

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.

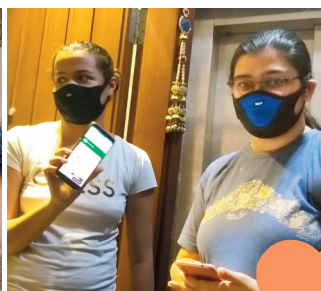
Times have changed and so this summer break, be ready for experiencing the world in a different way. Use this time as an opportunity to impact lives around you in a more positive and constructive way. Many of you normally used to go out during vacations. This year that may not happen, but you can bring 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.



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

Continued on page 2...

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, Pushp Vihar, 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-



...Continued from page 1

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. **GT**

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.



COVID-19 Pandemic

From The Eyes Of A Quarantined Kid

Mansimar Kaur, AIS Gur 46, IX H

They're all at home, all day. Ma, Pa and my sister. It feels like they've pledged to not keep a foot out of the house unless it's an emergency! Whenever somebody goes out, they wear a mouth cap and come back in only after rubbing their hands with a liquid kept at the door.

Ma and Pa have started to use the word Coronavirus (my pronunciation is not to be trusted) a lot. They use it while reading the newspaper, after which they both sigh and say- "We have to learn to live with it".

Staying at home doesn't mean they play with me all day. They give me attention, but mostly they just sit in front of their laptop. I'm not even going to school! I miss my friends. But I do get to see them and my school teacher every day on the iPad and we all sing ABC together. Even my sister studies like this. I don't know why everybody has changed so quickly from sending me to day-care and going to their office to being at home all day.

I want to meet my grandparents. They let me

watch Peppa Pig the whole day unless mom switches the TV off because they will 'spoil' both me and my eyes. But now, I just feel my mind getting spoilt because I see no one, meet no one and hear no one.

When I am playing with my toys happily, my sister wants me to stop because I'm making a lot of noise. Now wouldn't a plane make noise when it is going to fly?! She's just two years older, so I can take on her easily. I don't want to stop a fight if she provokes me because she is the one who always gets scolded. *evil laughter* The problem is that now I only have her to play with and I can't play with someone I just finished fighting with and she can't play with someone because of whom she got scolded. She's not that bad, I realise now.

Today, everybody was cheerful, and wished 'Happy Birthday' to me. But on such a day, we go out, call my friends and have cake after which everybody gives me a present. Maybe because they have taken a 'pledge' not to go out, they'd spoil my happy birthday too. Well, I got a cake and it was pretty good I daresay, even though my mom baked it at home. **GT**



The quarantine bucket list

What To Do When You Can Not Do Anything Else

Aditya Pathak, AIS Gur 46, XII B

2020 is the year none asked for. There has always been something threatening to wipe human race off the face of the Earth, be it rumours of World War III, a gigantic piece of space rock, a combination of natural disasters, or of course, the Coronavirus. To save lives, humanity is taking refuge, in their homes but guess what? We're bored; we miss the outside world, our friends and teachers and definitely the momo *bhaiya* right around the corner. Well, how about you use the spare time doing something except sleeping or binge-watching Netflix? Here are a few ways in which you can use the extra time you've got on your hands:

Learn new stuff

No, we aren't telling you to create the fifth state of matter in your living room (though it would be really cool if you did). But how


about developing an extra life skills? You can get the hang of dancing by imitating dance crews on YouTube. You can try your hand at an instrument through an online class. You can learn to use a DSLR to its full potential with free classes by Nikon. You can try to bake cookies and cakes from online-learning platforms such as Udemy, Coursera et al.

Stay in shape

With barely any physical activity and spending more time with the 'junk food drawer' at home, it's easy to gain weight, which can lead to a lot of problems, even when the lockdown is lifted. Hence, it's important to keep an eye on your calorie intake. You can try home workouts; going up and down the stairs a few times or practicing dance choreographies work just fine. It'll stop your body from acclimatizing to the inactive life and may give you a nice, different look. While you're at it, give yoga and meditation a chance too.

Self-discovery

Two months into lockdown, we've realised how nature will forever be bigger than humanity. We shouldn't take everything for granted; things can change in moments and we can't do anything but 'improvise, adapt and overcome'. During this period, allow yourself some 'me' time, think about yourself and ask questions. What do you want to do when you grow up? How will you achieve it? What's the meaning of life? Work on your weaknesses, master your strengths. Read exceptional books, watch legendary movies and make a novel playlist of marvelous music.

The lockdown period has been a quaint time. Never had we ever had so much time on our hands to create, ponder and introspect. But, are we making optimum use of such a bizarre situation? Well, it's not a competition. No pressure. But, it's good if you're trying to be productive during a global pandemic. 

COVID-spiracy

The Funny, The Scary And The Outright Insane Theories

Vanalika Maini, AIS Gur 46, XI A

Okay, we get it – the lockdown has everyone losing their minds. The streets are silent and time feels like an illusion. We're stuck in an endless loop of going to the fridge to get a snack and circling back to our rooms. With nothing to do and nowhere else to go, it's not surprising that people have come up with 'creative' reasons to blame the current situation on. Are we living in a simulation? Was the moon landing fake? How to convince mom that french-fries are super healthy? It's understandable – theories are attempts to find a solution to an unanswered problem. They are a way to regain control of a situation where one feels powerless. Keeping that in mind, let us look at some of the most outlandish theories that have risen along with COVID-19.

5G Towers the virus-spreaders?


News flash folks- radio waves are not magic. It is understandable to doubt something you cannot see or feel, but seriously? It is impossible for viruses and other diseases to spread through the electromagnetic spectrum. What is even more outrageous is the fact that people in countries like USA and UK have actually gone out and burned down 5G towers. Come on, you're really going to shut off our network during quarantine? That's low.

Released by Bill Gates?

This all began when a video of Gates resurfaced from 2015 where he warns the arrival of a pandemic. People have started to believe that Bill Gates created a deadly virus to make a few billions on vaccines containing microchips. This is basically like a game of Chinese whispers where Bill Gates began with,

"Be wary of a pandemic" and what came out at the end was, "Bill Gates says he will kill us all with a pandemic!" Duh.

2020 the true 2012?

Ah, 2012! What a shockingly tame time it was, except for the shadow of doom cast on us. People were so sure that we all would disappear into oblivion that they even made a movie about it! Well, the world didn't end and everything was fine after Dec 21, 2012. What some people still believe, though, is that that wasn't the real 2012 after all. Given that the Ethiopian calendar runs 7-8 years behind the Gregorian calendar, we are currently in 2012 by its design. This means, that the 2012 apocalypse could still happen on Dec 21, 2020. The fact that we have had multiple earthquakes, locust storms, gas leaks and, oh, a pandemic, does not help this situation. 



(A)typical conversation

When You See Things From A Different Perspective



Mansi Kumari, AIS Gur 46, XI H

After yet another tiring day of quarantine, the moon hangs low; the sky is dark and earth barren, a quiet night followed:

“Excuse me? Who said anything about it being a quiet night, I’m here to rant,” exclaimed the bed, with a teenager sound asleep on it. “I’d like to ask what I did to deserve burden of this brat 24/7 instead of usual 8 hours, it’s seems like he has become even lazier than before.”

“Brother, you really think you’re the only one having problems? I am supposed to be used when his phone is dead, not shoved in all day because ‘just in case’,” whined the charger.

“Pssh, look at you all whining like a bunch of toddlers. At least you all are being appreciated,” commented the TV, “I’ve become the tool to eradicate his loneliness providing background sound while he scrolls through his phone like a maniac.”

“Do you all have any idea how bad it is to be in the hands of that same maniac? All I get is his stupid thumb slapped across my face all day scrolling on Instagram, either that or I’m insanely heated up when he plays PUBG and don’t even ask the number of times I’ve fallen straight on the face because he wanted to click pictures of the sky.”

“Why are you all being so salty, I used to be taken out once in like a whole year to whip up something, and now just because it is a trend, I’m being tortured, I’ve lost count of his miserable attempts to make Dalgona,” pitied the hand blender from the kitchen.

“It’s all because of this virus isn’t it, what was it again? Conora?” asked the bed.

“No that’s what the silly kids call it because they think it’s cool, it’s Corona actually,” corrected the TV.

“Alexa, play we hate our lives,” sighed the phone in grief.

“Nope, no more requests please, I already have

to deal with his whirlwind of annoying commands every single day, Alexa what is life, Alexa play this, Alexa play that, you know what, Alexa quits.”

“Wait what? The kid is alive? I haven’t seen him in ages. Wow I’m hurt, talk about being forgotten,” grumbled the long lost pair of ragged jeans.

“Believe me, being forgotten is much better at this stage than being used till I’m drenched in his stinky salty sweat after days of skipping shower, that too in summer season!” wailed the sweatpants.

“I know right! But what can we do? The industry we are working in, us non-living things do not have a say, all our pleas fall on deaf ears. But thankfully I am glad I’m able to rant it out to you guys. Anyway, let’s bid good-night. We all have a long day tomorrow. At least till the time this body does not does go out of the house post lock down,” sighed the bed, again.

Real vs online

Drum Roll Please For The Ultimate Battle Of Schools

Aashna Pahuja, AIS Gur 46, VIII G

The times have changed. Our idea of normalcy has changed and so has our way of learning. And now, the ultimate battle has emerged- which one is better? Online schooling or the real deal? Will online schooling be the new norm? Who will win this ultimate battle? Let's find out!

ROUND 1: Friends

Online school has nothing on the real school when it comes to friends. The ultimate sign of true friendship is going to school so that your friend is not alone, after all "yeh dosti, hum nahi todenge." Playing, talking, eating, walking and laughing together in school is something that can never be given up on. And, school's the only place you can meet your friends because your houses are too far.

SCORE: School 1 - Online 0

ROUND 2: Class behaviour

When it comes to class behaviour and decorum, online classes take the cake. No one can disrupt a class for the fun of it like they can in a real classroom setting. Teachers can't get annoyed with incessant talking and whispering during a class as there's a mute all option



which restricts everyone from speaking in one go. Also, no need for a class monitor so a win for the students too!

SCORE: School 1 - Online 1

ROUND 3: Learning

The classroom has always been a constant when it comes to the learning experience. We are so accustomed to the classroom setting that we can't have it any other way. Online classes can only go so far when it comes to learning but it doesn't feel like the real deal. No blackboards, no running to classes with the fear of getting late, no discussing class-

work with friends.

SCORE: School 2 - Online 1

The need of the hour may be online classes but, nothing can replace a real classroom. However, online classes are getting the work done right now as physically going to school is not possible in the middle of a pandemic. So, when talking about who emerges victorious in this battle, both are winners. Online schooling is keeping us safe, giving the school experience from the comfort of our homes but we all know that once schools re-open, we couldn't be excited to go back. **GT**

Under the night sky

Sonali Agarwal

AIS Gur 46, X H

When I sit alone under
The beautiful night sky
I wonder to myself

Is the lockdown a thing to cry?
Or a blessing received by us
To appreciate and cherish
thereby

When the speckled moon
Shines at me so bright
As if to show its true might
And the stars twinkle like gems
I see the sky under which
My parents first met

Words Verse



Seeing Venus shine bright
Almost as bright as the moon

Takes away all of my gloom
The bright and sparkling cities
Somehow fits completely
In this image of serenity

The distant murmur I hear
Sounds of a million creatures
Adds to life's liveliness
And as I sit under the night sky
Alone with my thoughts, I think
Life's worth a second try **GT**

A touch of death



Jaya Jha

AIS Gur 46, XI J

A sneeze, a cough, or simply a touch
A disease spread through contacts such
Perils arose when it began to spread
Who knew it would leave thousands dead

Hands were washed, sanitizers were bought
Masks were worn in weathers stifling hot
Couldn't trust without questions being asked
Couldn't go home with travel histories of the past

The world shut down for this deadly disease
Still, the number of infected wouldn't cease
History was repeating after a hundred years

Lessening number of mortals, inciting godly fears

The only one who gained was Mother Earth
Protecting her creations, saving her hearth
As for mortals, life continued to perish
Humanity is on the brink to diminish

In this era of science and technology
I believe in one such great power
He who is the one who can protect us
The disease only he could tower

The real perils arose when we lost belief
Suffering adamantly in our own grief
Now from a distance, we must band together
And unite to make our ailing world better.



Strength in solitude

Mansimar Kaur

AIS Gur 46, IX H

I think to myself
Is this solitude any good?
But at least this certainly is
The best as one should

We stay confined at home
To be safe from a deadly virus
This is the only prevention
So, why this unease and unrest?

We need to stay strong,
Get closer to our families
Learn, teach and be grateful,
And enjoy the fresh breeze!

For the sun always rises
After a dark stormy night
We too shall pass this patch
Just stay safe and hold tight **GT**

Artistic Expression



Chinmay Tuteja, AIS Gur 46, IX C



Shandilya, AIS Gur 46, XII A



Kyra Vaghela, AIS Gur 46, VIII D