

Not so lonely



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

Dear Amitians,
I have been observing that many young minds have been experiencing 'loneliness' especially since lockdown began wherein

young children are most vulnerable. And therefore, today, I feel the pressing need to address this issue with a lot of sensitivity.

So, what is the solution? Well, SEW it: Speak, Express, Write. Whenever you feel ousted or lonely reach out to your teachers, family or elders, and SEW the feeling with the stitches of love, care and warmth of beloved ones. Trust me sometimes just one single step and one single phrase 'I need help', is all that it takes to convert the sea of loneliness into the ocean of love and togetherness. Don't put your mind to too much stress because it is the most precious treasure of your life.

At Amity, we assure you that your teachers, counsellors and mentors are always there for you and they care for you just like their own children. The fact that this year AIS Vas 1 undertook 'mental health' as their topic for 'Youth Power' shows how sensitive and caring Amitians are towards addressing this issue. Remember, you are not lonely, because we are there to listen, understand and help you SEW it up with the bond of love and care. 📞

The humanitarian tale

With COVID-19 coming in, every person around the world is fighting a new battle with each passing day. And there are some who have made this battle a mission to aid the less fortunate around them by providing them face masks and food. Young heroes of this battle, **Sunay Bajaj, VIII A & Pushpak Bajaj, VI B**, of AIS Gurugram 46, narrate us their humanitarian tale in their own words, proving that the solution lies in 'all for us, one for all'.



"As coronavirus was declared a pandemic and the need for social distancing was announced, everyone realised the importance of proper hygiene, sanitisation, and most importantly – face masks. We looked at them in a new light, and understood their importance as the major war gear needed to fight this virus. With an aim to help our loved ones and ensure their safety, we aided our mother in procuring 4,000 cloth face masks, which were then sold to the residents of our society. But as we helped the ones around us, there was a thought if we were for-

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.

getting someone who probably couldn't afford to buy a

face mask, let alone get hold of basic necessities like food. Don't they deserve a fighting chance in this war, we asked ourselves. And the answer came to us instantly – yes, they do. To do our part in the fight, we joined hands with NGOs like Rasoi On Wheels and Masks For India, where we arranged ration kits and face masks for the needy and distributed them in various areas

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The humanitarian tale

of Gurugram, whilst wearing protective gears and following proper sanitisation steps. We have distributed masks to all strata of society – from police personnel to fruit vendors to homeless people, going as far as visiting our school and providing extra masks to security guards on duty. Seeing our school building reminded us of the values preached by our teachers and we felt proud to be practising the compassion and kindness that has been ingrained in us by Amity. Overall, we have managed to help 6,000 people till now, and the best reward we receive in return is always smiles and blessings, which motivates us to work harder.

Yet the need to do more was still burning bright within us, which is why, along with our neighbour and friend, MaanyaPagare, we founded the website www.youthtransformers.com aimed at mobilising the youth for the community. As the realisation dawned on us that there were thousands of people in need whom we could not reach, we initiated a campaign titled 'Ask For Masks' on our website and invited students from all over Delhi-NCR to volunteer and distribute our masks to the ones in need around their home. Starting from our own condominium, we donated around 400 masks for maids, drivers, and other essential workers. We even provided around 1000 masks and 1500+ sanitary pads to Lioness Club, Gurugram, for further distribution, and hope to do much more.

We acknowledge that to make a real change we need not 3 but 30, 300, 3000 and many other kids like us. It's time that we all come together to do our bit and help humanity in overcoming this pandemic, because we can't really survive and thrive until it's all for one, and one for all." **GT**



The equilibrium

The See-saw Humanity Keeps Playing

Ananya Agarwal
AIS Gurugram 46, XI E

A lot can happen in a year; it offers us various ups and downs, highs and lows, and pros and cons. But unlike any other year we have lived through, 2020 has really proven itself to be something different. And in one of the biggest ways it is different is how 2020 is set to create a balance for humanity – as it gives us something, it takes something from us, too.

No need for glamour: The large shopping complexes, markets, arcades, and exquisite restaurants seem to have lost their glamour and importance to humans that sits locked inside their homes. But what they have gained instead is an appreciation for nature. Even the glamour of dressing up and going out to eat has lost its charm as everyone turns their own master chef and cooks up delicacies in their own kitchen. Realising the importance of being 'real' rather than being 'glam-

orous', the human race will hopefully come out of this quarantine as better beings.

Nature's growth: Smoke and waste generated by large industrial complexes have decreased, causing the air quality to improve and rivers to get cleaner. The nature is investing this golden time in returning to its pristine form without any human interference. Skies are prettier as they are frequently lightened up by rainbows and clear clouds instead of smog and dust. The grass is growing higher and higher and the trees are touching the beautiful sky.

Reality v/s virtual: The tourism sector which works

on the movement of people from one tourist spot to another has now lost its own spot in the lives of billions, while the internet, based on virtual reality, has gained popularity (even more so than it already did). The schools have shut down but imparting knowledge hasn't, offices are closed but work hasn't stopped. Moreover, physical interactions have been replaced by Zoom calls.

Animals overtaking: Rare and expensive cars like BMW, which served as a source of amusement for us, have now been replaced by rare sights of animals taking strolls on the empty roads. For example, the endangered sea turtles are seen in Brazil, Indian civet in Kozhikode, Sambhar deer in Chandigarh and this list seems to get longer with every passing day. At one end humans are drawing their line to restrict themselves at their homes while animals seem to have been pushing their boundaries amid lockdown and reclaiming their rightful places. **GT**



La Direction des Femmes

Effective Female Leadership During The Pandemic

Aanya Bhargav, AIS Gur 46, XII I

‘Women are an equal part of the society as men’. Well, we sure are striving to get there and even in a morbid situation like this, women leaders all across the globe have proved that their lagging status in society is not because of their ‘lack of worldly knowledge’. Since the beginning of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, most female leaders have managed the coronavirus crisis with great authority and more effectiveness compared to their male counterparts.

On 1 April, Silveria Jacobs, the prime minister of Saint Maarten, addressed her nation’s 41,500 people. The coronavirus cases were rising and she knew that the small island country was at great risk. “Simply. Stop. Moving,” she said. “If you don’t have the bread you like in your house, eat crackers. Eat cereal. Eat oats. Eat sardines.” Her stern and blunt message is an example of firm action and effective communication.

In Germany, Angela Merkel has been praised for her direct but uncharacteristically personal public interventions. Thanks to extensive testing from the outset, plenty of intensive care beds and the chancellor’s periodic forthright reminders that Covid-19 was



“serious – so take it seriously”, Germany has so far recorded less than 5,000 deaths, a far lower figure compared to most EU countries. With a doctorate in quantum chemistry, Merkel’s clear, calm attitude has also helped propel public approval of the chancellor’s handling of the crisis above 70%.

In nearby Denmark, PM Mette Frederiksen acted equally firmly, closing the Scandinavian country’s borders as early as 13 March and following up a few days later by shutting all kindergartens, schools and universities and banning gatherings of more than 10 people. These hard and fast rules appear to have spared Denmark the worst of the pandemic, with fewer than 8,000 confirmed cases and 370 deaths. She even managed to show a sense of fun, the nation has a weekly TV lockdown singalong in which, the prime

minister has been seen doing the dishes and singing along to famous pop songs of the 80s. The country’s youngest-ever prime minister, whose approval ratings have doubled to more than 80%, has now begun easing its lockdown.

Taiwan’s President Tsai Ing-wen responded just as fast, activating the country’s central epidemic command centre in early January and introducing travel restrictions and quarantine measures. Mass public hygiene measures were taken, such as disinfecting public areas and buildings. Taiwan adopted more than 100 ‘control and contain’ measures in weeks so that a full lockdown is unnecessary. It has reported just six deaths and is now providing millions of face masks to the worst-struck parts of North America and Europe. Meanwhile, Iceland’s Prime Minister, Katrín Jakobsdóttir has offered free testing to all citizens, even to those with no visible symptoms and has recorded 1,800 cases and 10 deaths. Even school didn’t need to be shut down due to this extensive tracking system. Women leaders took the coronavirus seriously and did not underestimate the risks. They acted decisively, either with strict lockdowns or highly-effective testing and tracing programmes ensuring their smooth implementation. [G T](#)





The new normal

Some Out Of The Box Practices To Create Cognizance

Manasvi Dev Kashyap, AIS Gur 46, XI B

COVID 19 has been a bewildering pandemic, which the world has found itself in. So why would the ways to increase wakefulness of the disease not be newfangled? Check out these various methods from all across the globe, which are not very typical, but hey, they do the job!

Corona sandesh

There are only two things, from which any Bengali can't be kept away for too long: sweets and creative ideas. Did you know that the spikes on the surface of the reddish-yellow colored virus give Corona (meaning crown) its name? Not everyone observed this, but someone did, a confectioner of South Kolkata's Jadavpur area, has fashioned a sweet called Sandesh, to look like the popular image of the virus. With winter clearly deserting the city, the bright-red colored Corona Sandesh that most certainly looks like a red velvet cake, is now a top of the shelf offering. Talk about creativity!

Viral music

Music is a universal language; the Kolkata

police are using this weapon to fight the novel Coronavirus. They used an iconic song, 'Bela Bose', by filmmaker-musician Anjan Dutta to spread awareness. The video went viral with many humming the famous number. Without a doubt, no one can forget politician Ramdas Athavale's quirky 'Karuna Go' song. To top it all off, videos of our favorite celebs washing hands have become really popular. (Weird? We think so too)

The coffin dance

The Peruvian police found an admirable way to spread knowledge among its folks. Not only did they do a commendable job, while they were at it, they gave us a whole lot of meme content too. In Cajamarca, a group of police officers danced and carried a coffin on their shoulders to warn people of the danger of Covid-19 and of the need to stay at home. "Let's fight this pandemic together, let's beat it, let's go Cajamarca," they chanted. Probably fear is the only way to keep people safe because sometimes *darna zaroori hai*.


The walking dead

Rajesh Babu, a police inspector in the city of

Chennai, wears a specially constructed Coronavirus helmet covered in red spikes with bulbs on the end while stopping vehicles and pedestrians at checkpoints. Local artist B. Gowtham thought of this ingenious idea. He decided to create something whereby people could actually see the virus coming toward them, and thus came into existence, "The Corona helmet."

Happy social distancing

They may not be helping out with chants but complete with cheerleader uniforms and pom-poms, mannequins in a Tokyo restaurant are helping keep customers a safe and cheerful distance apart. "Our restaurant looked very empty, and we wanted to add more excitement," said Arata Funabara, owner of Cheers One. "It takes a bit of getting used to but now I think of them of as workmates," Hello new friends?

No matter how distinctive (and cool) these ways might be they all aim at one thing, which is our safety. The government and police are doing all they can; we should play our part just fine. Stay indoors; stay happy! 

Revisiting the catastrophes

Manasvi Kadian, AIS Gur 46, XII J

2020 Through A Paranoid Mind

The world is being painted black and blue with all kinds of catastrophes. At such a time, certain imageries from apocalyptic cinema became more recurrent to the human memory. It has barely been half a year and enough catastrophes had occurred to fill pages of history books. Here's a rundown of it.

New Year, New we(?)

The beginning of this new year was characterised by the usual- parties, resolutions, and...the threat of another World War. They say "History repeats itself", but sometimes history should be locked in a room with the key tossed into a well. The beginning of this year had us calculating the chances of a nuclear attack and cursing the fact that we live in the capital of India, a place most vulnerable to enemy warfare. Numerous conversations commenced regarding India's role in all of this when, almost in a guerilla warfare style, another enemy entered the scene.

Enter the virus

Enter Coronavirus, an epidemic that pitted everyone against each other. Every cough, sneeze and wheeze were eyed with immense suspicion. Every available surface was wiped with sanitisers, so much that even sanitisers went out of stock. The pandemic had us imagine nonexistent symptoms and Google them at least thrice a week. Mental peace had gone for a toss and all we could hope for was a solution, a vaccine to end the endless spreading of the virus. The conspiracy theories passed around on WhatsApp just added to the chaos.

Revenge of the insects

We were reeling hard from the coronavirus and couldn't wait for things to get better. But things took a turn for the unimaginable when hundreds and thousands of locusts swarmed parts of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. These unforgiving insects were back to

reclaim their throne after 26 long years. Photos and videos of people fighting these insects with creative ways such as DJ stations and whatnot went viral. Constant researching on these attacks and finding out ways to drive the locusts away armed us with enough information to make us exterminators.

2012 revisited

Keeping up with all the rage to ravish the earth, nature wasn't one to be left behind. Hence arrived the cyclones, earthquakes and floods. Cyclone Amphan wreaked havoc all over Eastern India, especially in West Bengal. The country was being shook by continuous earthquakes too, forcing people to run out of their homes every time an earthquake struck.

With all guns blazing, this year gave us enough to concoct the perfect apocalyptic movie. But at times like these, we only have hope, hope for a better future. [GT](#)

Illustration: Amish Mantani, AIS Gur 46, X G



A predicted pandemic

Unanticipated Yet Long Awaited

Jaya Jha, AIS Gurugram 46, XI J

History stands as proof that diseases and the disaster they bring are sort of inevitable. Be it the 1918 influenza which killed nearly 50 million people, or 20th century's Ebola, we have seen some real bad days. And now Coronavirus, spreading all across the world, is affecting millions of people. But the eerie part of this pandemic is how some people already saw it coming and had predicted such an event in the past.

Sylvia Browne: A self-proclaimed psychic, she wrote a book in 2008 titled 'End of Days: Predictions and Prophecies about the End of the World', where she wrote that in the year 2020, a disease similar to pneumonia will spread throughout the world and it shall resist all known treatments, unless something new is found. Well, we can only hope something new is found soon!


The Simpsons: The conspiracy theory about The Simpsons predicting the future isn't new. The episode 'Marge in Chains', first aired in 1993, showcases a mysterious virus from Asia evading the world. The virus called 'Osaka Flu', which starts in Japan, ends up affecting multiple people around the world, and the symptoms of the virus turn out to be ex-

tremely similar to today's Coronavirus crisis.

David Quammen: In his book 'Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic', Quammen examines the emergence and causes of new diseases all over the world, describing a process called 'spillover', where illness originates in wild animals before being passed to humans, and discusses the potential for the next huge pandemic. Coronavirus bears huge similarities to this, as even this virus has theories of originating from bats.

Contagion: This 2011 film is all about the spread of a virus transmitted by respiratory droplets and fomites, all the whilst medical researchers and public health officials try their best to identify and contain the disease, even as they struggle with loss of social order in the pandemic. Isn't that what we are facing right now?

Bill Gates: In 2018 a discussion about epidemics was organised by the Massachusetts Medical Society where Gates predicted the oncoming of a pandemic by the end of the decade. He presented a simulation which explained that this disease would kill millions within six months.

Are these instances mere coincidences or a superior power at play that wanted to warn us beforehand? 



WORDS VERSE

The virus that plagued humanity

Saumya Mahajan, AIS Gur 46, XI F

The world seems chaotic
But it always has been
And will continue to be
With threats we can't foresee

A virus has spread across the world
The once bustling streets
Now remain utterly deserted
Until this crisis has been averted

Some have lost their livelihoods
And the comfort of their homes
Others lost their loved ones to death
As many drew their last breath

Every panicked stricken mind
Is shrouded with fear, anxiety
Uncertain about what comes next
Hard to tell a hoax from a threat

Mother Nature is furious
At our gross negligence
She has unleashed her terrors
Giving us no time to fix our errors

All is affected by this virus
One that has plagued humanity
In so many different ways
We fight to live another day

Hope is the only weapon
One can wield in this battle
Help and be kind to one another
For, we're all in this together 