



## Weighing Both The Sides Of An Omnipresent Pandemic Called COVID-19

Farhan Siddiqui

AIS Gurugram 46, X E

For as long as humanity has existed, we have had our differences with each other. From the formation of different groups based on likes and dislikes, approval or disapproval, dos and don'ts, the world will always see two sections of people on any given topic, and this pandemic, too, brought us face to face with these two groups on a myriad of topics.

**The Michelin chefs vs appetite builders:** Even when the Coronavirus pandemic caused so much chaos in this world, one of its silver lining was definitely the birth of new chefs. As food deliveries and restaurants were shut under a lock, the task of making one's food befell on them. Open up your Instagram page, and one can find photos of these people experimenting with Dalgona coffee, baking breads and creating exquisite dishes. But on the other hand, there was another group that suffered the same ill-fate, but instead of taking matters into their own hands, they decided to wait out their agony. Their curses of the pandemic ended up with declaration of their waiting period, saying they will wait for their ever-favourite momos *wale bhaiya!* They are the ones who depended on packaged and ready-to-eat food they hoarded at home because who wants to go through the strenuous trouble of cooking!

**The workout freaks vs the lazy heads:** The gyms were closed but there were workout freaks who didn't care

about anything else but their six pack abs. As people were stuck inside their homes and the pandemic affected everyone's health, they decided it was high time to take their health seriously and get in shape. They thought the lockdown to be the best time to kick start their dream of posting working out pictures on social media. But on the other hand, the lazy heads still found reasons to ignore it all. They are the same ones who made a new year revolution to get in shape but "gyms band hai toh mein kya kar sakta hoon?"

**The syllabus freaks vs the procrastinators:** As schools were all shifted online with no idea of when we would be going back to the campus, some studious students took their extra time to cover their syllabus and get extra practice under their belt. They revised their subjects at least 10 times and the little thing called 'surprise test' didn't scare them at all. But some of their classmates took this extra time for what it really was - 'extra'. Staying true to their



name, these procrastinators did nothing to utilise their free time but were still the first one to complain about the huge syllabus that they will probably have to touch one day, but that won't be today!

**Netflix vs DD:** When most of the people in the world were sad that they were stuck at their houses, there were some who were very happy, aka the binge-watchers. They finally had all the time in the world to pay attention to their real love - streaming services. From Netflix to Amazon to Hotstar, their time had finally

come to shine bright, just like their screens. One season after the other, if streaming was a sport, they'd surely win. But on the other hand, we had the classic 'old is gold' crowd who believed that instead of getting caught up in this new age world, it was time to go back to Doordarshan classical epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Thus, the COVID-19 pandemic might have extinguished many differences but it proved yet again that no matter what, there always will be two sides to a coin.



## A new way of living

### An Account Of Life During Pandemic



Sejal Suri, AIS Vas 1, VII

A drowsy morning began with a glass of milk. I was in front of the computer staring at a bunch of other students appearing just as dozy as me. A glass of milk by my side, I stretched my arms and yawned wide. The school scenario had taken a drastic turn in just one year and how! However, when the teacher asked a question, there was pin-drop silence. Some things never change. Finally, the classes ended. I sprang up from my chair, looking to pass time. I went to check on my father who was too busy with his conference. But was he really? He was impeccable with his neatly ironed shirt, but complemented it with a baggy pajama and slippers. As soon as the conference ended, he resumed his Netflix series right away.

What a legend, my dad!

Then I proceeded to nag my mom. She was cooking a unique chowmein recipe and was recording it side by side. Oh, my mom is also a YouTuber now. You go, mom! When I realised that I had spent enough time strolling around the house, I thought of sitting with my homework. I was in front of the laptop again, and I didn't even know when I dozed off again halfway through the homework. When I woke up, my eyes were painning sharply. I must wear my spectacles regularly from now on. Sure, so much of exposure to gadgets was making me tech savvy, or sick! I literally dragged my body which was on the bed continuously to have lunch but everyone at home looked occupied with something or the other. We quickly gobbled the yummy noo-

dles after mom was done with her chef maneuvering.

In the evening, I went for a walk. Masks and gloves on, sanitiser in the pocket, I set out for the garden. Again, everyone around me looked identical, except that some were tiny children, some were adults. Barely 30 minutes passed and I heard my mother from the balcony, "Come up!" After reaching home, I rushed through my homework. By the time I finished my work, it was time for dinner. Dad came to my room and called for dinner. So excited, I ran to the dining table, expecting Intercontinental, Mughlai, Italian, etc. But, the table was adorned with plates filled with peas and carrot vegetable, healthy diet. Hmm, at least that'll help my immunity. Afterwards, we sat together to watch movies. All thanks to work from home and schooling from home; no one was worried about going to bed early any more. We played games, laughed and had fun. It's well said that a good laugh at the end of the day makes the day fabulous. Even though all of us had a long day with the online classes, homework, conferences and cooking experiments, our time together made up for it all. True, pandemic has changed life as it was, but this life is what we are getting used to. Although, we don't want it to be the new normal, but, with no other option in sight, all we can do is make the most of what we have! 🇮🇳



## Go away, Corona!

Shreejeet Gautam Jha, AIS Noida, VIII

Corona, you came into our life  
Like a destructive swinging vine  
Took our heart across the line  
But victory over you, we shall find

When you came into existence  
I didn't take you seriously at times

But you destroyed everything  
You ruined all of mankind

Humans are battling in pain  
Only to wonder if it's in vain  
We know you've a mission here  
Which is to make all feel fear

Poor, rich, powerful or weak  
All must work to make you fleet  
But we know it in our heart  
That we will tear your apart!

## Artistic Expression



Nayonika Mavuri, AIS Gurugram 46, XII S