

Vocations in Vacations



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

Dear Amitians,
I am glad to see the way you all took the challenge of changing times and headed on the way towards learning and growth continu-

ously, unfazed, unstoppable. Time flies and once again, it's time for summer vacations.

Well, it's rational on your part if you say that you have been home since more than 60 days already. But then you all have been experiencing and imbibing learning through online classes that have kept you on your toes. So it will be a nice break from the school flipped online.

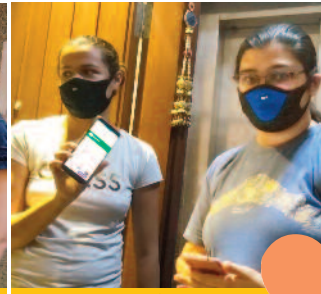
Times have changed and so this summer break, be ready for experiencing the world in a different way. Use this time as an opportunity to impact lives around you in a more positive and constructive way. Many of you normally used to go out during vacations. This year that may not happen, but you can bring the world to your home with technology in your hands. Try your hands out at various vocations which otherwise you may find boring like crochet, handling tools, fixing gadgets, fabric painting, cooking, gardening, making best out of waste, etc. And continue to write for your GT Quarantine Special e-edition. Stay connected, stay blessed, stay at home and stay safe.

M'app'ing safe routes

Battling COVID-19, With One Download



Harshaa Kawatra



Isha Agarwal



Charvi Mendiratta

Nalin Jayaswal, XI C & Suhani Malik, XII B

AIS Pushp Vihar

As COVID-19 continues to corner humanity, humans have found solace in the corner of the World Wide Web.

Today, we are more reliant on technology than we have ever been. From buying groceries to satisfying our need for education, all is being achieved through the digital route. In fact, it is the digital way that has been mapping the route to safety.

Steps in 'AarogyaSetu', an app launched by the Government of India to track COVID-19. The app notifies users if they cross paths with someone who has tested positive for the virus and guides the user on the necessary steps for self-isolation. Sounds pretty simple – one click, one download and you are on your way to safety. But it isn't that simple when you are trying to penetrate through a population of 1.3 billion, a

CORONA WARRIORS

Pandemics know no boundaries, and neither do warriors who battle them. This special series, running across Quarantine editions of all Amity schools, is an ode to those fighters. Highlighting stories of young change makers from within and outside Amity, this special series has been curated by young reporters across various Amity branches.

major chunk of which is still adapting to technology. Yes, that's India for you.

And then there is another part of India that is hell bent on making impossible to I am possible. A group of three students (Charvi Mendiratta, Harshaa Kawatra & Isha Agarwal) from Amity International School, PushpVihar, set out to change things.

Persuading others around them to download the app and even helping them with the same, they were on their way to fight the pandemic. "We approached our neighbours, the security guards, relatives, to download the app. Also, we en-

gaged in personal conversation through calls and texts, explaining people the significance of the app. Sometimes, for senior citizens or support staff like the society guards, we had to download the app on their phones and teach them how to use it," shares Isha Agarwal, one of the team members.

But reaching those in the immediate vicinity isn't enough, when the entire world struggles

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M'app'ing safe routes

to fight the pandemic. The battle had to be taken further, "We used platforms like Instagram and Facebook to reach out to people. We also developed a volunteer system, asking our friends to spread awareness about the app in their immediate circles," Isha continued.

The journey had begun, but came with its share of roadblocks. "One of the major challenges we encountered was working with the 50-60 year olds. Since they are not very technology savvy, teaching them how to use the app was a challenge. But since they are also the most vulnerable, this section could not be ignored either," says Charvi Mendiratta, another member from the same group.

While there was the tech challenged group on one hand, there was tech savvy on the other, bringing its own share of challenges. Harshaa, a team member, adds, "The youngsters and middle aged who were aware about the app, had their own apprehensions. Since the app requires you to switch on your Bluetooth and location settings at all times, there was a lot of scepticism about one's privacy."

So how did the team steer clear of the scepticism? "We tried to point out how hard it is to overcome the current situation. So, if it is about choosing between privacy and safety, the latter should be an obvious pick. Bluetooth and location settings only helps to determine the person's location, and helps the app to notify an individual about the active COVID-19 cases in his/her area. So, it's better to have corona in the phone on the palm than on the palm itself," she says. At present, the team has helped over a 1000 people download the app and is still counting. But as a wise man once said, the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, in this case a single download. [GU](#)

WORLD TEENAGE REPORTING PROJECT

COVID-19>HOW TEENS ARE HELPING

The World Teenage Reporting Project, COVID 19 is a global collaboration of teenage reporters in newsrooms around the world who produce stories about what their peers are doing to help during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Words verse



Eureka moments

Unlocked My Soul In In The Face Of Adversity

Aadya Pandey, AIS Gur 43, V A

It was February 29, 2020, that extra day in the leap year and it was also our final parents teacher meeting day. I had just collected my report card with all the glee that there is and was now eagerly looking forward to our Annual day. But alas! It got postponed. The reason for it was all over the news, wasn't it now? With everyday headlines that the lethal COVID-19 spread here in our country too, what followed next were phases of quarantines and lockdowns. Though sad and depressing but these also became the days when I unlocked some eureka moments. It was now that I learnt to stay indoors, trying new ways to occupy myself and create something new everyday; I felt I was living my favourite jingle 'Imagination Ko Jodo', when I tried new toppings on my regular salad or when I tried to make a fake telephone with a matchbox and thread. These little things led to huge discoveries. My vocabulary got a boost with new words buzzing

around like social distancing, pandemic, quarantine, corona warriors and so on, to mention a few. It was during this very lockdown that my eyes gleamed with hope, or when I got inspired and connected with my teachers through online classes. During these days, I allowed my eyes to travel up the sky; I basked in the spellbinding beauty of 'Supermoon 2020'; and I tip-toed to hear the sounds of the scurrying ladybugs on some flowers in our little garden. Now, I cared for my grandparents more. They pepped me up for this situation, teaching me the true meaning of, 'This too shall pass' and the fact that with our inner strength we can overcome our fears no matter what.

One can be creative when adversity strikes; one can be still dumb when everything's right. Well, my friends, this is the actual meaning of life. Though it was a national lockdown, I unlocked possibilities within me and around! And would cherish them until my last breath, for this is the true treasure that deep within me I found. [GU](#)



Teaching must go on

A Tribute To All The Teachers For Constantly Supporting Us

Mansha Rapria, AIS Gur 43, IX B

Teachers have always been like them stars that guide a lost traveller, lighting our path to success whenever we are in despair. They provide us with the starlight in this world so dark. Well, someone said it right when they said, "Teaching is a profession which teaches all other professions." As we are all going through these hard, tough times of COVID scare and strict lockdown, we have our teachers' eminent support. They are trying their best to give us quality education even when we are unable to step out of our homes. For, as it is appropriately said, "The Show must go on." Well! Our teachers have taken it all to their heart squarely. They are keeping up with their responsibility and sense of duty with sheer dedication and commitment. Right from sending voice notes and PDFs on WhatsApp to organising classrooms on Microsoft Teams, and arranging doubt clearing sessions,

teachers are leaving no stone unturned to give their students the best lessons and teachings. They are actually going the extra mile to make sure online learning is at its best, and reaches as many hands as it can.

Recently, a teacher in England was not comfortable in taking online classes live but this didn't stop him. He pre-recorded his lectures and kept a doll in front of him, in one of the rows, so, that he doesn't feel that the classroom is empty. Now, wasn't that too cute and generous of him?

Similarly, in America, a teacher is making his lectures worth all the attention by keeping dance and singing breaks in between his

online classes. This is what we call fun learning, isn't it?

Not only this, but teachers throughout are also assigning creative assignments or projects to their students to keep them engaged in something or the other during these hard times of quarantine. And as it is turning out, these initiatives taken by them are really enhancing the students' overall calibre and is helping them embrace the change. For, the influence of teachers extends beyond the classroom.

Well! it goes straight into the future. So, let us all too be a little more supportive, letting our teachers bring out the best in us, and also be the best versions of themselves, only if they haven't still been; the possibilities of which are nil. 🇮🇳

They are keeping up with their responsibility and sense of duty with sheer dedication and commitment.

There was a time...

...When We Thought It Would Be Fun To Be Quarantined

Sanskriti Dev, XII B & Ayushi Goel, XII C, AIS Gur 43

Quarantine has hit everyone hard. Apparently, people have forgotten about the outside world in a matter of a few weeks. We have to admit though, all of us wished at some point of time in our life to stay at home and have a break from the hustle and bustle of our daily routine. But then here we are, whining against what once seemed blissful. Thus, we reminisce-

Friends

Oh! How we miss laughing, talking and enjoying with our friends, without that small screen coming in between us. Before lockdown, we all would just sit together and share food but now our homes are the only comfort and the couch has become our best friend, with Netflix, smartphone and TV as our entourage.

Eating out

And do you not miss eating out in Burger King? Zomato and Swiggy were our resorts when we wished to eat in. But now after the news of an infected delivery boy, we can't risk eating outside food. So, in response to this situation, WhatsApp groups are flooded with pictures of food items people have been cooking lately. It seems as if everyone will open a Michelin three-starred restaurant after the lockdown ends.

Outdoor games

Every single day at 5 PM, your friends called you to play badminton or football outside and there was fun, dirt, sweat and laughter. At least this was a way to keep us from gaining weight. Now that we are under quarantine, outside changed to inside, and so did outdoor games to indoor. Exercise? No. There are strict orders against coming out, so I swear by that and hope that my stomach doesn't come out.

School

"Mamma, aaj sab chhutti le rahe hain. Mujhe bhi nahi jaana school. Koi padhai nahi hogi." So much for pretexts for just one holiday. It feels like those lines were much better than sitting at home attending online classes. We are on a pseudo-vacation. After all, we can't create nuisance in online classes. But, *cough* we can always *cough* sleep during class.

And yes, counting the number of times a fan completes its rotation after being switched off is not as wasteful as it appears to be. Listening to birds chirping (and my mom shouting because I sabotaged the living room) is so euphonic that we could keep listening to it all day. But in the end, there is only so much we can do to this quarantine and here's (desperately) hoping that this too shall pass. 🇮🇳



A typical Indian family

We Present You A Gist Of Their Typical Day During Quarantine

Arnav Goel, AIS G 43, IX B

Now, as all the animals are roaming free on earth, man is trapped inside his home. Well, karma exists...(am I right?) While the infamous COVID-19 is making people sick all around the globe the family members (read-prisoners) are cribbing about their worthless lives. While the scientists find the cure, let's have a glance at the *family members*.

Mother- "Rohan! Tia! Do the dishes!" I am personally hating this lockdown. I cherished those moments where the whole house belonged to me. Just chilling and gossiping with my friends. The evening walks... (In the background "Aree suno meri chai lana zara!") See, my husband doesn't leave me alone. Now I am an overworking underpaid maid to them. See you later, alligator! *wink* *wink*

Father- "Wah! Maza aa gaya!" I am loving this lockdown more than my cup of tea. Wake up late, attend the calls, binge Netflix, never move from my room and take naps. (All this I couldn't in the office you know.) I wish this lockdown never ends. He sighs and folds his hand above his head. (But then again the groceries would).

Tia- (Reciting... The melting point of iron is 1538 (degrees) C...) I am sick of this virus. The lockdown just got extended. I have such a hectic schedule, I wake up early, attend the classes, help my mother in her work, attend the tuitions, and that is just till lunch. To be honest I am jealous of my brother. He does not have tuitions, wakes up late (Tia! Come here!) Now dad does not even let me rest...

Rohan- (Hanging up) "Okay man,



Talk to you later" Oh! How I loved the days before this pandemic. This lockdown has stopped me from going out and enjoying with my friends. I have forgotten when was the last time I tasted my favourite doughnut chocolate drizzle (Day-dreams about the doughnut for a while...), but there are advantag-

es; I have started reading novels, watching The Big Bang Theory, and focusing on my interests like sketching. All in all, I would say it is good but I would like to see it end soon. While the family drama continues, you should get back to work... then again you don't have any. *burn* **GTI**

Our nature and us

Reaping The Benefits Of COVID-19 Lockdown

Atreyi Mondal, AIS Gur 43, VI C

One fine day, I woke up early at 6 am because I could listen to the melodious chirping of the birds. I got excited and walked towards the balcony. It was happening for the very first time; I could see colourful birds sitting on my balcony and even spot a hummingbird and cuckoo on a distant tree. I was amazed to experience such magnificent moments of nature. The global pandemic has indeed brought a halt to human activities but if we could experience such melodious morning's every day then



Imaging: Deepak Sharma, GT Network

for sure, the pandemic has done well to us. Our nature is flourishing once again.

With factories and industries shutting down, no vehicles on the roads, and a complete end

to poaching and deforestation, nature is regaining its beauty and strength. All the animals kept in sanctuaries and national parks are free to explore in their natural habitat. The wild animals can roam freely in the forests without any fear of being hunted. Even aquatic animals like seals, dolphins, whales, etc., can be seen near the shores. Air is much fresher than before due to the low level of pollution. Our ozone layer, which had a huge hole in it, has started healing on its own due to low emission of greenhouses gases. Therefore, our environment is improving due to the slow pace of global warming.

While there are difficulties, we humans are facing every day due to the pandemic, yet there are many positive things like Mother Nature healing herself once again.