



## Life & exams



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

CBSE's decision to cancel Class 10 exams and postpone the one for Class 12, has evoked a mixed response in the student fraternity. This is the second year in a row when uncertainty about higher education and prospective careers, looms at

large. However, I wish to convey to all Amitians that instead of being anxious about things that you cannot control, learn important life lessons from these unprecedented situations.

Firstly, these decisions, however tough they may be, have been taken keeping in mind the larger good and well-being of society. As Amitians, you are already aware of the importance of 'service before self', and this is the time to prove this. Reacting to CBSE decision by either wallowing in despair or by being over-joyous is not how a balanced Amitian will respond. This is the time to spread the message of being sensible and smart, to all those you interact with.

Secondly, even though the Board examinations is a vital part of our education system, it is not the only measure of your growth and success as a student. You are all achievers, having overcome the challenge of learning online for more than a year now. Moreover, your achievements, at national and international programmes, prove your dedication towards your ambition.

Most importantly, remember that life is, perhaps, the most difficult exam one can take. This situation has given you the opportunity to overcome your fears and anxiety and build your inner strength, courage and willpower. And any moment you feel distressed, remember BHAAG, the formula of holistic development provided by our Founder President Dr Ashok K. Chauhan. Here, as we know, G stands for God. So, no matter what comes your way, have faith in God.

## Wait! Do not waste!



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

Sometimes the most unexpected event can teach you what no classroom lesson can. I remember a friend's son telling me about his school trip undertaken to educate rural children about 'zero waste'. When his group began to explain the concept,

some of these village kids, much to the surprise of the visitors, responded by saying, "Oh, we do this daily in our village. Come, we'll show you." Everyone was led to the nearby sugarcane factory where these city kids were shown and explained the process of making sugar from sugarcane without wasting even a bit of the crop. They were shown how sugarcane was harvested, its juice taken out and made into jaggery and sugar, and how finally, the waste or the residual molasses were used as fuel and in fermentation process. That was not all. The residual crop was threshed and made into fibres which were then used in industrial processes and also to make thatched roofs. The idea was to eliminate waste than just to manage it.

And this is just one example of how 'zero waste' is a way of life in our villages. Whether it is the grain husk that is being ploughed back into the soil or making paper bags from waste paper; whether it is about processing wet waste and converting it into manure or just segregating waste properly, many Indian villages are showing the way forward when it comes to the zero waste ideals of recycling and reusing. And while the move towards a 'zero waste' society is gathering momentum across the world, with Sweden leading the way, it is time for all of us in the cities of India to clean up our act as well.

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# The loud distress signal

## Let's Pay Heed To The Roaring Call By Mother Earth, Shall We?

Yusra Raihan, AGS Gurugram, X

*'Mayday! Mayday! Mayday! My lifeline is sinking! With hope plunging down steadily in the murky clouds of gloom, my existence is under severe crisis... please save me, this is your Mother Earth.'*

Who are we? The culprits. For we have seen our skies get darkened by the clouds of global warming and climate change; we have heard the desperate pleas and agonies of our endangered wildlife; we have sensed the alarming impacts of proliferating carbon emissions, yet we choose to turn a blind eye to the consequences of our decisions, yet we continue to obliterate the natural world. Culprits, after all. But, it's high time, we realise our fault and indulge in critical introspection to emerge out of this black hole. It's high time we prevent a dystopian future by stepping in and towards a greener economy. One of the most significant

challenges in this respect is to transform our unsustainable agricultural and fishing practices into ones producing food while conserving the biodiversity. Sustainable agro-ecological activities, for instance, organic farming that eliminates the usage of chemicals, pesticides, plant growth regulators, and other genetically-modified organisms (GMOs), can greatly contribute towards realising this goal. Moreover, several scientific reports over the years have indicated that organic farming produces more biodiversity than other farming systems; depending on altitude, organic farms have about 46-72% more semi-natural habitats that host a whopping 30% more species and over 50% more individuals than

other non-organic farms.

In addition to that, there's a dire need for us to channelise ourselves away from the restrictive prototype of economic growth that prioritises GDP over everything else. Instead, we need to raise emphasis on sustainable energy and non-polluting green industries, especially renewable energy resources, as the true measure of our economic strength. Thus, International finance organisations, such as the World Bank, need to steer their investments to ensure that natural capital, such as the Amazon rainforest in Bolivia, is conserved rather than being exploited for oil exploration or other human gains.

Furthermore, as cars contribute to 72% of carbon dioxide emissions, the

concept of electric cars, currently booming, is another such development that can help mitigate our carbon footprint. For they release the stored chemical energy without combustion and also reduce our dependence on fossil fuels a great deal. Another step that can be taken in this regard is to rapidly retire the old passenger jets before cheap oil prices encourage budget airlines to run services almost empty, exacerbating emissions even if passenger numbers stay less. In addition, passengers should be provided with information about the carbon costs of their flights, enabling them to support efficient airlines. Along with that, redesigning existing buildings will also add an edge to the green movement. For green buildings have lesser negative environmental impacts than standard buildings. Their interior spaces save natural resources by using alternative materials; with natural lighting, efficient ventilating systems and rooftop gardens, they offer a premium indoor air quality, too. That said, the goal is to decarbonise energy system by the middle of this century, or earlier if possible, in order to reach net zero emissions by 2070. As only then would we get a chance to keep average global temperatures from rising above 2 degrees centigrade as set in the Paris Climate Agreement.

So, today as we teeter on the edge of total chaos, let's vow to keep ourselves in check before the world, as we know it, comes to a terrible end.



Imaging: Dinesh Kumar, GT Network

# Zero the hero!

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**Zero waste = Filling empty stomachs**

World hunger - an issue that is becoming increasingly rampant in the modern society. According to WFP and FAO, more than 815 million people struggle with it, 3 billion people do not eat healthily, and another 2 billion are expected to join this category by 2050. But the problem here isn't the lack of food, but the access to it. About 31 billion USD worth of food is wasted annually worldwide, which loosely translates to 1/5 of the total food produced every year, but this wastage can easily be avoided. According to WFP, if a fair distribution of the 4-5 billion tonnes of food pro-

duced every year is achieved, the world will have enough for the 9.7 billion people who will live on Earth by 2050. Not just so, but a goal of zero food wastage will save the world of the increased food production rate that is bound to touch 120% by 2050, which will mean at least 3 billion tonnes of additional food that the world doesn't actually need. It will also safely secure the requirements needed for extra crop production like water, land and high amounts of labour. The governments too can employ the saved resources in securing production, storage, and processing that will decrease food loss, the figures of which stand at 630 million for low-income countries annually and 670 million

tonnes for high-income countries. With little initiatives to reach the goal, humanity can not only turn the amount of waste to zero but also the number of people who largely suffer due to starvation.

Only 9% of the world's waste is recycled, as per the UN, and it is high time we change that into 90% and more. They say charity begins at home and so does the implementation of noble ideas like zero waste - A concept that can only be achieved through a ground-level unified effort. So, let's step up and save mother Earth, if not for the sake of this planet then for ourselves, as it is the only home we have.



GT M@il



Issue: Page 12, April 12, 2021

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'The laziness syndrome' on page 12 published in the GT edition dated April 12, 2021. The article ponders on the need for humans to efficiently use the sets of legs and hands that they have been blessed with, instead of being a couch potato and giving in to the spiral of lethargy. For with gaming consoles replacing the evergreen game of *pithhoo*, and Alexa switching on the lights of your room, we have let technology get the worst of us. And with the lockdown now acting as a huge excuse for this torpor, there is an urgent need to mend the broken strings while we still can. May the Gatorade (or any other energy drink that you prefer) be always in your favour!

Anushka Ramesh  
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