

## The power of youth



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

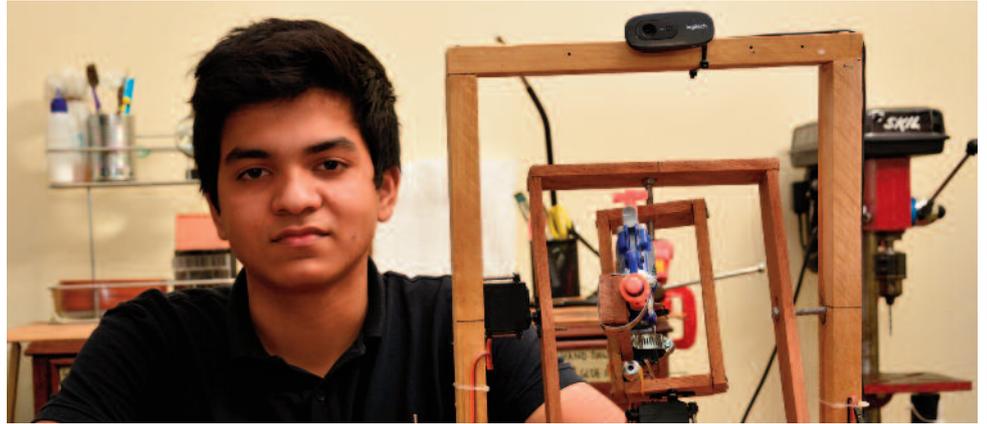
I am delighted to see that my Amityans have exquisitely used their time during lockdown and quarantine to create 'Quarantine Special' editions. This e-edition is truly a storehouse

of innovation, creation, compassion and care in the hearts of our young Amityans. With their ideas and fervour to bring forth positive happenings around us, they have kept all of us pragmatic and hopeful, keeping all the stress and tensions at bay.

Once again my young 'Corona Warriors With Pen & Passion' have truly shown what it means to be a journalist. It's a matter of great pride that the 'Corona Warrior' stories have been featured in World Teenage Reporter Project, which has stories of teenage reporters from other student-led or student-run newspapers from 21 countries like Vietnam, USA, London, Germany, South Africa, Tokyo, etc., on what their peers are doing to help during the COVID-19 pandemic. With this initiative of reporting inspirational stories of teenagers, by the teenagers across the globe, we shall create a unique journalistic primer which will shape the future of the world post-COVID-19. It will create a world that is more caring and sensitive towards the environment, a world full of love and compassion, a world full of respect for cultural diversities, a world happier and more positive. [GT](#)

# Heal the world...

## ...One Mask And One Step At A Time



Resham Talwar, AIS Saket, XII C

that face shields and masks were the way forward," shares Mihir.

In a pandemic where hope and humanity seem lost, Mihir Vardhan, a recent graduate from The Shri Ram School Aravali, Gurugram, (India) comes across as a ray of hope. Making 3D printed face shields and hand-stitched face masks in his room, Mihir aims to help hundreds of those in need. Let's trace his journey of embodying the youth's power this world needs.

### Finding purpose for passion

Noticing his neighbourhood workers being exposed to solvents, which are a potential carrier of germs and viruses, he realised something had to be done. Looking for a possible solution, he turned to technology.

"Ever since I was a kid, I have been interested in 3D printing, robotics, hackathons, etc. My passion for technology has led me to believe that it has a solution to nearly everything, including coronavirus. A little technological probe and understanding of the given scenario, and I realised

### Beginning of change

Thus, the winds of change started blowing from Mihir's very own home. "While I took to making 3D masks, my grandmother stitched cloth face masks for the needy. My parents

helped me deliver these masks to various hospitals across Gurugram, where they could be used by healthcare workers," he shares.

To extend the outreach of his initiatives, he has also collaborated with big hospital chains like Max and Fortis, several NGOs and companies

which aided him in producing the protective equipment and making sure they reach the ones in need. At present, Mihir is operating on a 'Pay what you can' policy, to ensure that he reaches more number of people.

*Continued on page 2...*



### 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.

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## Heal the world...

### Overcoming the odds

While making a difference is the need of the hour, it is a task that comes with its own set of challenges. And in Mihir's case there were plenty - making around 500 masks a week by working around 23 hours a day, constraints in transporting the masks to places far away from his abode, surging demand in the need for masks, paucity of time and the requirements of modifying the printer. Once again, he sought the aid of technology to tide over these hurdles. "I used my YouTube channel to spread awareness amongst people, to tell them that they, too, can help!" he comments. Other than reaching out for potential volunteers, he also sought out various companies and organisations through social media for his initiative.



### Call of compassion

Mihir fears that the pandemic today has become a bigger calamity than we ever could have envisioned, which is why every member of the society needs to do their part, because every effort counts. "Whether it is handing out masks to the underprivileged or using the power of social media to spread a message, there is something that each one of us can do. And a united effort is exactly what we need if we wish to emerge victorious against this pandemic," he says, signing off. Well, we couldn't agree more. [!G T](#)

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.



# Humans' retreat, nature's' return

## Because This Could Wait No More

Jaya Jha, AIS Gur 46, XI J

Hello there! It's me nature, remember me? Well of course you do, now that you are stuck at home. No, I am not blaming you, child! After all, how can one blame their own children? But one can certainly reprimand them. And that's what I'm going to do. Just do me a favour and look back on how your life was a few weeks ago and see how the world has changed.

You see, you have been quite unfair to your surroundings; the trees, the animals, the birds; all of them - a part of me, just like you! But this virus outbreak has hit the reset button on your entire existence. You made elements of me feel caged in their very homes. I'm sure you can relate to them now, can't you? I guess coronavirus did have a silver lining, after all. Thanks to the missing cruise ships, my dolphins have finally returned to Italy's coasts. The Venice canal that was usually polluted due to the gondolas and tourists now has beautiful swans in it, floating about in the waters they deserved. I even saw a bunch of Egyptian geese crossing the tarmac of the Tel Aviv airport in Israel. They could finally walk freely without your intervention, courtesy of the cancelled flights and the travel restrictions.

My otters in Singapore are making their mighty comeback, too! Chicago Shed Aquarium is shut down for visitors, but it made an exception for my penguins - Edward and Annie - who had a blast, visiting all their friends. You know what the icing on the cake is? The nitrogen levels have dropped drastically all across the globe - giving me a survivable air quality index!

You see, what had happened was that the most intelligent of all my children had taken over the planet and encroached beyond their territories. You took down forests and overused the resources. Why is it that my other children are able to live freely only after their human siblings have retreated? Why can't all my children live in harmony together? The world balances on a thin line of coexistence, my child. You and your surroundings are the two sides of the very same coin.

Your existence should be more about cohabitation than survival of the fittest. As your mother, it's my place to tell you that you do not own this world, but instead share it with you other siblings. Let this pandemic always be a reminder of how you should learn to coexist or as the creator, I will be bound to take steps to reclaim my space for the ones who deserve it most. [G T](#)



# Distancing while being social

## When Life Gives You Lemons, Try Making A Lemonade

**Vyakhya Gupta**

AIS Gur 46, XI S

The present situation of lockdown has had us all shifting from anxiety to boredom to frustration. No, it is not easy to kill the time sitting at home every day. The only solution to this seemingly endless monotony is interacting with our friends and neighbours. But aren't we supposed to be socially distancing? Well, you may be surprised by the ingenuity of the ways many communities have come up with to get around this little problem:

### Balcony concerts

Italians confined in their homes have used music as a great way to connect with their neighbours. Singer Mike DiCarlo in Boston took to his balcony with a corona-inspired parody of 'Sweet Caroline'. On the 'hands not touching hands' version of the song, nearby residents eagerly joined in. Now, requests are taken via social media for such events each night. Be it professionals bringing out their guitars, sax and violins, or tone deaf neighbours joining in for the

chorus, everyone coming out into the balconies for such impromptu concerts is a great way to raise the morale during these troubled times.

### Rooftop aerobics

A fitness instructor in Spain stayed true to his career, and was successful in improving the locals', both, spirits and health. Playing upbeat music and using the PA system, he brought all of the residents into their balconies and led them through a fitness routine from squats and crunches to star jumps, from a rooftop at the centre of several blocks of flats. Everyone- from kids to adults- joined in enthusiastically. It's a great way to connect with people, take care of fitness and at the same time, stay safe.

### Virtual zoos

With the lockdown conditions, many zoos and aquariums have been live streaming their animals and sanctuaries that show everything from hippos and porcupines to adorable sea otters and leopard sharks drifting through their kelp forest habitats. They are also answering viewers' questions

and giving educational 'Home Safaris' to kids, which is great for parents to keep their children occupied. The watchers of the giraffe enclosure of Australia, however, were more amused by the zookeeper's antics as he started a hilarious dance out of nowhere.

### Balcony bingo

The people of Dublin, Spain and quite a few other places came up with a brilliant idea to keep themselves entertained- Bingo! The residents with their cards come out to the windows or balconies, and one person calls out the numbers, keeping the elderly of the whole neighbourhood fully engaged for various rounds. Even better- the prizes are keeping up with the times; from sanitizer and wipes to the grand prize of a 6-roll package of toilet paper! Now, that's what we call a bumper prize!

So yes, all these little ways through which people are cheering up each other goes on to show just how far we are willing to go to help each other out and add some colour to the lives dulled by quarantine. [G I](#)

# 2020

## A reality check

### Did We Learn Our Lesson?

**Mansi Kumari, XI F,  
Divyanshi Shukla, XI G,  
Srushti Mishra, XI I**  
AIS Gurugram 46

Dear 2020, *kya hua tera vaada?* No doubt, COVID-19 has brought about immense changes in the lives of people throughout the globe. We can't help but look at how it has proven to be one of the most beneficial blessings in a while. Here is a critical comedy on all the lemons 2020 has given us, and we recognize a silver lining among all the darkness.

#### Cleanliness is next to Godliness

"Ek kaam wali bai ki keemat tum kya jaano?" This pandemic has truly opened our eyes to how important 'menial' jobs are and we will forever be grateful to our workers. It didn't take our parents very long to deep-clean the whole house. We all went from being lazy couch potatoes to being absolute multitaskers.

#### How the tables turned

You know how they say it, if we got a dollar for every time we felt out of place amid the constant 'those were the days' from a bunch of 90s kids, we'd probably be teenage millionaires by now. With all of us confined to our homes, Doordarshan played its wild card (RIP YouTube and Prime). It introduced to us, the epics of Mahabharata and

Ramayana and the much loved Shaktiman, which has us all glued to our screens.

#### Millennials will be millennials

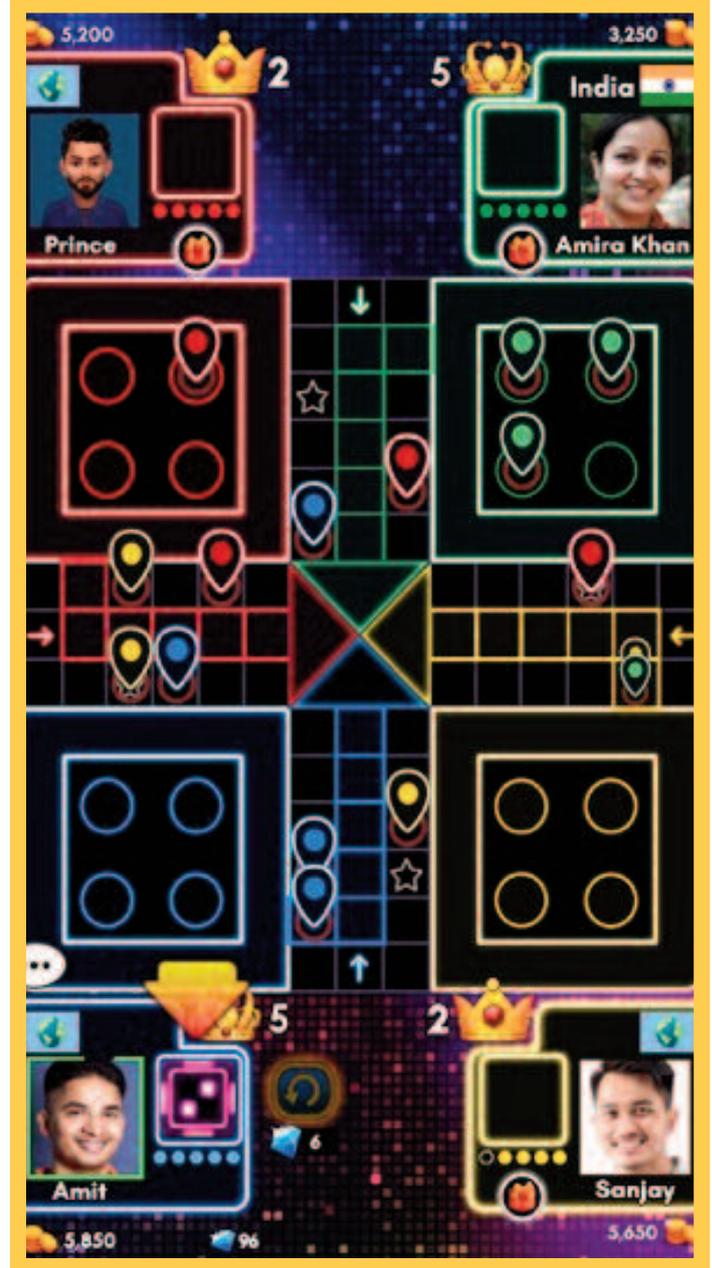
Thanks to Instagram, we are constantly reminded of the bright and gifted minds that we share space with. Who, you ask? Our very own Ludo and Psych champions, who haven't left a single opportunity to showcase their talent and skills. We've also held up the trend of the precious Dalgona coffee, serving as chicken soup for the teenage souls. Wait, chicken soup or coffee? No one knows.

#### When heaven and nature sing

A series of lockdowns across the globe this year have shown how the earth would thrive with us at home. Nature is giving us quite a vibe check. The sky is clearing as the AQI levels (and aesthetic) improve. Penguins waddle the streets like keepers of the zoo, with humans behind concrete walls. The dolphins are back in Italy. You can see the Eiffel Tower from London. If the environment smiles without us, perhaps we should question our choices.

#### The Big Brother feels

You see what I did there? Put all your emotions in 4 words. From 'Hum Saath Saath Hai' to 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham' family drama escalates faster than light. Every day feels like a reality



show, except that there is no confession room, because moms know everything. Better be sick of being at home than being homesick, isn't it?

#### Giving way to theories

As bad as the year claims to be, it has been a glorious time for conspiracy theorists (aka our dear uncles and aunties on WhatsApp). "Did China really create a biological weapon?" "Will 2020 be the real 2012?" With discussions abound, avoiding misinformation has become a task. But each new meme, each new theory has us thinking and laughing (hey,

maybe this whole thing is a ploy by Netflix to get more subscribers!).

#### We're on a break

In the 21st century, it's either you running the day or the day running you, there is no in between. We now comprehend that it's truly the present that matters, neither the past nor the future holds good. COVID-19 made sure we realized how grateful we are supposed to be towards everything, whether it's going out to eat or just meeting our friends. The small things in our lives, after all, are what matter the most. [G I](#)

# Letter to my **doctor** mom

## A Tribute To The Real Superheroes

Swati Jha, AIS Gur 46, XII A

Dear Mom,

It's been 57 days since I last hugged you, I am missing you, I really do. I still remember the morning you left for the hospital, leaving everything you loved behind, to fulfill the love and duty you have towards your nation. I remember how angry I was to see you go, but then daddy talked sense into us that night and made us realize why you were doing this. He told us that you were an even bigger and stronger superhero than the ones we see in movies. Since that day Abby and I have wanted to talk to you so much but daddy said we couldn't because that could put us in danger. But, mom, you are in danger too.

All my life you've held my hand and lead me on the right path, but today in a time where your heroic nature has brought you to this turn in life I'm shattered that I can't hold onto your hand and comfort you to the best of my abilities. These past few days have been so hard for all of us yet we can't help but take pride in all that has brought us to this point in our lives. For the twelve years of my life, I saw you as a caring and loving person, but seeing your courage when this pandemic hit us has shown me that the beautiful doctor that used to smile down at me every morning, wasn't just caring but also one of the strongest people I will ever know.

Since the day you went back to the hospital for this noble cause, fully knowing that it might affect you the way it actually has and its repercussions, I was supposed to be the responsible one. Though I am making sure to help daddy in whichever way I can, and sit down with Abby every evening to study and have little moments of bliss together, I am just failing to help you in any way and that's killing me inside. But don't you worry about us mom. Even though you can't be here for us, you're helping us so much by being the brave and amazing person you are. I just hope that after all that you've been through and done for your nation, you still manage to be a little more courageous for us this time. Not a single day goes by that we don't wish or hope for you to be cured. We are waiting for the hospital staff to call us and tell us that you are allowed to go home. We are waiting for you, mom. And I promise that until that day arrives I'll keep holding on to this hope and I'll make sure Abby does too. Because I know, that you will come back to us, to this house you made home and finally, to this nation to be its saviour again.

Love you,

Ashley 



## Woes of a lamenting student

### Stuck In A Quarantined World

Jaya Jha, AIS Gurugram 46, XI J

Dear diary,

Today is another one of those quarantine days, I just can't remember which. The days have all fused together into one big holiday no one asked for.

I never thought I'd say this, but I really, really miss school. I miss running in the fresh air during games period, digging into my friend's lunchbox without the paranoia of catching a virus, I even miss standing in assembly with aching arms and legs. I miss the era of normalcy.

Diary, I don't even know when we'll be able to meet my friends, to laugh heartily without masks covering our faces, without any fear. I can't help but remember all those times when I wished for a six-month vacation, twice a year. What an amateur and visibly inconsiderate wish that was, borne out of naivety.

We are having online classes and tests now. And this situation reminds me of a story written by Isaac Asimov about students in the 22<sup>nd</sup> century having virtual classes at home with the help of robots, studying from screens instead of real books. I am shocked at the uncanny resemblance this story has with the situation we are in right now. I never thought that future would be this close to us.

Everybody in the world feels caged today, confined to their houses, unable to venture out. It's like I'm starting to forget the faces of others who exist - apart from my family, of course. But that's the thing about happiness, it takes unhappier days for you to appreciate the happier ones. I've been watching movies, series; reading books and novels by various authors but there is only so much one can do. It took a global pandemic to make us realise the value and worth of all the little things we took for granted. Now, I see the length of this entry is exceeding the time of quarantine days I am in. Last but not the least, I promise you with all my heart, that I will never ever take these moments for granted.

Yours lovingly

A lamenting student 



## Words Verse



## A mother's warning

Pragna Das, AIS Gur 46, XI D

If you look into the corner  
You'll find her there  
Covered in black smoke  
With plastic rubbish in her hair

For all she has suffered  
The hurt that she bears  
There's nothing to do now  
For the end is nearly here

No longer can we run free  
We're locked in with fear  
Who knew our biggest weakness  
Was separating from our dears

We live in isolated units  
As we watch the disease grow  
Asphyxiating the whole world  
Filling us with endless sorrow

But now rivers run clean again  
The haze of smoke has cleared  
Animals have returned again  
With the virus as their pioneer

"But don't worry" mother says  
"I'm only correcting your mistakes  
This time know your responsibilities  
Before you put the world at stake"

Take the virus as a warning  
To what happens when we don't save  
The precious earth that we live in  
For this is the last time nature forgave 