

## New normal

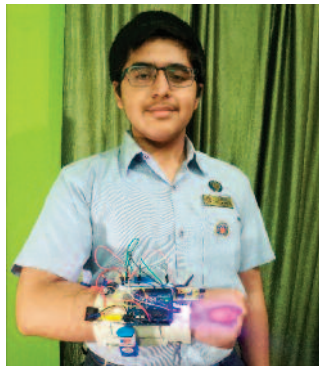


**Dr Amita Chauhan**  
Chairperson

Dear Amitians,  
Hope you all are enjoying vacation time by staying safe and healthy. As the world reels under the pressure of lockdowns, India

has emerged as a nation which has fought the challenges in the best possible way it can. Social distancing, regular sanitisation, cleanliness, hygienic practices, not spitting in open, caring for environment, respecting relationships, being dutiful citizens, etc., are now the 'new normals' that have become the new way of life. A lot of these aspects were always being discussed and deliberated upon on various global and local platforms. But nonetheless, for some reason or the other, these could never completely become a part of our lives. Not that people were not aware or never cared, but the strong will and determination to adopt these as lifestyle somewhere lacked a bit. In fact, a lot of these are centred around the culture and tradition of Indian lifestyle. Be it our greeting 'Namaste' or use of 'turmeric' and 'tulsi' the natural immunity boosters in our daily diet, the Indian way of life is – the new normal. Indeed, it is a matter of pride for us and also a huge responsibility for all of us to now make this new normal the cornerstone of creating a better, beautiful and happy nation and happy world. **GT**

# Angels in disguise



**WORLD  
TEENAGE  
REPORTING  
PROJECT  
COVID-19**



## A Bow Down To Our Young Warriors

**Maansi Anand**

**AIS Vasundhara 1, XII**

Life is certainly uncertain, a notion that COVID-19 laid bare for all. While many doctors and frontline workers chose to risk their lives to save others, some innovative next-door-superheroes did not allow the global pandemic to conquer their will and chose to put their creativity to its best use and serve the community. In this series of 'Corona Warriors' brought to you by GT reporters for the last consecutive six editions we read stories of innovation, where young innovators, with care, compassion with creativity went out of their way during the lockdown period to spread the message that no matter what happens, we

will overcome the pandemic. The stories have been brought to you as part of World Teenage Reporting Project (an initiative of The Global

times to you, here's its last, final segment before we bid adieu.

When we delved deeper into the subject, we were surprised to read that stories of innovation were not only limited to urban areas where children had access to resources which can help them invent; they ran deep into villages and districts where young innovators took charge to solve the problems being faced local inhabitants. Let's take a look at all the wonderful stories of torch-bearers whose dreams were much bigger than their size!

From India's rural topography, we found some children who could no longer let other villagers in their vicinity suffer from problems like intense heat and water shortage. To fix this issue, Arjun, Mahesh and Piyush from Bhatkheri village,

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### 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.

Youth & News Media Prize that strengthens engagement between news media and young people across the world). And as we delineated


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## Angels in disguise

MP, managed to dig a 30-feet deep well within three days, all with the help of resources available at home! 9-year-old Golu from Jaitpur, Mahoba, also went ahead to provide the luxury of cold air in the rather hot climate to the people of her village, by inventing a mini cooler using limited equipments.

We also came across some brilliant minds, part of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in their schools or cities, made landmark innovations in limiting the COVID-19 outbreak. We delineated one such tale in our corona warrior series, that of Shivam Mukherjee, a student of AIS Pushp Vi-har, who created a wearable sanitisation band. Another such innovations included the corona tracker mobile app, automated touch-free doorbell & sanitiser and a COVID-19 website.

And the list does not end here. A team of school-going RJs in Kerela, kept people entertained under lockdown from their respective homes, while others like Mi-hir Vardhan from Gurugram, created 'The Terminator', which can help destroy any virus which might travel on the packaging online orders, as well as 3D printed face shields and hand-stitched face masks to meet their unprecedented shortage - another story that we promulgated in our warrior series. Other such inventions including Bengal's Digantika Bose's 'Air Providing and Virus Destroying Mask', and a unique wristband created by Maharashtra's 14-year-old Harsh Chaudhari, which stops us from touching our faces, await patent approvals from the Indian Council of Medical Research.

By bringing their innovative minds to the forefront and perfectly pairing them with their desire to serve the country - these little corona warriors have curated the perfect recipe for creative utilisation of their time, as well as helping those in need. And while they are at it, let us all come together in our thoughts and be a little more responsible in how we deal with the crisis. Cause, being distantly together is the only way we can actually distance it! 



## Making the most of quarantine

...Because We Won't Just Survive This Pandemic

Manya Bhatia, AIS Saket, X C

Nelson Mandela wrote, "Prison life is about routine: each day like the one before; each week like the one before it, so that the months and years blend into each other." Although in the current COVID - 19 times we are not imprisoned, but the feeling is akin to being in a house arrest. One of the biggest problems people are having being quarantined is staying productive in an interesting way. As your days may be stuck behind those four walls for a bit, we're taking a look at some quirky tips to help improve productivity during these trying times.

### One wall canvas

You don't have to be Van Gogh or Picasso for this one. Take a wall in your room or a small nook in your house and have fun with it. Use different colours to create your very own masterpiece but remember to take your parents permission. And once they do permit, who knows you become the next Da Vinci!

### Have a spa night

Nothing like a spa night to get you into that weekend groove and relieve your stress. Plus point - you can turn it into a relaxing family activity. Plan an evening where you can do an at-home spa night with scented candles, and some relaxing music. You can do facials, manicures, and pedicures. You can also have bubble baths. Schedule it so that each person is doing a different thing and rotate the process.

### Invent your own board game

Bored of playing the same old Monopoly, Scotland Yard or Life? Here is a creative way to spend your time. Create your own board game - Discuss what type of game you want to make; design the board together with your family or siblings; make the rules that are needed to be followed and that's it, play the game you invented. Coming up with the game and the rules would be an awesome time of interaction with your family, trust us.


### Tie dye

Now, who doesn't love a good old tie dye shirt? Take any old white t-shirt. Dip your rubber band in bleach, tie it on the area that you want to colour and wait for the bleach to work. Then finally dye the rest of the spot. Voila!! You have a new look for the season.

### An online night-out

Missing your besties because of the quarantine period? Here we provide you with a solution - an online sleepover. Cook something and ask your friends to do the same and then what? Zoom call - sit, chat, eat and play online games.

### Make a scrapbook

Finally, you can build a scrapbook having all your memories from the quarantine period. Personalise it and give it your own charm. The benefits - it lowers your stress levels and gives you something to go back to and relive the memories when you grow up. 





# A TEACHER'S JOURNAL

The Days When Life Wasn't Much Virtually Inclined

**Sunayana Ray**  
AIS Saket, XI F

*Dear Diary,*

It has been an exhausting month, and I cannot stress enough how glad I am that the vacations are here and I finally get a little break from this virtual life. In these past 11 years, I have checked and corrected one too many diary entries written by my students, but I did not imagine having to revisit my old journal from the college days so soon. And I must say, it is a relief to hold a pen in my hands again. Being a teacher, I guess some things never change.

Let us get one thing straight, I am no spring chicken. We have fantasised a tech-savvy academic journey for our children for many years now, seeing as they are far better adapted to their monitors and keyboards. But, I think none of us expected it to become a reality so soon. Of course, it has been forced upon us by the circumstances, but I have to admit – adjusting to these online classes has been



Illustration: Avni Jain, AIS Saket, III D

harder than I expected (and hopefully, I am not the only one).

If I had a dollar for each time my laptop's mic stopped working in the middle of the class, I would probably be able to buy myself a better functioning laptop with that money. It was a refreshing moment during the first online class, finally meeting my new students and starting off the brand new session. But not being able to see the children face

to face has been such a pain. When I ask them questions, nobody responds (but again, that might just be my broken mic) and more often than not, I confuse and forget everybody's names in class and I think it embarrasses me more than them. The first week of handing out assignments was dreadful. Not only was I bombarded with a thousand questions regarding how to submit them, but the answers I did receive at

the end of the day were a nightmare to check – I understand we are on a digital platform, but I am like totally gonna lose it if i read more slang in my assignments, no cap bruh! Being around my son constantly during this lockdown has gotten me used to their lingo, I guess.

After five seemingly unending weeks of having my eyes glued to my desktop, checking a plethora of tests and homework submissions, I have a whole new level of appreciation for my students and colleagues for coping with these changes so well. The lockdown has opened up my eyes, quite literally, to a prospective digital world for academics, and it is an experience none of us are going to forget. But at the end of the day, I do miss Amity's red brick walls, the smell of new notebooks at the start of the session and my bright students. I can only hope to see them again soon, but until then, I best be giving my eyes some rest. 🇮🇳

*-Sunayana*

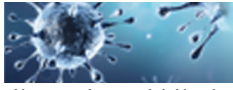
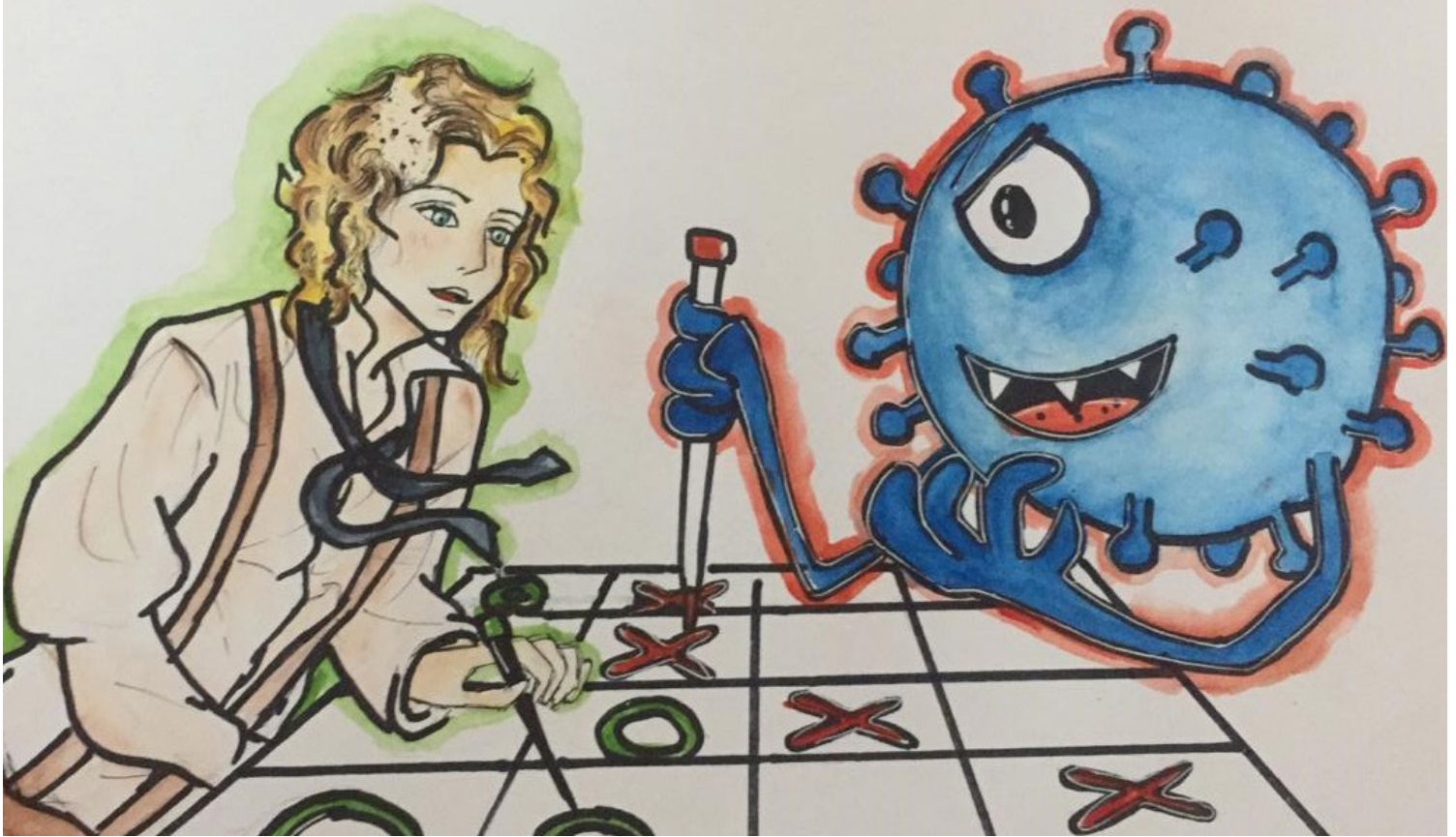


Illustration: Abhilasha Kuba, AIS Saket, XI E



# Laughter is the best medicine!

## The Remedy Of Happiness Can Never Go Out Of Fashion

Hridyanshu, AIS Saket, X B

In this lockdown, social media has exposed us to numerous trends. Some touched our hearts whereas some gave us just the comic relief that we needed during these tough times. These famous incidents below gave rise to such a comical trend that it not only became viral on social media and made us laugh till our stomach hurt, but also made our time in isolation less gloomy.

### #LockdownLipSync

It all started with Parris' lip-sync to the Iggy Azalea and Jennifer Hudson tune, 'Trouble' and has taken off from there. With each round, the duelling spouses have brought in costumes and props to elevate their lip-sync game — and they've inspired others to join in on the fun. People have been using the #LipsyncLockdown to share their own videos, and the results have been hilarious. Almost each day a new lip sync video is tweeted and enjoyed thoroughly by the fans.

### #PotatoFilter

Maybe our standards for humour are steadily decreasing as we remain isolated — or maybe this is just hilarious. Lizet Ocampo, the national political director for the progressive advocacy group People for the American Way, was holding a weekly Monday morning check-in with her colleagues over Microsoft Teams when she accidentally turned on a potato filter — and was unable to change it back. This incident became viral on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram with thousands of retweets and #WorkFromHome also became trending.

### #HorrorHaircuts

It has been rightly said that 'Looks speak for themselves.' Amidst this lockdown, salons haven't opened causing people to cut their hair themselves so much so that people started posting their stories of haircuts. Among all the stories shared, 'Police doesn't question a group with identical blonde hair' became relatively popular. This includes 5 people in a neighbourhood becoming a strong family

when they all did the same haircut and went to the park nearby for a morning walk. They observed that police doesn't question the living arrangement of a motley group with identical, striking, blonde hair. Hence, morning walks during the lockdown was discovered.

### #TicTacToe challenge

From our notebooks' back pages to the tables filled with rows and columns, this is one of the most common games that students play. Various social media platforms were having many videos of Tic Tac Toe challenge where you see pets playing the game with their masters- then it seems fishy. Even though this trend seems funny and cute, we have found numerous videos which show innovative methods adopted by people to teach their pets the art of Tic Tac Toe.

As we battle COVID and stay at home, it is essential for our overall wellbeing to stop revelling in the negativity and lighten the mood. A good laugh is all it takes to make the world seem a bit more tolerable sometimes..



# Back to school

An Imaginary Account Of What Life Post COVID Would Entail For Us

**Pratul Gupta & Tanya Ganguly**  
AIS Saket, IX B

*Friday*  
*May 22, 2021*  
*Dear diary,*

It's been more than an entire year since I've stepped out of my house due to the coronavirus outbreak, that wreaked havoc in humankind's natural order and way of life. The only form of outing during the lockdown for a kid like me was then walking to the nearby convenience store, armed with a small bottle of sanitiser and my face fitted with a protective mask. This small chore brought me tremendous excitement though.

We all, in fact, got accustomed to the whole 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' thing real soon and followed it to the tee. But now that the world has opened up again, after more than a year of anxiety and pressure, going out feels so strange and even unnecessary, ain't it? There are huge noticeable changes.

Monday was the first day of school after a very

long time. I was thrilled and couldn't sleep at all the night before in anticipation of the day ahead. I was up on mom's first wake-up call, got ready fast instead of trudging on with the morning routine and sprinted to the bus stop to meet my friends. And that is where I first started noticing the difference.

I only saw faces covered with masks of different colours and patterns, with fearful, uncertain eyes above them. I couldn't recognise anyone. A special seating pattern had been devised for us to maintain social distancing throughout the journey. At school, we were scanned with an infrared thermometer before being allowed in. Inside, I saw more of the same, an endless sea of masked faces. We were told to keep away from one another at all times and to ensure this, all activity periods were cancelled and teachers sat in the classrooms during recess.

Seeing all this, my spirit was a little dampened. Everywhere else too, we have had to follow stringent safety protocol. We have become so dependent on machines in these past fourteen months that we have forgotten to do the simple things that once came so naturally to us. Now,

in the name of exercise, jumping onto the recumbent bike comes more naturally than going out to cycle. Entertainment has become endless hours of Netflix instead of going to the neighbourhood park or going out with your family. The exciting yet calming feel of the library, a great portal to unknown worlds, lays somewhere in my mind as a forgotten memory. The texture, smell and sound of the turning of pages of a real book are an out of practice experience and, while I have spent the endless hours sitting at home, exploring the world, this too has been through my virtual library on the AnyBooks app.

But, hopefully one day this way of life goes for a reboot too. Once again, the world starts to go back to the ways of social coexistence; Swimming pools then won't be sites of paranoia and eating out will not be shrouded with fear of acquiring the terrible virus. As time goes by, hopefully we will learn to appreciate the value of things that earlier seemed petty and mundane. Well, hopefully!

- Your dear writer

