing' can go wrong this time.

**Day 4:** Things have gone wrong again. I've lost my eraser already and my classmate borrowed (read: stole) my blue pen. I have 2 pages of incomplete physics work because I was too busy daydreaming. But not to worry, I've already taken the notes from a friend and I will definitely finish them all by tonight!

**Day 12:** I did not finish them that night. I did finish one page, but then I fell down the rabbit hole of

YouTube and somehow ended up watching videos of IKEA furniture assembling till 2 in the morning. So, now I'm a sleep deprived student with incomplete work, who still does not know a lot about furniture.

**Day 23:** I have finally managed to be up to date with my physics work. It is now my English work that is suffering, with only 3 questions in my notebook instead of 2 chapters.

**Day 35:** Out of all the things I'd hoped to achieve, keeping up this log was supposed to be the easiest. Even this has turned irregular now. All my subjects have something or the other which is incomplete, my revision schedule has totally gone for a toss. And I've had the same song stuck in my head for the past 5 days. Please make it stop...please...

**Day 42:** Finally! A light of hope in these dark times. Our

math teacher is leaving the school and since I've obviously not completed the assignment, I can make a new notebook and pretend like the last one never existed.

**Day 56:** I have clearly abandoned this log and everything that it represented: hope and/or success. Looking back, I see myself as a naïve child with no clue about the dedication and most importantly, motivation required to adhere to the rules I set for myself.

**Day 104:** I started off with all the fancy stationery and now I have a single, cap-less ball-point pen. There is a half-broken pencil on the floor. It's calling out to me, tempting me to steal it, but I'm not so easily coerced. Quick update: The said

pencil is no longer on the floor. It may or may not be in my pocket. You have no evidence.

**PS:** The author of this article hopes to change her habits and adopt a brand new strategy to be a good student from next year, or that is what she hopes.





Machu Picchu was hidden from the outside world for hundreds of years, and is one of the most well-preserved Inca cities.



Machu Picchu

# Disabled

# SUPERHUMANS!

## When Technology Successfully Becomes The Tool Of Power

measuring steps taken, calories burnt, distance travelled, etc. It can be synced with Apple Health or Google Fit and one charge lasts up to 15 days.

**Product:** OrCam devices

**Power:** Audio feedback

The devices made by OrCam are portable, artificial wireless smart cameras which are attached outside eyeglass frame and can read and verbalize text and barcodes. The information accessed by the de-



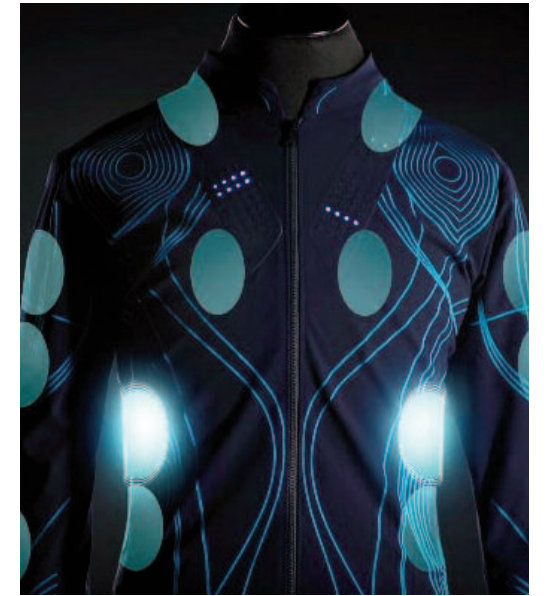
vice is then converted into spoken words and entered into the user's ear, describing to them what they are unable to see. The device stands to be a complete game-changer for those who are blind, visually impaired or having reading difficulties, and 'harnesses the power of artificial vision by incorporating pioneering technology into wearable platform'.

**Product:** Liftware

**Power:** Accelerometer

Designed to help people with hand tremors, Parkinson's disease or limited hand and arm mobility, it is a spoon that detects tremors with an accelerometer and responds to them with an actuator. Meaning that this spoon senses hand tremors and shakiness and responds by moving itself to stabilize the movement and not spill the contents, retaining the dignity, confidence and independence of the user.

these devices prove that technology truly can do wonders to help the differently abled. [GTI](#)



**Product:** Sound Shirt

**Power:** Haptic sensations

This company took 'feel the music' quite literally

Like we said, it's not progress if it isn't for all and

Parth Khullar  
AIS Saket, XI C

The advancement humanity has done in the field of technology is totally unprecedented, but it can only be called progress when it includes one and all, even the differently abled. Here's presenting a few gizmos which truly have changed the way the world works, especially for the ones who are often left out by the privileged.

**Product:** Lechal Smart Navigation and Fitness Tracking Insoles

**Power:** Hand-free GPS navigation

Created to rethink the way visually impaired navigate, since India has the highest population of them, these insoles can just be slipped into one's shoes to gain a GPS navigation system, fitness tracker and more. Using haptics or vibratory feedback, it tells a detailed route guidance and also tracks the fitness of the individual accurately by

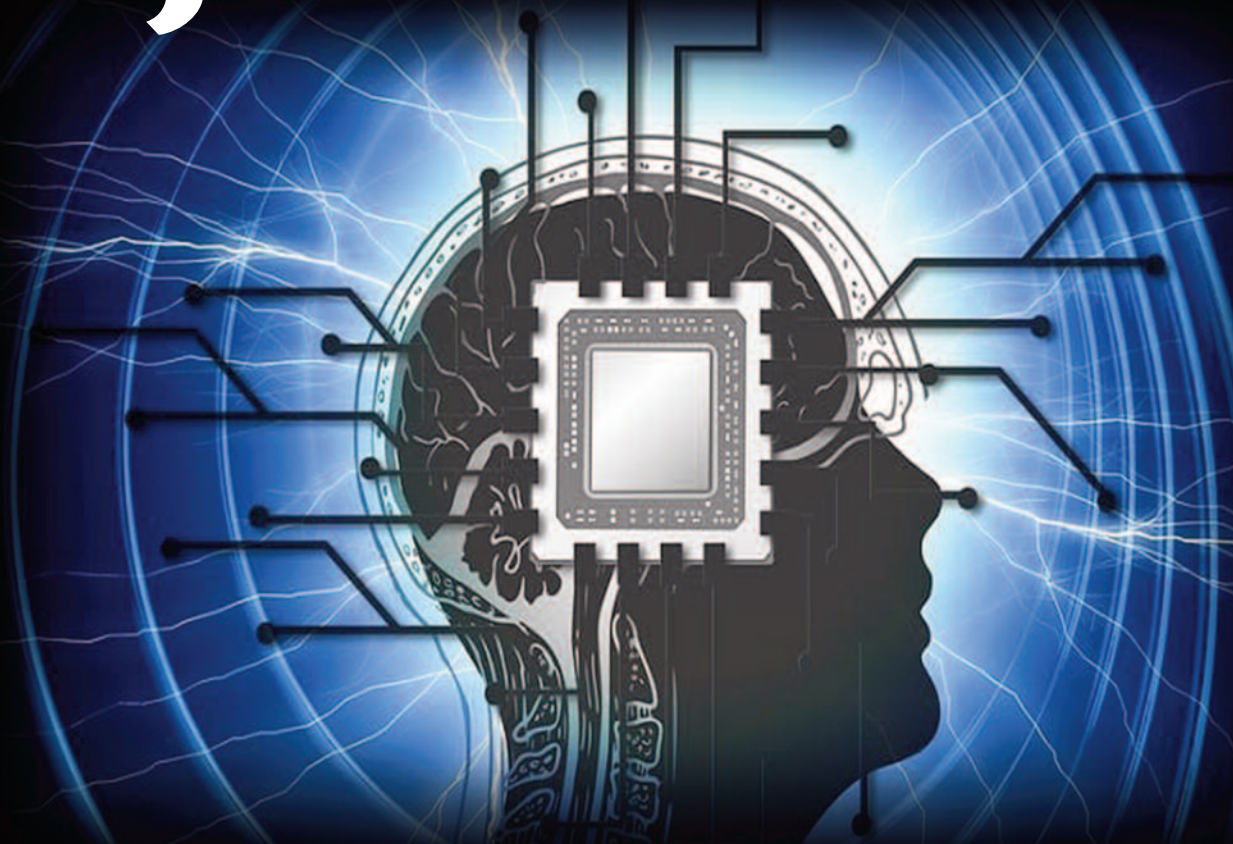
## Do You Think Neuralink Can Really Create The Next Super Race? 'I Do'.

Mudit Aggarwal  
AIS Mayur Vihar, Alumnus

Technology – the only ray of hope that is pushing the wheels of the world's car, allowing us to make progress even during the times of this pandemic. But as the society keeps depending on technology to solve their problems even before they arise, there still remains a section which is extremely vary of this miracle. After all, haven't we all seen the movies or read the books where, one day, this technology will become smarter than the human race and rise up to rule us? So, what's the solution? Well, according to the tech guru Elon Musk, the only way out for all of humanity in this war is to join hands with technology.

Neuralink, an organisation founded in 2016 by Elon Musk and company, aims to achieve the ultimate dream of making the human brain as smart as a computer. How, you ask? Simple – by turning your brain into a computer. The American neurotechnological cooperation works on developing implantable brain-machine interfaces (BMIs) that connects to your brain and alters the signals of your neurotransmitters. The device is a small microchip that has wires even smaller than the human hair and sits inside your skull, making the neural connection of your brain and different body parts better. Seeing AI to be 'an existential threat to humanity' if left unchecked, Musk started the company

# I, Robot



to achieve the eventual goal of human enhancement so that we can be at par with this looming threat.

In a mission to bring the human cyborg to life, Musk believes that his

technology will increase the memory capacity of the individual and also their overall brain performance. Many also speculate if such a technology will lead to a universal language

for the whole planet, or rather create a form of synthetic telepathy where the need of physical communication is rendered useless. A gizmo like that sure sounds like a drastic improve-

ment for the quality of life of humans, turning the field of neurology on its head and for all those who are worried if it is safe, Musk claims that it is no more dangerous than getting a heart monitor or an artificial hip. But the true extent of its performance cannot be known until human trials begin, which the company plans on starting very soon to see the performance of this ground-breaking technology. But even before Musk's utopia of transhumanism can be achieved, with its claim to alter the human brain and its signals, many see Neuralink as a real possibility of help for the disabled, including the company itself. From epilepsy to autism, the company's goal is to treat all brain-related diseases in the future, with the hopes of beginning human tests in less than a year and creating a full brain interface within the next 25 years. With a full brain interface, it would be easy to control every signal sent by the brain's neurotransmitters, rectifying it in the process and restoring patients to full health. Moreover, it would also have the potential to eliminate depression, anxiety and other mood disorders as per the need of the hour, and lead a better mental health for the individual. Surely, everything comes with its own set of pros and cons and as Neuralink promises a fusion of technology and humanity like never seen before, it also leaves the thought hanging of what will happen if it falls into the wrong hands.





Machu Picchu is made up of more than 150 buildings ranging from baths and houses to temples and sanctuaries.

## The New Age Twist On How To Do Things

# The modern way to live



Vrinda Sethi

AIS Mayur Vihar, XI

Living in a country and a generation that is constantly evolving, we see one thing slipping out of our hands only for it to be replaced by its better version. From phones to television sets, everything is getting refined, but has this constant refinement changed the way we do certain things?

### Excuse me

"I forgot to bring my homework. I swear I remembered it two days ago, but I forgot yesterday!" are the words teachers would never hear anymore. In this century, your parents are perpetually in touch with your teachers (thanks for that, WhatsApp!) and even if you think you can just 'forget' to keep the homework you definitely 'did', a message from your teacher is bound to remind your parents to remind you to not forget your homework.

### Fight club

Gone are those days when a punch and a kick would be the answer to solve a dispute. In the new age, any argument, which would have led to a fight earlier, is now simply resolved with both

the parties blocking each other on Instagram and unfriending them on Facebook. A status is put up and the other person is now 'cancelled' for you forever.

### Well, owl be darned

With new age, comes new tolerance for trying to become an owl. Sleeping at 3 o'clock and waking up at 6 am is no human's play. Constant power naps throughout the day are required to catch up on the sleep that has been missed. Where the teacher thinks that the child probably stayed up late studying, the friend sitting beside knows that all the credit goes to a little invention called Netflix.

### The saviour

Technology: though various debates might be done on the topic, there are times when you can just thank God for its existence. Sure, those times are when it is the middle of the night and exam lies the next day, and you suddenly realise you don't have the right notes. A quick message to your best friend and 2 seconds later, your inbox is filled with 50 photos of what you need to be studying. But when the same technology is used by your friends to turn an embarrassing photo of you into a meme, then you are not so thankful anymore.

The changing times have truly evolved the way we do certain things, but is it for the better or the worse? The answer might be totally subjective.

# Are you really in

## An In-Depth Analysis Of The Reality Of Physical Pain



Armaan Soni

AGS Gurugram, XI

On a very slow sunny Sunday, Jack rose peacefully from his comfortable bed at eight in the morning. As he lazily ambled around his room, his parched eyesight spotted his favourite snack - left open at the desk. Momentarily, with a casual smile on, he staggered towards the table, only to falter as he felt a sudden pain in his foot. The rising panic due to the fear of a drastic injury made him immediately check his foot. His eyes widened with sheer horror, as he saw a thick nail, stuck in the depths of his skin. Horrified, he screamed at the top of his voice, ruining every other living soul's smooth Sunday- including his dog!

### The drama-queen builder

We all know that the pain we feel - emotionally or physically - is directly proportional to the damage we sustain. In other words, the greater the injury, the deadlier the pain. But what if pain was nothing but an illusion of our minds? For instance, in 1995 a young builder landed on a nail the size of a ruler by accidentally falling from a building! As he was rushed to the hospital, the nurses claimed that even the slightest disturbance due to the ambulance's journey would cause enormous pangs of pain to the poor builder, followed by immense screaming. Finally, the waiting surgeons took a look at the patient. The surgery ceased before it had even began. The nail had never pierced, or

even scraped the builder's foot. It had merely pierced through his shoes. 'So, does that mean that the builder was nothing but a drama queen?' Well, actually no! The beseeching agony expressed by the builder throughout the

ride was built upon the very belief that he had been severely injured prior to his fall. Furthermore, from a logistic view, the neurons of the builder gave him signals of brutal pain when nothing really happened! This - subsequently - brings

us inevitably to the final question. Is the pain that we feel regularly and momentarily real - or just an abstract?

### An illusion or reality?

To answer accurately, let us consider

both Jack's and the builder's incident. Both Jack and the builder felt pain, the neurons in both of their nervous systems were fully functional and both of them were convinced of getting injured by a nail. Why is that? The very biological process of inflicting 'pain' is referred to as Nociception. Putting it simply in a layman's terms, after detecting an external 'damage', the residing sensitive receptors send out signals to the brain, which then further decides whether it should sound the alarm and release pain - therefore, causing you to curse out loud. But if the builder experienced no damage unlike Jack, how did he feel pain in the first place? There are some 'flaws' in this process of feeling pain. Injury and pain are not related to each other as far as our brain is concerned. Therefore, pain is more a representation of what our brain thinks has happened to us rather than what has actually happened to us. Of course, research is still on about why this happens at the first place itself.

### The takeaway

Alas, if pain is a constant experience such as living and breathing or an abstract concept such as fear and love, remains debatable. In conclusion, from an optimistic angle, being surrounded by our loved ones and also possessing the courage to fight against the negative emotions can therefore literally make the pain go away! Although, you may need to be slightly careful to avoid injuries while chasing after a favourite snack of yours! 🍌





Machu Picchu is made up of more than 150 buildings ranging from baths and houses to temples and sanctuaries.



## Good, not gullible



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

Dear children, we all love Harry Potter for all that he was- loving, caring, sensitive and sensible. He even risked his own life at times to save his enemy. But the moment the enemy got vile, he did everything possible to defend himself. So, while our dear little wizard was a good boy at heart, he was never gullible. He loved everyone with same sensitivity, but he was never weak to cower down when poked dangerously.

Closer home, Mahatma Gandhi, in South Africa, asserted his rights and refused to change the coach when he faced apartheid in the train. Gandhiji was the biggest proponent of peace and non-violence, but when faced with injustice, he left no stone unturned in asserting himself. A human being must be sculpted with values, but at the same time conviction and assertiveness must be your tools to manoeuvre the world. Be good, not gullible. Serve all above self, but never let go of your self-respect.

Lord Rama was known to be the man with the best virtues- obedient, respectful, humble, loving, etc., but when Ravana kidnapped Sita, even the he went out of his way to rescue his wife. Life will present you with situations where your virtues will be tested against times. Do remember to be assertive then but never without values. Always remember that even the most virtuous people will defend their beliefs and those around them when good values are under threat. [GT](#)

## Green Love



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

One of the fond memories of my childhood has been of rows of coriander, mint, and tomatoes growing in our small kitchen garden in the backyard. Though there were other plants too, these herbs, along with chilly plants,

tulsi, aloe vera, and lemon bush completed our garden. As a child, I use to pluck lemons and fresh coriander for dishes, and the freshness and the fragrance was unmatched.

Why I am sharing this with you is because these days even amidst the closed confines of high rises and lack of open spaces, I see people resorting to growing plants at home again. While immunity boosters like giloy, lemon, tulsi, aloe vera, mint, and turmeric are the favourites, jade, snake tongue, bamboo shoots, etc., have many takers too. As the times have transformed and immunity boosters have become a buzzword, the most positive green shoot of this time is our rekindled love for greens. As we seek to boost our immunity by drinking lemon and ginger tea, *kadha*, and many plant based drinks, we are also boosting our nature with greenery and beauty. I have always said that challenges come with opportunities and perhaps, now is an opportunity for us to restore the lost green cover of Mother Nature, we so cruelly trampled all these years. It's a chance for us to reset the time and restore the balance between nature and human. [GT](#)

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# Altruism equals selfishness

## Being Considerate Is The Only Effective Strategy To Be Selfish

Kreetik Thakur, AIS Noida, XII D

Some of us would go out of our way to help other people: donating to charities, protesting and signing petitions for rights, even travelling to distant developing nations to teach children, or provide necessary medications which are locally unavailable or are too expensive. But then imagine the most self-centered person you've come across in your life and you had to persuade them to do charity work. Sure, people aren't supposed to do nice things in order to expect something back, but how would you convince them that altruism is in their own best interest?

Well, luckily, there is an entire set of reasons to present. In 1874, philosopher Henry Sidgwick came up with the idea of 'Ethical Egoism' which explored how one's moral compass, though guided by selfish motives, does things that help others. For instance, helping a friend study for an exam. Feynman Technique states that the most effective way to learn is to teach the topic to someone else.

But what about the big guns, like travelling overseas to increase literacy rates in remote areas? Well, one could argue that if those children get better education and lead better lives, they may contribute to their nation's economy and thus increase the nation's research budget. That, in turn, may lead to more funds worldwide dedicated to curing diseases like cancer that affect everyone: the selfless and the selfish, alike.

It seems like a long shot but if we think deeper, the argument makes sense. If a billion dollars is put into diabetic research and if other countries perform better, perhaps that budget could increase ten-fold.



Other countries doing better also means having better living conditions and job opportunities and thus, opportunities for all of us. There have been instances in the past where nations have stopped aiding other countries and it adversely affected them. China had a closed economy for many centuries and the Tasmanian islands lost connections with the rest of the world. Both suffered for it and even lost the progress they made, like the Tasmanians losing the knowledge to make certain weapons, and the Chinese not having access to key discoveries around the world. It all boils down to a key insight. Even though our history reiterates fighting each other for land to gain more resources at the expense of others, right now we live in a world where sharing resources leads to increase in the resources. In fact, fewer people to

share it with is detrimental; the reason being that fewer minds playing with an idea means less chance to find a solution. Sure, when the black plague hit and two-thirds of the population died, there was more land and cattle for everyone. But during that period, there was minimal progress in the industrial sector and a break in scientific discoveries. In fact, printing press was invented right after this Western hiatus ended, when the population had grown again. That is why it is necessary that we have more minds working on problems, and that those minds are nurtured and fed properly. And that would only happen if we were altruistic— even if out of selfishness. When it comes to selfish people, it's better to go for the head. Not with axes, but with economic and philosophy textbooks. [GT](#)

## The perilous enemy

### Defeat Procrastination, Today, Not Tomorrow



Abhiraj Singh

AIS VYC Lucknow, IX

There are some who are prim and proper, totally organised, the ones who finish their work right on time. Then there are those who keep pushing their work till the deadline is on their head. And the majority of us fall in the latter category. To shorten it up, the word here is 'procrastination'. Though the procrastinators would say

that it is the fault of dilatoriness and laziness, but the point is, one should not even defend something like this. You see, it leads people to defer the task at hand to some future time. Take your summer holiday homework for example. You keep dragging it to the next day every day until it's time for your school to re-open. It may either be due to sheer laziness and disinclination to work when work seems inconvenient; or it may be due to the illusion that there will be plenty of

time in the future. Well, sorry to burst your bubble, there is not. In fact, procrastination is something that must be kept a check on. If not firmly checked, it grows into a bad habit.

Look at the pile of clothes lying on the other half of your bed. Sorry to sound like your mom, but does it feel good to live in a messy room all the time? It won't be wrong to say that procrastination is the exact opposite of the virtue of punctuality. A punctual person would complete the given task at the right time and would not delay it till the next day, or next week, or next year. Think once, it would be so good to have an arranged life where you have a clean conscience, knowing you are well ahead with your work. Also, there wouldn't be any last-minute stress running around errands, leading to inefficiency of work as well.

Though procrastination may feel good for the moment, yet it is a pure evil. It won't be difficult to list down a dozen of negative things that can happen due to it. Therefore, it is aptly said that procrastination is a thief of time. Every minute wasted is time wasted and time lost. So, here's a subtle reminder for you all - 'Do it now, in this very moment!' [GT](#)



GT M@il



Issue: Page 5, July 20, 2020

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'Rewriting history' on page 5 published in the GT edition dated July 20, 2020. The article plants a compelling question in one's head, and that question deals with the legacy we wish to leave behind for the future generations. Our ancestors have given us a plethora of gifts when it comes to history and culture, each having great historical significance. If someone begins to explore it, they may find themselves in a completely different dimension. But the article also raises a very important question – what are we planning to leave behind? It made me realise how important our actions are and how they will become the roots of another generation. The lines "Nature will once again run its own course and all that we are creating today will be passed down to our future generations, again all in the name of history," makes us realise the impact of our actions on others and the impact they will have in the future. [GT](#)

Pragna Das, AIS Gurugram 46, XI S





The compound of Machu Picchu contains more than 100 separate flights of stairs, where most of the staircases were carved from one slab of stone.

Continued from page 7 of July 20, 2020 edition

# The wisdom of the old

Tales Of The Storytellers Themselves, Only This Time Recounted By The Young

## Buck up and deal with it | Prioritise the need of the hour

We hear a lot about protests undertaken by college students these days. One such protest was shared by my grandfather that had caused mayhem across the country. It was at the time of the implementation of the Mandal Commission against caste reservation. My grandfather used to work as the Chief Engineer at the Kurukshetra Water Department and resided in its complex, just a block away from the humongous Kurukshetra University. He could see from his office the classrooms burning, students shouting, and the police siren- it had become as common as a bird's chirp. Stepping out of the house for work caused him to worry about his family and his own life. But he braced the difficult situation and it passed with time. All he wanted me to understand was that instances like these are



just stepping stones which help us brace ourselves against any situation, even the one we are all facing at trying and testing present times.

**Manishka Goyal, AIS Noida, VII M**

It was the month of October in the year 1962 when India was attacked by China. "We didn't believe in war. India and China were allies. Besides, according to Panchsheel Treaty: Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, China would not attack India and neither would our country attack them. We felt betrayed," expressed my grandfather in a doleful tone when I asked him why the war even ensued. China had attacked NEFA and Ladakh; at that time, my grandparents were in school, but they felt like soldiers filled with immense patriotism. In their school, they had a morning procession called 'Prabhat Pheri' in which patriotic songs were sung. My grandmother, in a state of nostalgia, specified, "We were sup-



posed to wear civil uniforms and not white uniform because China's fighter plane used to be in sky to drop down bombs." Since Diwali was also nearing, all the savings that my grandparents had were voluntarily

donated in the National Defence Fund instead of buying firecrackers. They celebrated the 'Dark Diwali' and didn't light any *diyas*. Respecting and standing by the country and the army was the need of the time.

**Sanvi Marwaha  
AIS Mayur Vihar, VII A**

## Childhood days are the best

I feel blessed to have my grandmother as she shares with me the memories of her childhood and her golden days. Whenever my grandma talks about her childhood, she talks about how happy it was. She loved playing outdoor games such as *gillidanda*, *kho-kho*, *kanche* (marbles) and *chausar* (shell game). Schools were simple during those days. Instead of school bags, students carried aluminum boxes in which they kept their

books, stationaries and lunch box. School books were passed down from one sibling to another until they were in tatters. On her way back from school, my grandma would buy samosas or kachoris with whatever annas she had with her. She still has some annas which she holds very dearly. Her childhood tales of fun and frolic always fill me with glee.

**Garv Jhunjhunwala  
AIS Vas 6, VI B**



## Being content is all!

On a visit to their house, my grandpa and I were taking a stroll in the park near their house and he started telling me stories of his childhood. During that time, India was in the process of rebuilding itself post independence. He came from a small village in Uttar Pradesh and his father, my great grandfather, was a priest in the village. My great grandfather wanted him to follow in his footsteps and become his apprentice but my great grandmother had other plans. She got my grandfather enrolled in a school which was 20 odd kms away from their village. My grandfather had to walk the entire stretch to reach his school. If he was in luck, he would get a ride on a passing bullock cart. In his youth, my grandfather was quite interested in kabaddi and wrestling. He would



go for a daily swim in the nearby river followed by fresh milk treat from the *halwai's* shop as there were no polypacks and tetrapacks during that time. My grandfather told me that as a child, he was an early riser and would go to bed early too, a habit altered by the fast pace of city life. Although he had limited resources then, he was satisfied with his life, something we all seek today.

**Abhay Sharma, AIS Vas 1, VII D**



Even whilst talking to my grandmother on a video call, she reminded me of how the childhood she lived through seemed to be world

## Be grateful enough

apart from what I am experiencing today; she told me how lucky I am to be born in the present times, enjoying so many luxuries that she never had. She recounted how instead of passing time with video games or YouTube, she could only play with her siblings or listen to the radio back then. With no Uber and Ola, her only mode of transport was either walking or riding a bicycle, and the only way to contact a friend

was either to see them physically or write a letter which would take weeks to be delivered. Just imagining living in a world like that was difficult for me, and I couldn't comprehend how I could ever live without any of the gizmos that have become an essential part of our life. It is only through her tales that I realised how thankful I should be of all the things that I have today!

**Tiya Vermani, AGS Gur, VI**

## Courage, my friend!

My grandfather, a retired personnel from the Indian Army, always narrates to me his experiences of different war situations, be it the 1962 Indo-China war, the Kargil war or the Emergency of 1975. On being asked about the Indo-China war, he told me how it caused mayhem amongst Indians, as China after gaining the trust of India by raising a famous slogan '*Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai*', went on to attack

us eventually. Here, my grandfather was responsible for providing telecommunications to forward troops. "There was utter confusion in the country," he said, also mentioning that misinformation was the biggest challenge then, just like what's been happening now. He also shared his experience of the Emergency crisis, on how frightened the masses were, and how everyone was restricted from going out of their



homes. Through his tales, he wanted me to learn the courage to stand up in the face of uncertainty.

**Parth Katoch, AIS Gur 46, VII I**

## To set others over self

My parents often tell me that the first classroom is at the feet of your grandparents. My Nanu keeps sharing most of his life experiences with me, especially the ones related to his army days. It was only recently when he told me about the time when he was posted in Arunachal Pradesh during Sino-Indian skirmish, 1987. As the Colonel in the army, he was supposed to go to the China Border Post to monitor the situation. But as fate would have it, he got slightly unwell and his duty was assigned to one of his subordinate. As there were no roads to the army base, the personnel had to take the helicopter. When they landed at the base, gunshots started to fire. Everyone in the helicopter got critically injured. Counter fire started, and the terrorists were neutralised. Unfortunately, my Nanu's subordinate was martyred. My

Nanu was in deep grief and pain. Till date he mourns about it. He taught me how brave and valiant are the soldiers of our defense forces who are always ready to sacrifice their life and protect us.

**Raabia Ali Abidi, AIS Saket, VII B**





Machu Picchu was an astronomical observatory, and its sacred Intihuatana stone accurately indicates the two equinoxes.



Machu Picchu

# A spirit so rare

Imaging: Pankaj Mallik, GT Network



## Storywala

Ananya Tandon  
AIS Noida, XI

As the rain poured down in Miami, Kaira sat reading her old diaries that she had begun writing three years ago, when she was just seven years old. All the memories of her late father came flooding back to her. "Kaira, I have something for you!" just then said a man standing at the door. "Wow! You got me four oak wood sticks? Thank you, Uncle Jack, and thank you for having me. I love coming here for my summer vacations!"

After the skies cleared, Kaira went outside and became so engrossed in her games that she didn't realise she had ventured deep into the nearby forest. As thick fogs and chilly air surrounded her, she trembled in fear. "Oh Lord, someone help me!" she cried. "Don't worry, I'll help you get out of here!" came a voice. When Kaira turned, she saw a man but his face was hidden with a scarf. She felt a warmth around her and she trusted him. So, she moved to hold his hand, scared to be alone, but he immediately stepped back. "You can't touch me," he

cried. "Three years ago, a priest cursed me that if a human being touches me, I will disappear forever. Kaira looked at him with empathetic eyes, but quietly followed him and soon, he led her to the end of the forest. "Kaira! Where are you?" a voice came from afar. "Uncle Jack, I am here!" She wanted to tell Uncle Jack about the man who helped him, but as she turned to point towards him, he was gone. It had been 10 years since the incident, and she had almost even forgotten about it until her next visit to Miami. As she was out in the town one evening, she sensed

"Oh Lord, someone help me," she cried. "Don't worry, I will help you get out of here," came a voice.

a presence around her. She felt someone following her; finally, she turned to look at him. And, suddenly, she was reminded of her day in the forest. She felt the same warmth she had felt in that forest long ago, and she knew for sure that it was the same man. He removed his scarf, and lo and behold, it was the spirit of her father. His eyes were filled with tears and Kaira, too, broke into a sob. "I am so proud of the woman you have become, Kaira. I didn't want to leave this world because I wanted to look over you, but now I know you are a capable young woman. I always want you to be happy and chirpy, but I think it is finally time for me to go to afterlife." He extended his hand for Kaira and crying she touched her father for the very one last time and watched him disappear. Finally, bidding him goodbye with tears in her eyes, she opened her umbrella and slowly made her way back home. 🇺🇸



## Tricolour bread rolls

Ansh Bhardwaj  
AIS Mayur Vihar, IX B

### Ingredients

Bread slice.....3-4  
Carrot (diced).....½ cup  
Cucumber (diced).....½ cup  
Radish (diced).....½ cup  
Sandwich spread.....as required  
Salt.....to taste

### Method

■ With the help of a knife, remove the crust of all the slices of the bread.  
■ Now, using a rolling pin, flatten the slice of the bread slightly and gently, ensuring

that it does not break.  
■ Apply the sandwich spread on the slices evenly.  
■ On one end of the bread slice, place a few diced carrots, followed by diced radish and cucumber.  
■ Sprinkle some salt over the veggies as per your taste.  
■ Now, carefully roll the bread slice tightly in order to enclose the diced vegetables.  
■ Cut the bread roll into half, or tinier pieces as desired.  
■ Serve it with green chutney or tomato ketchup for a perfect light snack to enjoy in this rainy season!

## TEST YOUR BRAIN

Given below are two words which may seem completely unrelated but your goal is to find a third word that connects them both. So, stimulate your temporal lobe, and get solving!

Eg: Lock - Piano: Key

1. Ship - Card: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Tree - Car: \_\_\_\_\_
3. School - Eye: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Pillow - Court: \_\_\_\_\_
5. River - Money: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Bed - Paper: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Army - Water: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Tennis - Noise: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Egyptian - Mother: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Smoker - Plumber: \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: 1. Deck 2. Trunk 3. Pupil 4. Case 5. Bank 6. Sheet 7. Tank 8. Racket 9. Mummy 10. Pipe

## WORDS VERSE



Varada Kachroo, AIS VKC, IX

Early in the morning the sun rose  
Its beam touching my eyes closed  
And the day with two old sounds  
When I yawn and the crow caws

Oh! My heart is all taken away  
Midst the green, across the doorway  
With dews every here and there  
Splashing on the butterfly that flew

The flowers are all out to bloom

Giving the garden a fresh look  
But also being a threat to it  
Cause the ravenous always brew

The birds now travelled afar  
To return with mouths full of twigs  
Getting to work as soon as they could  
So learn something, for you should

The day went by in a moment  
And the sun went to set very soon  
For everything changes once a while  
Except nature across the earth's mile. 🇺🇸

## Crumbling world

Anupriya Bhatnagar  
AIS Vas 1, XII

This world where I live  
Is crumbling to dust  
Where people do anything  
For their growing lust

Wherever I go  
Corruption is rampant  
Humans are converting  
Into scattered fragments

Power instigates people  
To crave for more and more  
Here beggars on streets  
Are nothing but an eyesore

Here people are ruthless  
To fulfil their greed  
Snatch from the weak  
Their most basic need



This world is full of humans  
But no signs of humanity  
Have we reached the verge  
Of absolute insanity?

Why don't our hearts  
Cry out in anger and pain  
When we see a fellow human  
Dying for someone else's gain

Are we all waiting  
For God's calamity  
To remind each one of us  
Of our dying humanity?

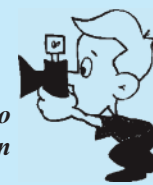
Why can't we stand  
As all different but one  
Hold an olive branch  
And abandon the gun? 🇺🇸



## CAMERA CAPERS

Vaibhavy Darshan, AIS Gur 43, XI A

Send in your entries to  
cameracap@theglobaltimes.in



Hope dwells in every eye



The hope to slip through traffic



The hope to touch the sky





During its use as a royal estate, it is estimated that about 750 people lived there, with most serving as support staff who lived there permanently.

# A memorable experience

## Short story



**Kanishka Sharma**  
AIS Vasundhara 1, VI

Dear diary,  
Tringgg! I will never forget the sound of my alarm clock that day. For the first time, I didn't mind its ringing and waking me up from my dreams. After all, it was my big day, the one I had always dreamt of. "Wake up Kanishka, or you'll be late for your audition," shouted my mother from the kitchen. The word 'audition' echoed in my ears as I instantly jumped off my bed and got ready hastily. At the breakfast table, I was fidgeting through my bag to see if I

had kept everything: my water bottle, my ID, energy bar...oh, my audition token! I couldn't find it anywhere. I started to panic and looked through the whole house. When my mother came, she calmed me down. "It's right in front of you at the table. Don't be so nervous; you will not mess anything up and you'll be great." She was right, I was just getting too nervous. I asked her if she would help me rehearse once more and she agreed. My rehearsal went well and I felt more relaxed and confident that I would get through. With that fervour and enthusiasm, mom and I left the house for NSD.

For the uninitiated, NSD is none other than National School of Drama! That's right, the dream institution for any theatre arts enthusiast who wishes to make it big in the industry. It had always been a dream for me to play a part in one of their iconic plays and now it was on the threshold of coming true. I couldn't wait to reach there and meet the other contestants and the esteemed judges! Reaching there, I was overjoyed to see the NSD building in front of my eyes. It was like it had jumped straight out of my dream, so beautiful. After the security check, we were ushered into a room, where all the other participants were sitting.

**I started to panic and look through the whole house and when my mother came, she calmed me down.**

They all seemed a little nervous, but the organisers came and asked us to break the ice by introducing ourselves. We were made to participate in a fun activity called 'Footsteps', where our feet were paint brushes and the floor was a canvas. Then we all indulged in role plays and enacted scenes out of our favourite movies. It was so much fun! Finally, the auditions began. We were all called inside one by one and made to say a dialogue from the play to the camera. I think I performed well. The judges seemed satisfied. After the audition, we all went home. I was **anxiously** waiting for the result which was to come out the next day. Finally, the result was announced on their website. Alas, I wasn't selected.

However, the audition was an enriching experience. I got to learn so much from it. Now I strive to work even harder and fulfil my dream of becoming a successful theatre artist. I will always cherish my first audition as a great learning experience. Now I am sleepy, will see you soon again.

Good night diary! **GT**

**So what did you learn today?**  
A new word: **Anxiously**  
Meaning: In a way that shows you are worried or nervous



## Bird feeder

### Material required

- Bread-1 slice
- Cookie cutter-1
- Paper string-1
- Bird seeds-as required
- Peanut butter-as required

### Method



- 1 Take the slice of bread and with the help of the cookie cutter, cut it into any shape.
- 2 After you are done making the shape, make a small hole on the top of the slice of bread to make space for the string.
- 3 Keep it outside overnight, so



that it hardens.

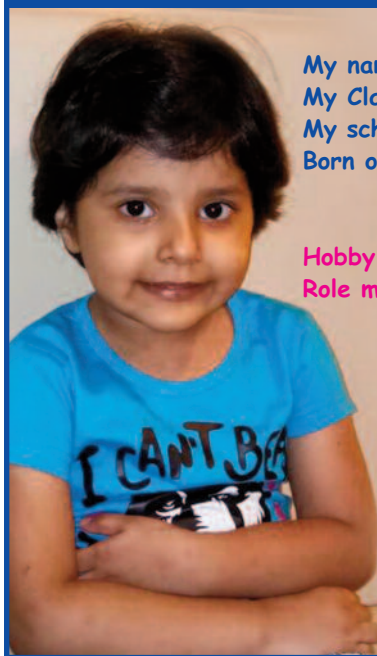
4 Once the bread has hardened, use a knife or a spoon to smear peanut butter evenly on both sides of the slice of bread.

5 Roll the bread in bird seed so that there is sufficient amount of feed on both sides of the bread.

6 Tie the paper string through the hole.

7 Your peanut butter-bread bird feeder is ready to be hung out in the balcony or in the garden for your feathery friends.

## It's Me



### Know Me

**My name:** Avni Mishra  
**My Class:** II A  
**My school:** AIS VKC Lko  
**Born on:** October 22

### About Me

**Hobby:** Singing  
**Role model:** My father

**I like:** Watching cartoons and playing with my baby brother  
**I dislike:** Lizards  
**I want to become:** A fighter pilot  
**I want to feature in GT because:** I love my school newspaper

### My Favourites

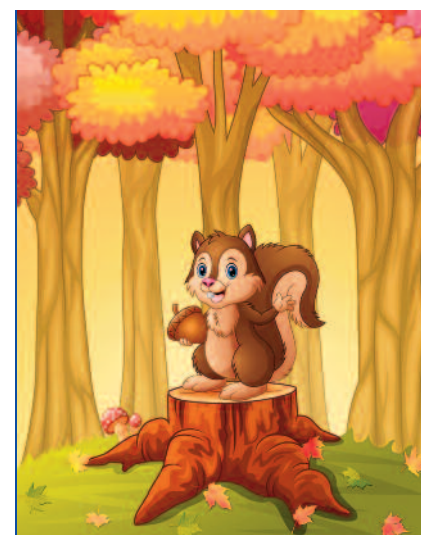
**Book:** The Elves and The Shoemaker  
**Mall:** Fun Republic, Lucknow  
**Game:** Badminton  
**Food:** Chole Bhature  
**Teacher:** Priyanka ma'am and Shalini ma'am  
**Friend:** Divyanshi  
**Cartoon:** Shimmer and Shine  
**Subject:** Mathematics

## POEMS

### Through the semal trees

**Vania Gupta**  
AIS Vasundhara 6, VII

Hear the whisper of nature's call  
Rejuvenate your mind, body and soul  
Divine aroma of the breeze  
Squirrels jumping on the trees  
Spiritual walk on the road of thought  
Sound of fallen leaves on the path  
Kids all around, chirpy and gay  
Smiling sun comes out to stay  
Spring dances on the semal road  
God blessing us in our abode  
Walking down the memory lane  
Watching through the window pane  
No tears, sadness, sorrow or strife  
Riding on the high end of life. **GT**



### God the creator

**Adya Jain**  
AIS Pushp Vihar, VII

The warmth of God's light  
Makes our Earth so bright  
God made the beautiful sky  
For the lovely birds to fly  
His love is wide as an ocean  
Driving us in the right motion  
He created stars so bright  
That fill our life with light  
We are all God's creation  
Let's make it a lovely nation! **GT**

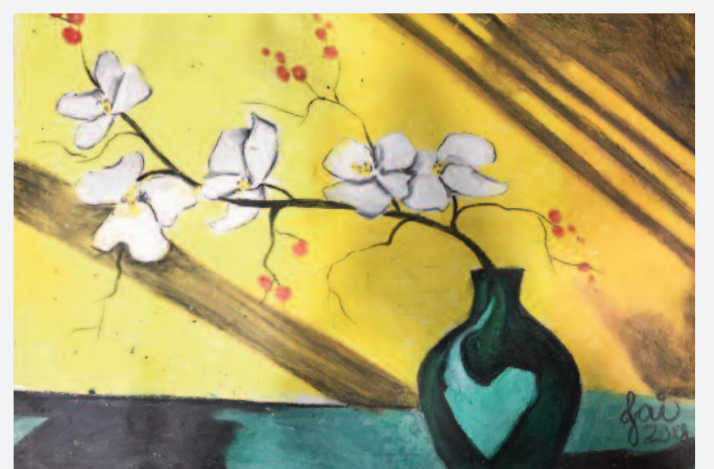
## Painting Corner



**Amit**, AIS Mayur Vihar, VII



**Harshal Agarwal**, AIS Saket, VII C



**Jai Parwal**, AIS Noida, VII



Most of the cities built by Inca civilization were destroyed during the Spanish conquest.



Machu Picchu

# To a positive future

## Courage, The Only Keystone To Heal Ourselves This Pandemic



Parth Khullar, AIS Saket, XI D

It was months ago that the slogan 'Corona go, go Corona' came into existence and was rather viral. At that time, it had become evident that ex-

tending the lockdown was inevitable. However, gradually, the unlock happened and many people raised questions about it. But given the economical situation of the country, till when 'could' it have been extended, or till when it 'should' be extended,

is still uncertain. Thus, it becomes vital for us to keep our mental well-being high in these testing times. Being quarantined, it is possible for people to feel burdened with stress and anxiety. It is also probable that as the number of COVID-19 cases increase, we may also feel our anxiety rising along with them. This direct relationship of the number of cases and anxiety can be reduced by simply not being glued to the news flash all the time. After all, being updated with the current status of the world is different than looking at the news 24/7.

Moreover, we need to be optimistic and positive and in order to do so, we must have control over our thoughts, repudiate the negative ones and only absorb those which are positive, as whatever is on our mind always affects our physical well-being. Indulging ourselves in activities to keep ourselves busy is one of the many things that we can do. This time can be utilized to its optimum to rediscover ourselves and our hidden talents, brush up our existing ones and subsequently develop new ones. This time bestowed upon us by the Almighty can be used at its best to strengthen our relationships and rejuvenate ourselves amidst our loved ones.

It is time and again said that every day has an end, similarly this pandemic will end, things will get normal and we will all move on, but what is important is how we get through this period of time. Courage is the machinery that often wins the war. For, in the end, it is imperative that we must not get panicky, take proper precautions, keep on this effort and never lose heart. 🇮🇳

### POEM



## The COVID times!

Shriya Pasricha, AIS Gur 43, VI B

COVID 19 - one word, various letters  
And one giant malignant microbe  
That has changed our lives forever  
But we're facing this challenge together

I miss my best pals, I miss my books  
I miss the ringing bells of my school  
I hope 'Stay at home' doesn't prolong  
And the isolation doesn't stay for long

The day of masks not being obligatory  
A world without epidemic of impurity  
Following the precautionary measures  
Because life is full of priceless treasures

COVID is a pause on our life of glory  
Don't worry, it is just a nightmare story  
Through it, we'll come out shining  
For, every dark cloud has a silver lining

Let's fight against this dreadful virus  
And adore the beauty of our nature  
Take a trip down the memory lane  
Don't let this time go by in vain



# Fake it off!

## Learn How To Sort Fact From What's Fake

Shyla Basu, AIS PV, XI B

"The virus can spread through mosquito bites!", "Only the elderly and children are affected." During these distressing times, we've all heard the same rumours over and over - be it through WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook or Twitter. Anxiety over the pandemic has made us all vulnerable and perhaps more gullible, resulting in fake news spreading like a wildfire. But, how do we know what or what not to believe during this 'viral' crisis?

**Myth busters:** The World Health Organization has added a 'myth busters' section to its website, refuting an array of myths in response to the public advice page. This provides a legitimate source to help people distinguish between truth and lies.

**Think before you share:** You come across an interesting article on social media but you're not entirely sure if it's legitimate. Nevertheless, your friends and their friends should know it too, right? Absolutely not! Do not share information from unreliable sources under any circumstances. Always check the validity of a message before pressing send.

**The fear factor:** "Fear is one of the biggest drivers that allows misinformation to thrive," says Claire Wardle of First Draft, an organisation that helps journalists tackle online misinformation. Websites, apps and even people tend to use our emotional vulnerability to spread information, even if it is entirely false. Beware of this!

**Human bias:** While sharing a particular piece of news you

think is important for your friends and family to know about, stop and check- are you sharing it because you are absolutely sure it's true or because you agree with it? Studies show that we tend to share and forward information that validates our existing beliefs.

Everything new brings several conspiracy theories with itself and it is natural to be interested in these, after all, this is a period of uncertainty.

But, by overindulging ourselves and spreading information without any verification, we are harming not only ourselves but a large portion of the society. Resisting this temptation will reduce the public's fear and anxiety because while this is a scary situation, it is not as scary as rumours make it out to be. 🇮🇳

# Keep it up

## Because We Are Ready To Win This Battle

Sucheer Menon

AGS Gurugram, VIII

Dear readers,  
First of all, this is not just another tale of agony penned down by a teenager. Neither is it another fact file about how COVID has managed to uproot our lives from the usual, or even about interesting recipes that will keep you busy during this monotonous lockdown. Enough has been written or said about all that. Well, I am here for another reason, for mere encouragement. I know that the word 'encouragement' alone is not enough to pull us out from this situation. Normalcy has seemed to have abandoned us months ago. But this is also the time which brings us all together in spirit and there is no time better than this to prove that we are capable enough to

fight this battle with our strongest of weapons- compassion and mindfulness. This time calls for us to stand strong, work together and come back to a better tomorrow. Our only religion or race is humanity- a word that we forget more often than not. And maybe this is the only war where we can be the heroes by simply doing nothing. This is the only war, where, instead of having to leave our loved ones, we are being offered the chance to spend more and more time with and around them.

Doctors, police, nurses, hospital staff, etc. are all fighting for us, risking their own lives. All we can do is to acknowledge their gracious efforts and pray for their well-being, just by sitting at home. It might be boring, but, again, that's the least we can do. While we are cribbing about this

boredom, remember the bigger fight that we aren't fighting but the heroes that I mentioned above are. This is our chance to be an honourable citizen, a global citizen. The world is healing now that humans are inside, but once we come out, the world shall only change for the good, and not what it used to be. It is us, the youth who can make a better future for ourselves and the generations to come. We have reached this far - we can definitely reach further! Lastly, have faith, have hope and keep up the good work!

Lovingly and longingly,  
Your self-isolated friend and a thoughtful citizen

(PS: A very happy birthday to all those who have their birthdays in these months.) 🇮🇳



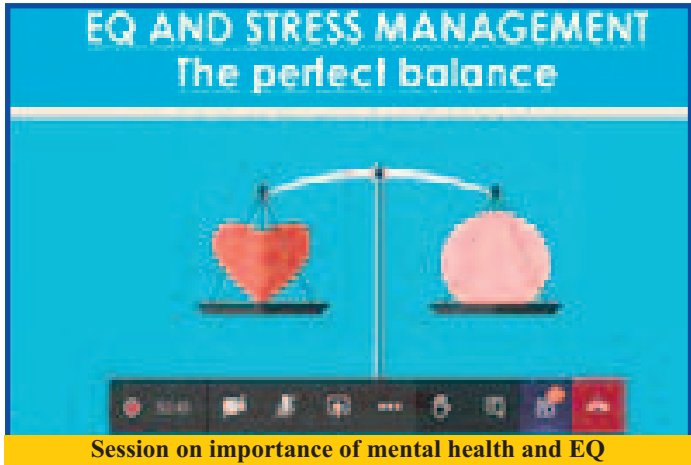




Most of the stones used to build the site weighed nothing less than 50 pounds, and were transported manually up the mountain.

# Training the trainers

Amity Educators Imbibe Modern Teaching Skills And Share The Best Practices Online



Session on importance of mental health and EQ



Lamp lighting ceremony by Founder President and Chairperson



Showcase of a presentation on how to formulate evaluation

## HR & Training Department

In the transformed world, professional development of the educators of Amity streamed seamlessly online with, 'Virtual Professional Development Program' held from June 26-27, 2020. The training program, an initiative of visionary Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, was organised to empower the educators with latest pedagogies and modern teaching methodologies. It

also focused on encouraging them to share best educational practices for development. The first of its kind, this online two day professional development programme for educators comprised 66 sessions, 14 programmes and was attended by 1100 educators of pre-primary, primary and TGT level, art and crafts domain and counsellors from different branches of Amity Group of Schools. The event was coordinated by the school principals with AIS Pushp Vihar hosting sessions for the pre-primary

and primary teachers and AIS Noida hosting sessions for the TGTs. The programme commenced with an opening address by Chairperson, who expressed her confidence that the virtual PDP will bestow educators with superlative skills for empowering young minds with 21st century competencies. She laid emphasis on the need to improve reading and grammar skills of the learners and also mentored Hindi language educators with her roadmap to success. For two days, various experts

and eminent educationists apprised educators about the curriculum changes proposed by CBSE, updated assessment patterns and marking schemes. New assessment format PISA and its global relevance was also deliberated upon. Educators were told about new online teaching tools and various creative techniques to make online teaching more immersive and engaging. A special workshop was also conducted to enable teachers to integrate the Cambridge English Syllabus with the present cur-

riculum. Prof Dr Padmakali Banerjee, pro vice chancellor, Amity University, Gurugram and Dr Vikas, HOD, Amity Institute of Clinical Psychology, Amity University Gurugram, together took a workshop on 'Superior classroom management and student engagement, interventions for improved academic performance'. It was based on PEROMA and LEAP models for better student engagement leading to improved performance. The other engaging and upskilling sessions for the educa-

tors were language acquisition, jolly phonics, *jodo gyan*, stress management and emotional intelligence, vedic math, project-based learning, novel teaching strategies, hands-on activities, ice breakers, empowering children through optimum utilisation of digital tools, building self-esteem, online engagement of young learners, etc. Two days of engaging virtual sessions also laid stress upon the importance of emotional intelligence and mental health of educators and learners both. 🇮🇳

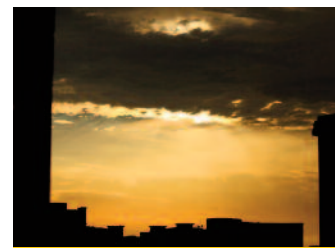
# Focus on life

## AIS Vasundhara 1

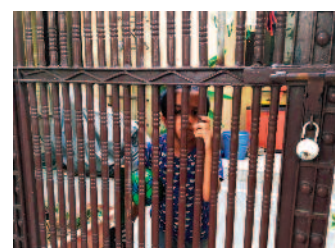
In an endeavour to keep passion for lenses nourished, Amity International School, Vasundhara 1 organised an online photography contest titled 'Focus' based on the theme

'Life in Lockdown' for students across Delhi/NCR. The event held under the visionary guidance of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF saw 192 photo entries from 24 eminent schools. Ace photogra-

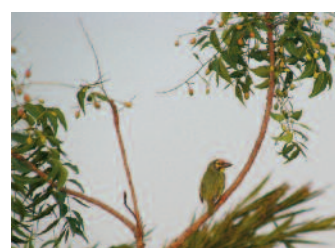
phers, Sunny Singh and Abhi Grover were the jury members of the contest. The competition was held in junior (VI-VIII) and senior (IX-XII) categories wherein awards were given on the basis of popular choice and judges' choice categories. 🇮🇳



Golden light by Shlok Mehrotra



Childhood in lock by Om Nair



Nature unlocked by Avni Saini

Judge's Choice Awards			
	Winner	1st Runner Up	2nd Runner Up
Senior (IX-XII)	Anurag Uttam (Air Force School Hindon)	Mahi Singh (AIS VKC Lucknow)	Aahana Singh (AIS Vasundhara 1)
Junior (VI-VIII)	Om Nair (AIS Saket)	Aarya Mehrotra (AIS Noida)	Pranav Rai (AIS Saket)
Popular Choice Awards			
Senior (IX-XII)	Shlok Mehrotra (AIS Vasundhara 1)	Tejaswani Rathore (AIS Noida)	Saksham Agarwal (AIS VKC Lucknow)
Junior (VI-VIII)	Avni Saini (AIS Noida)	Karan Kapoor (AIS Mayur Vihar)	Advay Sriraman (AIS Noida)

# Winning for nature

## AIS Vasundhara 6

Raunak Gupta, Ripunjay Vashisht and Chitrakleha Borah of Class VIII were selected amongst top 25 national winners in a short film/video making competition held on June 30, 2020. The event was organised by the National Museum of Natural History to commemorate Van Mahotsav 2020, also with an

aim to create awareness about local flora among the young learners. Students won laurels for their short films- 'Get to know the chilly plant' by Raunak, 'Tulsi - the queen of herbs' by Ripunjay and 'Plumeria - the neighbourhood tree' by Chitrakleha. They described the natural history and importance of these local plants in their films. The trio received prizes and e-certificates.



Raunak Gupta

Chitrakleha Borah

Ripunjay Vashisht

# Solving global concerns

Young Diplomats Meet Online To Create A Better World

## AIS Mayur Vihar

Twenty eight young diplomats from Class VII-XII, participated in the first ever AMV-eMUN 2020, organised by the school from June 1-2, 2020. The objective of virtual MUN was to create a platform for young minds to hone their communication, diplomatic negotiations and linguistic skills. The conference commenced with a welcome speech by Chief of Cabinet, Laxmi Sinha. Secretary General, Aniket Ramesh (XII) in-

troduced the Executive Board members and declared the meet open. The virtual MUN comprised two committees namely UNSC (United Nations Security Council) and AIPPM (All India

Political Parties Meet) and discussed issues related to 'Situation in the South China sea' and 'Addressing the status of North-Eastern states with special emphasis on AFSPA' respectively. The de-

bate saw young diplomats propose various solutions based on hard core facts and well researched information. Deputy Secretary General, Hemant Gupta (XI) released the e-newsletter prepared by USG International Press, Anushka Ramesh (XI), Co-USG IP, Aarushi Agarwal of (XI) and their team. USG IT, Aditya Agarwal (XII) designed the e-placards and e-certificates. The conference concluded with distribution of awards in categories- Best Delegates, High Commendation and Special Mention. 🇮🇳



AIPPM members discuss vital issues



UNSC members deliberate about security issues at the sea

Committee Members and Awardees		
<b>UNSC</b>	<b>High Commendation</b>	Abhinav Gautam, XI
<b>Executive Board</b>	Shivansh Pande, VIII	<b>Best Delegate</b>
<b>President:</b>	Priyanshi Mittal, IX	Arnav Gupta, VIII
Rishabh Shivani, XI		<b>High Commendation</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>		Shrey Sati, VII
Shashwat Nagar, XI	<b>AIPPM</b>	<b>Special Mention</b>
<b>Best Delegates</b>	<b>Moderator</b>	Shubhakhsh Shekhar
Anshul Tripathi, VIII	Soumya Bansal, XI	Dwivedi, X
Arnav Gupta, VIII	<b>Deputy Moderator</b>	Kartikay Tyagi, IX
	Dhruv Verma, XI	



In the Quechua Indian language, Machu Picchu means 'Old Peak' or 'Old Mountain'.

All top quotes contributed by  
Arjun Tikku, AIS Pushp Vihar, VA



Machu Picchu

# Epics: The way of life

## Relevance of Centuries Old Legends And Narrations In The Present Day Scenario

Suhani Malik, AIS PV, XII

An intricate web of virtues and life lessons, epics have time and again, proved themselves to be the very spine of our culture. They have shaped our lives, our societies, and even our belief systems since eons so much so that centuries old narrations are relevant still and are read even in the present day and age.

*"Of all sciences I am the spiritual science of Self, and among logicians, I am the conclusive truth."* Mahabharata, composed by Vyasa in around 400 BC, is one of the most pivotal Sanskrit epics. Its impactful journey down the centuries is a result of its panoramic view of everything, be it spirituality or morality. From giving the world the quintessential image of a righteous but myopic man in Yudhishtira, to showcasing the all-destructive nature of revenge through Shakuni, it divulges for us the ethical principles of life that would hold true no matter what time we are in. The epic enunciates scores of values be it truth, discipline, kindness, etc., that one can perhaps imbibe in one's life and pass down for generations to come and go.

*"Why, O Gish, does thou run about? The life that thou seekest, though wilt not find."* The Epic of Gilgamesh (2100 BC) set in Ancient Mesopotamia, portrays the Sumerian king Gil-



gamesh as the physical embodiment of the vices of hubris and arrogance. In order to challenge his authority, God Anu sends Enkidu, a wild man, to him for a dual but, they end up becoming best friends. The first half of the epic focuses on their adventures. The second half strongly emphasizes on their quest for eternal life and the thirst for knowledge of the secrets of nature, making it a meditation of sorts on the fundamental issues of human existence, away from and above the ravages of time.

*"No man or woman born, coward or brave, can shun his destiny."*

Homer, the blind Greek poet, gave the world 'The Iliad'. Set during the last year of the Trojan war, this epic focuses on the war between King Agamemnon and the demigod warrior Achilles. Fate is the driving force for most of the events in the epic but the possibility of human will is still kept alive in the way Achilles' chooses an early death over peaceful life, keeping the human con-

flict of predestination vs free will at its core. It carries forward the themes set by the Epic of Gilgamesh, as it accentuates the fact that even the strongest of men, like the demigod Achilles, cannot escape death. Mortality is the way of life – a universal human conundrum, topped with the dilemma of choosing between a heroic death or a long mortal life. The sorrow, the wrath and all the other emotions felt by the Gods are so humane that one cannot help but connect with them prima facie.

*"If the present world goes astray, the cause is in you, in you it is to be sought."*

The Divine Comedy (1320) by Dante Alighieri, showcases Dante's journey to the afterlife: to hell, purgatory and paradise; through which it surveys the timeless notions of love, hate, damnation and salvation, with a zeal to reach God, symbolising human soul in its quest for the Almighty. The protagonist's thoughts throughout are in line with that of humans in any age or place, questioning the essence of being a human, our choices, our behaviour, the right of it and the wrong. What makes it even more relevant is its depiction of human beings as the products of a specific time, place or situation, instead of being the archetypal collection of vices and virtues, placing it eons ahead of its time.

Thus, these epics may go old by age but their relevance can never go down the hill! 🇮🇳

# A breakthrough for migrants

## An App Helping The Needy In Times Of Extreme Distress



Screenshot of Bharat Shramik website created by Akshat

Ishani Singh, AIS Noida, XI E

The unforeseen COVID pandemic managed to incarcerate most of us inside our homes. At the same time, it effortlessly rendered thousands stranded on the roads. While the privileged lot was whining about how unfair it is to not be able to head out of our houses, the less-fortunate migrant workers were fighting the real unfairness in their struggle to find a home. However, their plights did not go fully unnoticed. Enter Akshat Mittal, an alumnus of Amity International School, Noida, who aptly portrayed the power of actions over words through his newly designed application- Bharat Shramik.

**When cries were heard**

Akshat was perturbed with the predicament of the migrant workers since the COVID crisis began. Pictures of them travelling on foot disheartened him more than anything. "My 80-year old grandfather told me that he had to let go of his driver who had lived with him since the past 8 to 9 years," recalled Akshat. This is when he firmly decided to do something in order to fill this void. Well, this was not the first time that he felt the need to help others.

Before this app, Akshat, at the age of 13, had launched a website to provide solution to daily commuters during the odd even scheme phase, which saw a whopping 30,000 registrations.

**When the challenge was accepted**

It was on June 8, 2020 that the idea of creating a website popped up in Akshat's ingenious mind. The very next thing he did was to buy the domain name, Bharat Shramik- an apt nomenclature for his cause. He further proceeded to approach companies for partnership. "I had my fair share of tribulations convincing all these big companies to partner with us. You need to assure them that this idea was actually going to work!" remarked Akshat modestly.

**When outreach widened**

"I started it alone. But gradually, people started joining. That's the beauty of it, if you're passionate enough, people will definitely join you on your path to victory," Akshat exclaimed. He expressed extreme gratitude for his team members- Atipriya Dev Sinha, Anish Malhotra, Madhav Mohan, who contributed largely to the cause. Currently, Akshat has a small team of 11, with more people from different states approaching him regularly.

**When the idea got realised**

Bharat Shramik app was thus alive to aid blue-collar workers in need. The aim of the app was to connect these workers with their employers. A helpline number was provided on the website, which the workers would use to select the kind of work suitable for them, along with their details including the pin-code of their area. The employers, registered on the website, search for the required workers according to the job profile and the pin-code. "Once they hit the search button, a list of all the workers who would've registered in that area would appear on the screen. The employers can just simply call the workers and employ them," Akshat elaborated on how the app functions.

**When labour paid off**

As of now, the website has more than 21,000 workers and over 450 employers registered on its portal, including some really big companies. "You won't believe, a worker called me for 10 consecutive days asking me: *Bhaiya meri job kab lagegi?*, and when he finally got a job offer, he told me that he was so happy and thankful, and that he's definitely going to recommend Bharat Shramik to other people," said Akshat as he excitedly shared a response he received from one of the users of his website.

Having said that, we realise that being confined at home was not as off-putting as it seems, but having to find for a home and a means for survival definitely is. But then, thanks to good Samaritans like Akshat Mittal!

Akshat Mittal, AIS Noida, Alumnus