

White-bellied go-away bird is an African bird, named after its call that consists of a loud "gwaaw" and sounds like 'go away'.



# India This Week

Isha Gore, AIS Vas 1, XI B

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.



## Nail-Free Tree campaign gains momentum

**News:** In accordance with the 2013 order by National Green Tribunal, which prohibits trees from being used to support billboards or banners, Maharashtra Cabinet Minister, Satej Patil has launched the Nail Free Tree campaign in the district of Kolhapur. As part of this campaign, over 50 organisations participated to remove nails, strings and billboards from over 100 trees. Kolhapur is known to be a nature-rich city with unique-biodiversity.

**Views:** We humans tend to forget that trees have senses as well, not just the uses we try to exhaust them of. The nails, panels, wires, angles, iron brackets that are hit on the trees adversely affect their growth. Each protrusion hammered into trees interrupts the circulation of water, sugar and other valuable nutrients, thereby damaging them. Trees in the cities have become a free advertising space for many, and to put an end to this menace, I truly believe that this campaign is of great value.

Ojaswi Pipania, AIS Vas 1, XI C



## Bird flu alert in Rajasthan

**News:** The alerts of bird flu was sounded in Rajasthan, after the detection of avian virus in around 300 crow carcasses found in regions like Jhalawar, Baran, Kota, etc. The virus was discovered when samples from these carcasses were sent to the National Institute of High-Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal. The Animal Husbandry Department has set up a state-level control room and sent its teams to the districts for effective monitoring in the state.

**Views:** This virus is a huge threat to the poultry industry in Ajmer and the Bharatpur bird sanctuary, which receive hundreds of migratory birds this time of the year. The state level control-room is an important monitoring measure, but to overcome this, precautionary measures are needed to be taken both by the government and the concerned industries.

Anushri Malik, AIS Vas 1, XI B

## The most CCTV scrutinised city globally

**News:** According to a recent report published in South Asia Journal, Tamil Nadu's capital city, Chennai, has topped the world in CCTV surveillance by having the maximum CCTV coverage, that is 657 cameras per square kilometre and per 1,000 population. The Tamil Nadu government plans on installing more CCTV devices that will have connectivity with control rooms for live streaming under the Nirbhaya Fund and has also sanctioned funds for the maintenance of these cameras.

**Views:** CCTV cameras are of utmost importance, especially in a highly populated country like India because their presence helps in reducing crimes, increasing one's sense of security, and reducing the work of officials during investigations. All this would make the city feel like a safer place for its people. The government, however, needs to be consistent with the maintenance of the cameras.

Vidushi Jaiswal, AIS Vas 1, XI B



## R-Day celebrations to go low-key

**News:** In a bid to maintain the overall traditional character in compliance with the strict social distancing protocols necessitated by COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Republic Day parade will undergo certain variations. According to an official, the parade will begin from Vijay Chowk but will culminate at the National Stadium instead of the Red Fort, covering a distance of 3.3 km as compared to the normal 8.2 km. The duration of the parade will be shorter, and so will be the number of marching contingents, spectators and the much-awaited cultural performances.

**Views:** With the fear of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the discovery of the new Coronavirus variant, the initiatives that the government is taking are both prudent and crucial. I am absolutely in favour of these measures, such as cutting down the distance of the parade to almost half and reducing the spectator strength from 115,000 to 25,000. These changes may come off as a little disappointing but since safety is foremost in these times, this is the closest we can get to celebrating Republic Day as we do every year.

Shilpi Singh, AIS Vas 1, XI D

# Around The WORLD

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## USA

### Mob storms Capitol

Four people died in the riot attacks when a mob of Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol in Washington DC to halt a meeting meant to certify the election results, forcing the building into a lockdown. Various smaller Trump supporting crowds also gathered across the country to march to the statehouses in his support.

## NETHERLANDS

### Last EU country to start vaccination

The Netherlands has become the last EU country to start the shots against COVID-19 for its citizens, using the vaccine made by Oxford and AstraZeneca. Prime Minister Rutte has come under fire for his delayed reaction as the vaccination process started almost two weeks after everywhere else in Europe.



## GERMANY

### Women executives

In an effort to bridge the gender gap, the government of the country has announced that German-listed companies with four or more executives must appoint at least one woman to their EB. The bill was passed to rectify the poor representation of women in senior positions in Germany as women executives only make up for 12.8% of Germany's thirty largest companies' management.



## NIGER

### Terrorist attack in the country

Around 100 people were killed and 75 wounded in the villages of Tchoma Bangou and Zaroumadareye in the latest attack by terrorists in the jihadist-plagued Tillaberi region. The attack came right after the announcement of the first-round of presidential results where Mohamed Bazoum won and had promised to step up the fight against terrorism.



## CHINA

### First quantum network

Combining over 700 optical fibers on ground and 2 ground-to-satellite links to achieve quantum key distribution for a distance of 4,600 km, the University of Science and Technology of China has established the world's first integrated quantum communication network. The team was led by scientist Jianwei Pan, Yüao Chen and Chengzhi Peng.



## NEW ZEALAND

### #1 in ICC test rankings

For the first time in ICC test ranking history, New Zealand has grabbed the top position. The spot was granted to them after the team defeated Pakistan by an innings and 176 runs in the second test match. Captain Kane Williamson also scored a double century, pushing NZ to become the sixth country in the past ten years to be ranked number one.

