

Vocations in Vacations



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

Dear Amityans, I am glad to see the way you all took the challenge of changing times and headed on the way towards learning and growth continuously, 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. [GT](#)

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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

AIIS 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. [G I](#)

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.



Times have changed

Better Act Than Regret The Impact

Shreya Saxena
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A seasonal sun drenched landscape, streets lined with vendors, the light trickling through the clothes covering the market and stalls, colourful earrings, dupattas, kurtas, children laughing, energy in a way that is beautifully energising flowing from everywhere to everywhere, now no more. The scene has changed drastically. What we now see is empty airports, railway stations, playgrounds, roads, empty school hallways, almost as if life itself was erased. Not being able to experience things like we used to really does take a part of yourself out, leaving you partially empty, if not entirely.

The world today feels it and so do you, in a way being away, being apart really does make you realize that it was the best of times turned into the worst, it was the age of wisdom, age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light turned into the season of

darkness, it was the spring of hope followed by the winter of despair, we are all going the direct way in short that some of the noisiest authorities insisted on being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

Ironically this time holy water cannot help us, a thousand armies cannot keep it out, the virus does not want our money or our kingdoms. Even though the times are tough, we will survive, haven't we always? Fear in all its forms never stopped us and neither did we let it. We thrive, we survive, and then some of us consider ourselves invincible because of money and our minds. However, every now and then a microscopic entity comes along to make us realize that we are not so undefeatable as we believe ourselves to be, that we are mere fractions of a whole living over emptiness in a bid to make sense politically, socially, In this very

process, we risk the human race, quite literally, as can be seen. But this is the time that we are offered a reality check, a quick glance in the mirror. To stop, to ponder and reconsider our actions before it is too late. Sometimes, late is never better. [G I](#)



At life's doorstep

When Vulnerability Wins The Battle

Aditi Banerji

AIS Noida, XII I

The key finally twists inside the rusting lock. The door carefully creaks so as to not wake the dead. As I step on to the untrodden pavement, the grey sky gives a weak roar to warn me of the still lurking danger. A leaf crackles beneath my shoes. I look around. The streets empty with all the shutters still down. A sheath of sadness seems to have settled on everything. I let my gaze follow the stationary shop with its dusty exteriors, the ice cream parlor that never closed its doors, the dairy that never took a shuteye, the playground that never stopped laughing, the grocery

stores, the arcade gallery, the... Breaking my stupor, a figure shuffles behind the curtains in the house by my side and a small head peeks out and looks at me. A lady, probably his mother, grabs his shoulders from behind and rests her eyes on me. Her eyes demand answers. Answers to questions I am too afraid to think about. I give her a small nod in return, only to put her heart at ease. I turn away from them and walk towards the town hospital. The nurses seem to have finally returned home.

With a sigh, I give in to my visions; I let my eyes paint the soulless mélange of the greyest hues around me into the colors of the rainbow that always bounced off the streets. I stand anchored



as the world changes around me, I see Mr Buckets give me a big wave on his way to work, best buddies walking huddled together licking their favorite ice creams, tiny tots playing hopscotch in the middle of the road. Someone comes running towards me and envelops me into a big hug, "Congratulations!" she says. I am not able to feel her warmth. The world fades back as a tear rolls down my eyes. What happened? I demand the universe for an answer. Things were perfectly fine, until one day reminded us how vulnerable we are and how we'll always remain at the mercy of the cosmos.

I walk a little deeper into town, stopping only when grief takes over again. It feels like a funeral, the world resting in peace. But, the world isn't at peace, it's in pieces. 2020 is exactly what 2012 was supposed to be, I think, the end of the Mayan calendar, the complete wipe off of humanity, I even manage a laugh. A screen whirrs to life in front of me; not believing what I'm witnessing, I take a step closer towards the electronics shop. I see the last victim being felicitated for fighting so very bravely! I remove my mask for the first time in months as I breathe in, first slowly, and then all at once. 🇮🇳





A pet-friendly PANDEMIC

Happy Call For Our Pets

Ishani Singh

AIS Noida XI

As the entire world tussles and wrangles midst the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, there's a clique of creatures who are rejoicing, even during these hard times. Guess who? Our pets, of course!

Those with pets at home, be it dogs, cats or even rabbits, must have surely noticed how happy their pets have been ever since schools have been shut and 'work from home' has commenced. From whimpering, when kids leave for school and parents leave for offices, to barking out of boredom when left at home with the helper and the elderly of the house, all their shenanigans have come to a halt.

The children of the house, out of boredom, ultimately end up playing and spending time with their pets, offering them treats and teaching them tricks; a win-win situation for the pet as well as the kids. The adults use the 'work for home' strategy as an excuse to spend time with their cherished pets which they otherwise couldn't.

From Boxer, the Labrador, to Cleo, the Siberian Husky, who hardly a few weeks ago, used to be leashed at all times, now remain off the leash for the entire of the day! From the affectionate Rag dolls cats, to the sweet little Scottish folds, who used to spend their day peeking from their baskets, craving attention, are now found rolling around and pouncing over contentedly. From Coco, the rabbit, to Pepper, the hamster, pets have found a way out of their cages, as they hop around and play hide and seek with the family.

Not being able to go out in the park to play doesn't seem to disappoint them now. The round-the-clock pampering along with different treats every day has seemed to outweigh this hitch. From teaching them how to play dead to making them climb into bed secretly without your parents knowing, children are finding happiness in the form of their pets, a jolly company in harrowing times like these.

The pet-keepers, in most likelihood, prefer calling the current situation a pet-a-frolic than a pandemic![G T](#)

COVID conspiracies

The Viral Corona Theories

Azlan Rafiq

AIS Noida, VIII K

COVID-19. There are a whole lot of conspiracy theories circulating on the web. An expert (actually me) has been assigned to reveal fact and fallacy, and strip away obscurities from these theories. On that happy note, let's have a look at some of these theories!

The 5G Conspiracy Theory

A cell tower in Dagenham, England was set on fire. The reason? A new conspiracy theory claiming that 5G alters people's immune systems and 5G changes human DNA, making people increasingly susceptible to infection. First of all, even though radiation is a wee bit harmful for your health, 5G has absolutely no relation with COVID-19. Secondly, if you believe the conspiracy theories, you have a higher chance of catching COVID-19 as you step out of your house to burn down 5G towers.

COVID-19 is a bioweapon

This was one of the first theories on the web, claiming that the Wuhan Institute of Virology developed the virus as a bioweapon. Now, firstly, a virus that is a bioweapon will

have a more triangular shape; while the COVID-19 is just a circular sphere, making it more difficult to infect cells. Secondly, the mortality rate of the novel coronavirus is merely 2.3%, compared to the SARS outbreak, which had a mortality rate of 9.6%. So if anyone had tech advanced enough to create a bioweapon, they would have made it deadlier. Wouldn't they?

The Simpsons' Prediction

"The Simpsons" is popular for predicting many events that occurred around the world. This time, it gained fame for a viral image displaying Homer coughing, and the newsreader is announcing the words 'corona virus', which are also written on the screen with a cat behind them. It was revealed later on that the image was edited, the pictures were from different episodes and the words were not 'corona virus', they were 'apocalypse meow'.

So this article serves as a reminder for everyone out there: Do not believe everything you read on the World Wide Web. Stay safe and stop reading these theories, because who knows what's right and what's wrong. [G T](#)



LOCK DOWN leisure!



Things One Can Do To Fight Away The Quarantine

Vrinda Rastogi, AIS Noida, X M

With practically the entire planet on lockdown, teenagers all over the world are getting bored out of their wits. As schools stay shut, they find themselves in dire need of new and original excuses to avoid doing household chores, and as necessity is the mother of invention, here are a few things you can rather do to keep yourself engaged.

1. Sleep: For most of us students, exams were barely over when the quarantine was put in place. Late nights and early mornings were spent studying, leaving us with dark circles and undying exhaustion. But here's your reward – now is definitely the perfect time to catch up on the lost sleep and reset your body clock.

2. Workout: Are you spending all your time lying in bed and munching on everything you

can find in the kitchen and the fridge? Well, maybe you can also spend some of the time burning off those snacks and working up a sweat to lead to a good night's sleep. Since going out and playing with your friends is no longer an option, do make sure to engage yourself in some sort of physical activity to keep yourself healthy and active.

3. Polish your hobbies: Now is the perfect time for you to not be serious and rather engage in things that make you happy or the things you always wanted to try. Wanted to learn how to dance? Play an instrument? Draw? Write? This is your chance. Develop a hobby and polish it to finesse!

4. Home science: One of the main aspects of life and definitely one of the major overlooked ones, home science is extremely important for every human being to survive a holistic life and to be independent. If you've

never known how to change the tire of a car or fix a lightbulb or how to cook, utilise this time and know that you can take care of yourself and those around you, no matter what happens.

5. Stay connected: It only happens once in a million years but lo and behold, it finally happened – these are the only times when your parents won't be mad at you for using social media and constantly talking on the phone, so use this and stay connected to the people who matter the most to you. Call your grandparents, distant relatives, friends etc. This might not only make you feel lighter but a positive conversation in these tough times might be exactly what they need, too.

Who says you need to go outside to have a productive day! Use the comfort of your own house to make yourself better. 🇮🇳

