

AZURE

A Newsletter

Letter From The Editor

Dear Reader,

It all began 6 years ago when a younger, livelier and definitely more well-rested version of me felt an exhilarating obsession with the newspaper. Every day, after school, I would rush to read the latest copy of 'The Times of India' and 'Delhi Times', ignoring my mother's constant reminders to eat lunch. Most of the election result analyses, protest coverage, and international affairs news felt indecipherable, yet what I could make out was that journalism and media were an essential and indispensable part of our lives, both individually and as a society.

One day, the same year, I had the bizarre idea of starting a weekly column in school. Gathering my group of friends in the free period, I began scribbling on the last few pages of my rough notebook and by the end of the period, we had the first draft of 'The MIS Times' ready. Alas, the initial momentum faltered quickly, and 'the Times' was soon forgotten.

A few months ago, while walking in the garden and introspecting, a metaphorical bulb went off in my head – to start a school newsletter. This time, it wouldn't be a childhood daydream, but rather, a thought-provoking blend of students' perspectives and insights. The voice of the student body.

We decided to call it 'Azure' – the word itself finds roots in French, paying homage to The Mother's heritage; it is also intertwined with Sri Aurobindo's interpretation of blue as the all-encompassing colour.

A lot has happened since. After scores of Zoom meetings, chats containing over five hundred messages, countless arguments and endless discussions, we present to you the first ever issue of our school's newsletter, Azure – a labour of love from our Editorial Board and Design Team.

To conclude, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the editors, design directors, writers, artists, and illustrators who have helped make Azure a reality. I would also like to thank the school for this wonderful opportunity and the Principal, Ms. Milan Mala Sarin, without whom we would never have been able to do this.

I sincerely hope that we have been and will be able to provide a platform for students to candidly express their thoughts and ideas and that you enjoy reading Azure as much as we enjoyed designing, editing and publishing it.

Best,

Keshav Saib

Founder and Head Editor

Building a Legacy

During her tenure, Sanghamitra Ma'am not only guided us with advice, warmth and enlightening morning assemblies, but also left her own indelible mark on our beautiful institution. Here is a brief glimpse into her experiences and reflections about school.

Risha Srinivas XI-A

Keshav Saib XI-D

R: Good evening Ma'am! Thank you for making the time to talk to us. We would like to start by asking you about the Talent Fiesta. How did it all start? How was the Talent Fiesta born? What was the idea behind it?

S: Before I tell you about the Talent Fiesta, let me tell you about what preceded it. To celebrate the school's birthday each year, we would host the 'Talent Show'. The Talent Show would take place in the Hall of Aspiration, where children could showcase any performance on stage. It was optional to take part in the Talent Show since it usually focussed on the performing arts, so those who were inclined to dance, music, theatre and the like would always participate. This would stretch on for around three to four days. Of course, the Talent Show had its own special charm but it was a performance where only a few would take part and there were some children who simply did not get to showcase their talents at all. They were never a part of these celebrations and I remember even as a class teacher, we would have a column for extra-curricular activities and some children would not have participated in anything. They were left behind and only a few regular ones would participate in all events. We took up this issue with the Principal at the time, Ms. Mahrukh Singh, and she empathised with this. We decided that instead of having a Talent Show, we would have a celebration where every child has the joy of exploring their unique talent and giving expression to it. Thus, we moved from the Talent Show to the Talent Fiesta; celebrating the school not through a single competition, but a festival of talents.

K: Since the Talent Fiesta was now opened out to everyone, how did the student body receive it? Was there any reluctance or any apprehensions regarding how it would be conducted?

S: As is with all new things, there were certain apprehensions regarding the Talent Fiesta. We were worried it might be too chaotic with two thousand children participating, and about how we would organise it. There was also skepticism that the school would not be able to uniformly witness this expression of talent. With the Talent Show, there was an audience to watch the performers and we could get to see everyone participating. This time, we thought that the Talent Fiesta would leave us unaware of all the untapped talent in school. However, despite all these apprehensions, we went ahead with it and once it was rolled out, there was a totally different vibration in the whole school. The environment was transformed. Earlier, it would simply be the Hall of Aspiration that had a charged energy but now every corner of the school was pulsating with life at its creative best. All the children were enthused and the beauty of it was that it was completely magical. I remember walking down one of the corridors

(in the first or second year) and one usually finds the classrooms noisy, but during the first few hours of the morning on that day, there was complete and wholesome silence. A silence that told you that everyone, in every classroom was engrossed in doing something that interested them and had captured their full focus. With time, we introduced more reflective activities such as Poetry Writing and Short Story Writing and this became an opportunity for the quieter students to express themselves too.



R: Through my years in school, I remember that the Talent Fiesta in primary school was significantly different from how it is in the senior wing. Considering you would have initiated it there, why do you think it is so?

S: You know, in the early days, everything was more competition oriented. There were inter-house competitions, individual competitions, solo performances and such. When I started heading the primary school, we made a conscious shift from this because I would often see the same child participating year after year. Slowly, we shifted it to class competitions, where each member of the class could be a part of every event, be it the Poetry Festivals or Class Assemblies. The same applied to the Talent Fiesta. On the school's birthday, we celebrate every child. Why then, should we have someone feel as though they haven't done well or that they did not make it, because they did not win a prize? We decided that we must at least free the early years of education from this sort of competition. We did not want any child to feel dejected after the day's celebrations. The most important thing, after all, is to always feel joy in the work that you do and this was the spirit that we tried to embody in the Talent Fiesta, especially for the primary wing. You will not believe, by around 2000, the alumni - the Mother's Blossoms, became very active participants in the Talent

Fiesta and the first thing they asked me was about the prizes that would be required. I told them then that we did not have any competition in the primary wing, but it would be wonderful if they could give something small to all the children. After that, they started distributing a piece of the school cake or a small chocolate to each child.

K: Since its first edition all those years ago, how has the Talent Fiesta grown to become what it is now? Is it very different from what it was?

S: The Talent Fiesta certainly has become bigger now, as it is a large-scale event. With around two thousand children participating in it, the campus needed to be widened. What we have now, is a wider variety of events and what is truly heartening is that the students get to show their social commitments. Events such as Poster Making, Street Play, Bulletin Express, Spin-A-Poem and so many others were added as the years progressed and these stir one's social conscience. They have in a way, formed a new beginning for the school because we are able to come together as a collective society. The teachers organising the events painstakingly choose pertinent social issues and reflective topics that the children can understand at a deeper level and express their thoughts about it creatively. This sort of reflective thinking is an essential part of our school ethos. I have watched the celebrations grow from a performance of skill to a wholesome activity that engages everyone and allows them to think beyond. I remember some of the bulletins that were made and some of the street plays that were staged held a deeper meaning, and even made strong social statements. The Talent Fiesta has therefore evolved from the Talent Show or a fun activity to a celebration that is rich with many layers and only grows richer with each passing year. A recent addition too, we now call it 'Abhivyakti', which means expression and that itself is testament to the fact that this is an ever-growing culture in school.

K: What does the Talent Fiesta mean to you personally?

S: Not just the Talent Fiesta really, the School itself has nurtured me as it nurtures its students. Of course, I had wonderful colleagues and mentors whom I learned so much from but it was also just the school space and the environment that has made me what I am. Ours is a school that tries to implement growth and learning in a creative way, in a different way and through this, I have also learned to become fearless. If I believed in something, I knew I could go ahead and express what I think. So, it is a place which has helped me have courage of conviction. The Talent Fiesta was definitely a part of that. It has given me so many deep values. As the head of the institution, special assemblies, inter-school and intra-school events, inviting guests to school, were all huge responsibilities and I would always be tense and worried about how the event would unfold and if everything would be in place. However, I did notice that the others in the hall, all of my mentors and seniors would be very calm. I have learned that in that exact way, if you would like everyone around you to be calm, you must have the calm within you. The school space itself gives you that faith, the faith that

everything will work out and that is perhaps, what I value the most.

K: It has been 65 years since our school was founded. How has the Mother and Sri Aurobindo's philosophy evolved generation after generation, as it is the very essence of our school experience?

S: The Mother and Sri Aurobindo's philosophy acts like a guiding star for our school. It leads us forward and guides us for life. Some of it is also actually very practical advice. The key element of Sri Aurobindo's philosophy is that we can make this life divine. Regardless of the concept of heaven or hell, Sri Aurobindo propounded a life-affirming philosophy which says that you need not escape life to attain divinity. It isn't an external goal that can be achieved, rather it is actually something that already lies deep within us and it is our job to find it. We look for opportunities in life to bring out the best in us. Let us go back to the Talent Fiesta, the main aim even there is to celebrate individual creative expression at its best. Thus, all that our school philosophy says is that we must find our highest self, find the divinity within us and make this very life a divine one. To become the best of ourselves, we must go within to understand everything that is outside and achieve fulfillment, therein lies the challenge. As you mentioned in the question too, the school's philosophy has evolved. We are faced with many challenges today. We are so wrapped up in the external trappings of the world that often, we do not take the time to look within, in this fast-paced reality. However, I do believe that the school, the ambience and the practices of the school are so deep, that even if times change, things move on, MIS children, MIS teacher and MIS itself, will have its roots anchored deep within the value system that was there when the school started. I think our roots are too deep. It is like an oak tree. Storms will come, maybe a few branches will break, but that oak tree will always survive the storm. So, no matter the circumstances, we will still be deep-rooted in our philosophy. The very fact that we are speaking about this now gives me hope that this will not get lost with time but will only grow deeper.





Art by Shiv Sabharwal

Why the Avengers Beat the Justice League

Maanya Chaturvedi XI-A

Upon hearing the word superhero, one might think of anyone, ranging from Iron Man to Batman. However, upon hearing the phrase “superhero movie”, most people will think of the Marvel Cinematic Universe or the MCU. The MCU ranges across dozens of movies and TV shows and is the highest grossing movie franchise ever. Despite DC Comics having objectively better plots and character arcs, the DC Extended Universe (DCEU) has long been surpassed by MCU in terms of popularity and profit.

One of the main reasons for this is humanization of the characters, or the lack thereof. Marvel characters may be Norse gods or genius billionaires, but they are also people with their own fears, desires and vulnerabilities. No matter how powerful a character may be, they always have an emotional side, which makes it easier for audiences to relate and empathize with them. While the Dark Knight trilogy, directed by Christopher Nolan, beautifully depicted the struggles of Bruce Wayne, not as Batman but as a person with trauma, the subsequent DCEU movies fell flat.

Characters such as Batman and Wonder Woman, represent ideals such as Justice and Truth respectively. This forms a disconnect between them and the audience, who are unable to understand the motivation behind their actions.

The other major reason is the inconsistency in writing.

MCU planned its movies for years, making every plot point and character arc relevant, such as in the Infinity Saga, which culminated in Avengers: Endgame.

It was a satisfying payoff after watching the preceding movies, and also increased the replay value of the entire saga. DCEU created an illogical conflict in Batman vs Superman, with ridiculous arcs such as Batman sparing Superman’s life due to their mothers having the same name. The protagonists behave wildly out of character, with the movie depicting two of the most principled characters of the comics engage in a feud fuelled largely by ego, when it should have been a clash of ideals instead. This was followed by Justice League, an even more irrational movie, which was characterized by out-of-place humour in an attempt to recreate the light-heartedness of Marvel movies, as well as a rushed sequence of events without proper explanation and yet another unnecessary conflict between team members, which made the movie unenjoyable for even the most loyal fans.

DCEU is trying to build the kind of universe that MCU has without the proper time and care, which even its A-list actors cannot salvage. Instead, it should use the magnificently crafted stories of the comics as references, and give its characters the amount of complexity and attention they deserve. With the kind of talent and source material DCEU has available, accompanied with better directors and writers, it may be able to rival MCU as a creator of superhero movies.

Macbeth: The Mask We Wear

Anantinee Mishra IX-D

“Fair is foul, and foul is fair.”

Macbeth. Shakespeare choreographs a stunningly captivating, bracingly lucid embodiment of a man who, step by step, cedes his soul to his own darkest impulses in rapacious pursuit of personal glory. It is an anatomy of corruption, inscribing the path from power foretold from power seized to power clung to at all costs.

It is a riveting narration of spontaneous greed, conquering ambition and a hunger for power that is so skilfully concealed beneath the mask each of us wears as a façade. Macbeth is the unmasking of that mask.

It is critically acclaimed as what is a perfect portrayal of the conflict man faces every day, between good and bad, black and white, right and wrong. Shakespeare's shortest tragedy is an expedition of rise to power, and then the fall from it, fraught with the questions of the mind for that of the soul, as paranoia and guilt gripped the heart of once a loyal general Macbeth.

General Macbeth, after the victory of King Duncan of Scotland, while with his companion Banquo, discovers three witches who then proceed to tell him three prophecies. The second one, becoming the King of Scotland one day rings in Macbeth's ears, unnerving him, creating holes in his pledged yet crumbling loyalty to King Duncan.

Then one of the said prophecies takes place and belief takes root. Lady Macbeth, the malevolent alpha, still needs her husband to finish what was started by murdering King Duncan, who has been nothing but generous to Macbeth, and at the moment their houseguest. Ultimately, it's the late King's attendants who are charged with the guilt of cold-blooded murder.

The summary and tragic ending of Macbeth could be seen as the gradual yet inevitable loss of man's deep-founded morals and then his own sanity, as it is conveyed through the magical words of the story that Shakespeare has woven. The play has to be read and has to be felt.

It's a story of the shades of our soul, the deepest, darkest desires that we try so hard to keep buried and of the destruction Macbeth staged

in his whirlwind of conquest for power, filled with tethering moments of madness and tyranny, complete with prophecies, hallucinations, and descent to insanity.



Art by Shiv Sabharwal

The story states the unflinching truth. No addiction worse in this world, than that of power.

Comedy During the Pandemic

Nandini Menon XI-E

I was suddenly awakened at 5pm by the sound of clanging stainless steel utensils being used as the ultimate weaponry by 15 aunties in my neighbourhood. Four of them (freshly rejuvenated, no doubt, by a daily soap) emerged triumphantly, selfies in hand, beaming from ear to ear. “Go Corona, Go!” they chorused with a shrill frenzy - overaged cheerleaders frothing at the mouth with venomous delight.

Listening to the commotion of “Go Corona Go”, I realised we were at the cusp of history in the making. This was it. The virus had no chance but to flee.

I could picture the tiny, spiky green Coronavirus monsters panicking at the sight of these bejewelled raucous aunties roaring in unison, and scurrying away - or whatever strange viruses do.

At a certain point, the clanging of pots and pans reached a crescendo.

Even the cow chewing the plastic wrapper seemed to pause for this ultimate showstopper of the century. Bald men whistled, some even bawdily, at the collective effort of officially sanctioned chaos.

A few even gave it a spiritual twist by trying to blow through hastily recovered conches. My neighbour appeared with the largest conch, but gave up when the

emitted sound sounded like a cross between a whimper and breaking wind. He meekly returned to his spoon and kettle, warily eyed upon by his wife.

A retired army man took out his whistle, but then caught the stern disapproving eye of his aged aunt who resembled a fanged dragon, and quietly sat down.

Noise, when orchestrated perfectly, can unsettle the bravest. What chance would a banned green Chinese virus have?

As for the aunties, they collectively bore the expression of a triumphant army in advance.

Having thus satiated their martial instincts, they retreated pompously into their television rooms, whereupon they waited breathlessly in anticipation of the national fallout of their deeds.

As for the rest, nature was quiet. Even the crows were silent. My own Labrador quivered and hid in the closet, tail firmly planted between legs, horrified at this transition that hitherto benign learned humans in his world had made.

The Talent Fiesta: An Evolution

Risha Srinivas XI-A

The Talent Fiesta is one of the most symbolic events in the school calendar. Celebrating the school's birthday each year, it stands as a sort of reminder for all of us students, about the origins of the institution we are a part of. Though it commemorates something concrete - a defined event in history, the Talent Fiesta is in truth, something that is quite fluid. Through the following I will try to encapsulate in my limited reign of words, the Talent Fiesta's essence from the eyes of a student.

I was introduced to the Talent Fiesta for the first time, when I was five. Today, I am fifteen. Over the course of a decade, the very same Talent Fiesta has assumed completely different meanings but has yet remained unchanged. In the beginning, it was quite simple - the Talent Fiesta was a day dedicated to showcasing something you could do.

As a five year old, that meant reading something out from Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss, or as I vividly remember doing, narrating the tale of the Hare and the Tortoise with elaborate hand gestures and animated expressions and of course, props. Quite fancy.

From there on, it grew to something a little more complex. The Talent Fiesta's value almost shapeshifted, if I could say so, from a simple day-long activity to an elaborate engagement that preoccupied everyone. Pouring days over painstaking preparation, deciding who you would want to team up with, discovering new interests sometimes, and come middle school - wanting to win a prize or two here and there. In its entirety, the Talent Fiesta grows to become a most essential stitch in the fabric of our lives. Most of us are perhaps oblivious to this. I was completely oblivious to it too, until this year, when our batch wasn't a part of the school's 65th birthday celebrations.

It felt bizarre to wake up on that morning - April 23rd, and sit emptily staring into space, almost expectant of someone or something sending a cosmic sign, asking me to engage in what I would normally be doing on that morning. It is that very sentiment that captures the essence of the Talent Fiesta, a journey of learning and simple joys that becomes a deeply embedded culture in any student. It is only fitting then, that the Talent Fiesta celebrates our school's origins, for it is the mark of a day of wholesome learning.

A new light has appeared upon
Earth. Let this new school opened
today be guided by it.

Blessings

- The Mother

(on 23 April, 1956, the Foundation
Day of The Mother's International
School)

Change: The Only Constant

Vanya Savara X-E

One can never know what is going to happen next. Anything is possible. Even the Earth looks much different than it did 4.5 billion years ago and it is still constantly changing. One can never be sure that anything will stay the same. One example of this could be us, as human beings. No single person remains the same way their whole life. They grow and develop, their personalities change and they themselves keep on changing choices and interests their whole lives. Everyone has to face the fact that the road ahead is not straight and narrow. Instead it has an uncountable number of twists and turns and that there is something different at every point in life. In the past year and a half, the whole world has dealt with an enormous amount of change. Tragedy and despair have affected so many people worldwide. Two years ago, who would ever have predicted that the world would be anything like it is today?

Nobody knows what is going to happen next and it is not all predictable, because everything changes, and each moment is different from the last. The future's not ours to see.

Nothing is for certain because we can never be absolutely sure that something is going to happen. We only know one thing for sure and that is that change will occur. We may not like it, but change will also bring many new, and sometimes, wonderful opportunities, and we can explore the best versions of ourselves that way. Change is the only constant in everyone's lives because it is the one thing that we can count on, and all we need to do is to learn to embrace it.

Aiming for Gold

Maanya Chaturvedi XI-A

Ever since India started participating in the Olympics, in 1900, it has won a total of 35 medals. 7 of these were won in the recent 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games, making it India's most successful Games' performance. The event also marked many firsts, whether it was Neeraj Chopra winning the country's first track and field gold medal or PV Sindhu becoming the only Indian female athlete to win multiple Olympic Medals.

It may seem odd that it took so long for the country to have such a successful run, but that is due to a number of changes which took place after the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. The government finally started investing in the neglected and underdeveloped sport programmes. The onset of private investors and trainers also helped boost the skills of the athletes, as they provided the technology and facilities that local coaches often do not have the access to. Many private coaching teams incorporate science and biomechanics into their training regimen, thus enhancing and bringing out the potential of their students to its maximum. Veterans such as Abhinav Bindra have also noted how much stricter the Selection Committee has become, with much more stringent criteria.

While only time can tell whether these strategies will be effective in the long run, it is hoped nationwide that India will continue its exemplary performance in other major sports events.

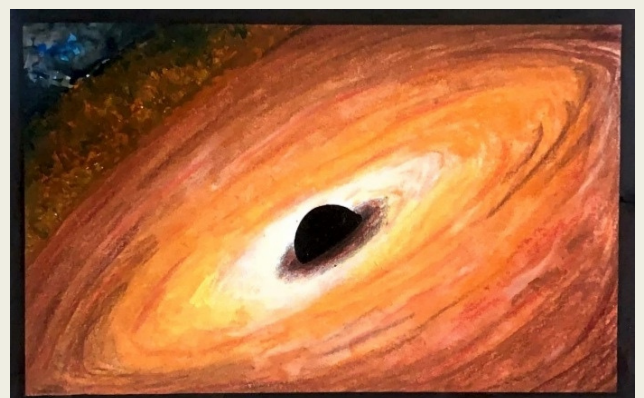
Black Holes

Triya Basuroy X-D

When a massive star dies, it leaves behind a smaller remnant core. If the core's mass is at least 3 times bigger than the mass of our sun (28 times Earth's gravity) then gravity overwhelms all other forces and turns it into a black hole.

A black hole is a huge amount of matter packed into a small space.

Gamma ray bursts that the hole emits can then be detected. These bursts were first discovered by Stephen Hawking and are therefore called Hawking radiation.



Art by Nandini Chatterjee

1.Event Horizon: It is the point at which the gravitational pull becomes the strongest. At this point, even light cannot escape. Stars outside this point look twisted around a perfect circle of darkness. Although black holes don't emit any light, they attract a lot of stars.

2.The most common black holes are called stellar. They can stretch up to 9 miles (15 km) across and can be as heavy as 20 suns.

What would falling into a black hole be like? On the event horizon, the person, if falling feet first, their legs will be feeling a stronger gravitational pull than the head and the person would be stretched apart.

(1) Falling into a Stellar Black Hole would completely tear apart the person;

(2) If the person falls into a supermassive black hole then the body will remain unharmed. Gravity would be pulling both the feet and the head with the same strength;

(3) The person would be squashed into the centre and become one with the black hole;

(4) A person seeing this will see the person falling into the stellar black hole getting slower, dimmer and redder and in the end the person would just freeze and never cross the event horizon. This is because space and time in a black hole swap their roles. Near a black hole, the slowing of time is so extreme that time stops. At the centre of the black hole, according to Einstein's theory of relativity, time is destroyed.

Stephen Hawking discovered a way that states that there are alternate universes with different histories. This means that in one reality a person fell through the black hole and in another, there was no black hole.

3. The nearest black hole is V616 Monocerotis. It is only 3000 light-years away and has a mass of 9 to 13 times that of our Sun.

4. Gravitational singularity at the centre of the black hole where density becomes ∞ (Infinite)

5. Some black holes' internal temperatures can drop to only one by one-millionth of a degree above absolute zero. But on the outside, black holes have neutrino particles constantly colliding with each other and radioactively heating their surroundings to millions of degrees.

The 'Artificial Intelligentization' of the Economy

Keshav Saib XI-D

From "Siri, call Mom." to "Alexa, dim the hallway lights", artificial intelligence, or AI, has come a long way. While some shudder at the thought of a robotic coupe, most of us cannot imagine life without the AI inextricably present in navigation apps, voice assistants, Netflix recommendations and Google predictive search. Now, imagine using artificial intelligence to make economic decisions, and solving economic problems? Although the idea is pretty farfetched, in a world where human beings can send a spacecraft to interstellar space 23 billion kilometres away, anything is possible.

Results from the 2020 McKinsey Global Survey show that over 58% of organisations have already incorporated the use of artificial intelligence in at least one business function, and a majority of these reported a significant increase in revenue streams from these functions. This shows the impact that AI is already having on the economy, increasing the global GDP and boosting government revenue that comes from corporate taxes.

The possibilities for using artificial intelligence in economic modelling are endless. All economic decisions and policies are based on data, and coincidentally, data collection, organisation, and analysis are the forte of AI. All economic theory is also based on certain assumptions of typical, repeating behavioural characteristics of human beings that reflect in their economic decisions. Artificial intelligence can collect huge amounts of data, process them in no time and discover trends, relationships, and repetitions with very high accuracy.

In personal finance, robo-advisors are emerging, that are digital financial planners who study one's financial goals, risk capacity, and resources and use algorithms to create investment plans with little to no human supervision. Right now, they usually recommend investing one's resources in simple and basic assets such as high performing mutual funds, fixed deposits and index funds; sometime in the future, they may be taught advanced economic and financial theory to enable active portfolio management, analysis of market patterns, study of business cycles, investment plans in individual stocks and bonds, and hedging against investment risk.

Furthermore, imagine artificial intelligence optimising and streamlining the processes of central banks and finance ministries!



Art by Nandini Chatterjee

Artificial intelligence can be utilised in all aspects of economic policymaking – fiscal, monetary and trade. Using deep learning networks, data on inflation, import, export, income, taxation, standard of living, poverty, etc. can be studied in real time. Algorithms created by computer scientists and economists can be used to forecast future trends, simulate alternate scenarios and recommend comprehensive policies. For example, tax policy might be studied by artificial intelligence, and perhaps, sometime in the future, it might determine the exact position of the highest point on the Laffer curve (a theory that studies the relationship between tax rate and government revenue) to determine the ideal tax rate that maximises tax revenue while still incentivising a higher income.

In conclusion, the ‘artificial intelligentization’ of the economy will truly revolutionise the fields of finance and economics, and might even solve the problems of poverty, income inequality and rising costs in developing and least developed nations.

Fame

Risha Srinivas XI-A

It wasn't anything particularly path-breaking. Nothing significantly epiphanic really, just a simple moment of silent realisation on one very uneventful afternoon while I was plundering my way through half-melted vanilla ice cream. Though that's precisely where the essence of fame in today's society lies. In the sheer mundaneness of something so extraordinary.

Let me start at the beginning. With growing civilisations, we had gods. After the gods, we had epics, monarchs. In the 60s, we had the Beatles, in the early 2000s, we had Beyonce and now we have BTS. One thing that they all have in common is unthinkable popularity and unequivocal influence. I had always supposed that fame came as the result, the recognition of someone's great ingenuity or originality. The glorious aftermath of hard toil. Surprisingly, I have come to learn that this isn't always the case. The growing trend as we see it now, is fame for the sake of fame. Something that I've tried to look at through an unfogged lens.

It isn't uncommon to know a lot of people in this day and age. We're all more connected with everything and everyone than we sometimes need to be. While it all seems to be faring well at the surface, connection has necessitated the need to be known, and what has that birthed? A full-fledged livelihood. The human race's flair for monetizing anything new at a ruthless rate has once again proven itself true to give to us, the new generation's blessing - influencers.

Who is an influencer? Anyone. Why is an influencer? Just because. What does an influencer do? That's right, influence. Influence style, influence colloquial lingo, influence the archetype of personality, behaviour, humour, anything. At the top of it all, why are they fascinating? Influencers and this culture of organized 'influence' is fascinating because ever so occasionally, it rouses one's objectivity.

What one might chuckle at is the homogeneity of the world we live in, that is heralded by these influencers who set the bar for most things. Through social media, through popular exposure to the same memes, the same entertainment, the same music, the same filters, we have successfully confused the common livery of the age for the vesture of the muses. Something that is perhaps, typical to the human race. Those at the behest of fame are sensationalised and the human race worships sensation.

One would find that today's society glorifies its standards, its practices, what it believes to be right and wrong, which brings me back to life at its mundane. We've successfully bottled glory and commercialized it and surprisingly, none of us seem to have taken notice of that.

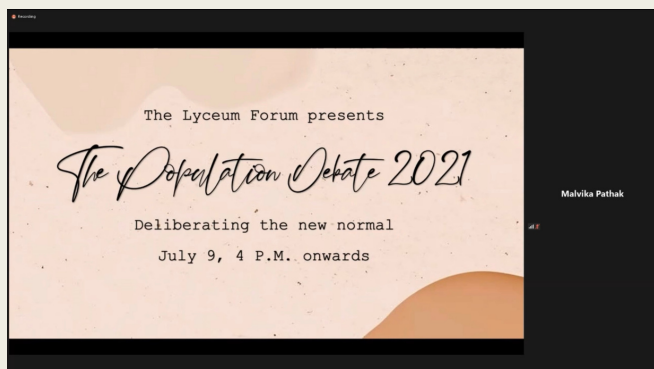
Do something typical - scroll through your phone listlessly and watch it roll on and on like a film filtering through your eyes. Look at how we're accustomed to all that we see, without being conscious enough to take note of these casual changes that have strong ripples. We've manufactured fame and influence.

Watch, truly do, the infinite grow to become the infinitesimal.

Speak Up!

Maanya Chaturvedi XI-A

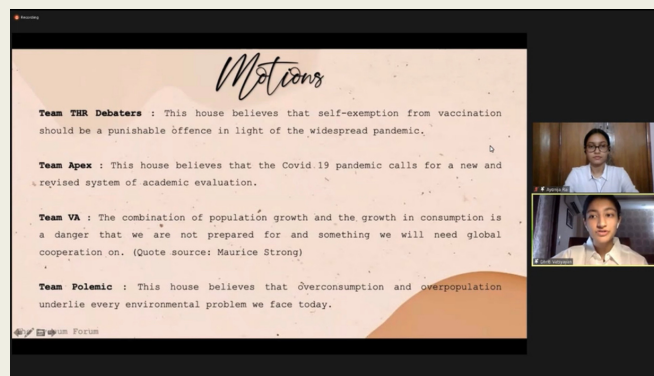
The World Population Day Debate, organised by the school's humanities club, LYCEUM Forum, took place on 9th July. Students from class 11 and 12 engaged in debate, where team members had to speak on issues such as education during the pandemic, impact of the growing population on the environment, and right to privacy, from opposite stances.



Such an event clearly illustrates the importance that public speaking has in the overall development of the youth. Public speaking helps inculcate an analytical mindset, which is invaluable not just for learning new subjects and topics, but also for making better decisions. Confidence, another extremely important trait, is also acquired through public speaking. Not only does it help people explore new opportunities and improve their pre-existing skills, but confidence also helps create meaningful relationships built on the foundation of strong communication.



In the present world, it is vital to stay informed on what is happening around us, especially as people aren't able to meet each other in person. Events such as the World Population Debate also provide a forum for students to discuss and disseminate the issues and concerns that afflict our surrounding world, while allowing each person to develop their own unique perspective on the matter. This exchange of ideas and opinions helps students build a more creative and nuanced worldview, and motivates them to be part of the change and contribute towards making the world a better place. "A society which strives to develop must learn to preserve the traditions which define and strengthen, while also trying to eliminate those features which are no longer valid and incorporate new ones in their place. The task of preservation, elimination and incorporation largely falls on the youth since it is they who will be inheriting the nation and thus define their future. It is therefore integral for social issues to be debated and solved through discussions so as to ensure the uprooting of malpractice and making our world change for the better," said Abhimanyu Singh, a member of the Debate's winning team, on the importance of such discussions.



While it may seem nerve-racking at first, public speaking is a very enjoyable and enriching experience, which helps students in developing in various aspects of life, and should be attempted whenever possible.

Our Planet: Our Precious Jewel

Shaukya Goel VII-B

When Edwin Aldrin saw the rising of Earth from the Moon, he described it as a 'brilliant jewel in the black velvet sky.' Our planet has lush green forests, magnificent lakes, vast oceans, ice caps which renders it an unusual charm. It provides us with food, water and the vital requirements which can sustain life. There is a wide variety of flora and fauna which together forms the ecosystem.

However, human activities are threatening the health of our planet. A tiny change in the environment of the Earth can unleash havoc. Greenhouse gases released due to reckless human activities absorb the heat in the atmosphere and trap it, which is leading to a rise in the Earth's temperature. This phenomenon is known as global warming, due to which ice caps all over the world are melting rapidly, leading to a rise in sea level. The rise in sea levels is leading to excessive flooding. The sea is getting warmer causing numerous cyclones. This year, cyclones named Tauktae and Yaas stirred up at both coasts of India at the same time causing immense damage.

Living beings are also being affected by climate change. Many species are already extinct while others are quickly disappearing. The ozone layer, which protects Earth from the ultraviolet rays of the sun, is also getting damaged due to many industrial gases.



Art by N.Rajareethigha

There are plenty of reasons for the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere like burning of fossil fuels in vehicles and factories, deforestation etc. The trees are the lungs of the Earth and by cutting them down, we are disrupting the balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Recognizing the urgency of protecting the Earth, in 2015, the United Nations listed 17 sustainable development goals. The thirteenth goal is climate action which urges all the Nations to take immediate action to protect Earth. In response, the countries having larger share of greenhouse gases conducted meetings to resolve to reduce the greenhouse gases.

Protecting our Planet is extremely urgent. If we let the Earth perish from our activities, there will be no place for us to stay. Humans can't survive without their 'precious jewel', Earth.

Feminism and Media: Portrayal of Women in Visual Media

Anya Gupta IX-E

Being one of the most influential tools, advertisements and other popular visual media are a part of social realism and have a powerful impact on society and the way it thinks. Advertisements in the older time, as movies, used to show the gender role bias conspicuously.

Training ladies with sewing machines to be the ideal housewives, a husband's happiness being synonymous with one's own happiness in a health drink advertisement, banking ads promoting saving for daughters' marriage, staying beautiful and desirable as one of the most necessary things for the sustenance of a woman, are all examples of the stark gender bias in visual media.

Even though the industry is evolving albeit at a slow pace, the inherent sexism and objectification in visual media can still be seen. Several advertisements, like those of deodorants, jeans, face cream, shampoo, pressure cooker, jewelry, detergent, and whiskey have been abominably upholding the misogyny.

More specifically, a car advertisement showed a cartoon of three gagged women with accentuated body parts to explain the space in it. All of them conform to overlapping dimensions of sexism and continue endorsing them even today, to contaminate the minds of younger generations and taint them with prejudice.

However, there is no denying the fact that a few ads have been created which challenge the stereotypes ingrained in society. For example- Ariel's "share the load ad". We need more ads like this because if a powerful and far-reaching tool like the visual media can begin debunking and discouraging these stereotypes, glass ceilings are shattered and societies will grow.

Gender role stereotypes and sexism shown in the popular visual media have a huge impact on public opinion, beliefs and attitude. Seeing gender roles in advertisements and on television strengthens a society's sexist beliefs and these ideas get instilled in their minds. When people see things like these being practiced, they become habitual and we move one step away from achieving gender equality. We must thus strive to become a society that consciously chooses to represent its women in the most empowering way possible, so that an ad can someday become the reality.

Pop Culture and Its Changing Standards

Kaustubh Ray XI-A

Writer John Podhoretz once said "Pop culture is a reflection of social change, not a cause of social change."

On this planet, in an ever-expanding universe, change seems to be the only constant to survive the corrosive nature of time and we humans have lived on through multitudes of these changes. Though the contents of our planet may have altered through the ages, the nature of entertainment has somehow retained the core of its essence - to produce content that entertains, appeases the audience. A need for mankind through its every stage.

Over the years however, entertainment has aptly encapsulated changing social perceptions. In certain cases, standards and portrayals have changed.

To cite a few simple comparisons of movies from now and from then - compare the role of women in the recent reboot of Charlie's Angels to the roles of women in the original Bond saga.

As social change occurred, as women's equality became something to be taken seriously, their portrayals changed from objects to people, to valid protagonists. However, there remain films ahead of their time, such as Star Wars, with its portrayal of Princess Leia, Terminator 2 with its portrayal of Sarah Connor, Alien with its portrayal of Ellen Ripley, or Day of the Dead with its portrayal of Sarah Bowman. Minds like Ridley Scott's, or George A. Romero's, were indeed capable of thinking beyond the social constructs of their time, and it was this ability in people that could be considered a key part of equality today. Even now, true equality hasn't been achieved. But that's exactly what pop culture can change. By impacting peoples' minds, it can bring about extraordinary changes.

So, what's to say that in the future of this planet, in a galaxy far far away, where change seems to be the only constant to survive the corrosive nature of time, we won't look back at pop culture from the 21st century, and only wonder about how it changed the world's social landscape?



Art by Sarah Sinhal

Make of Us the Hero Warriors

Keshav Saib XI-D

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” This quote by American anthropologist Margaret Mead beautifully defines our leaders as a small group of understanding and solicitous people, who endeavour to improve the world and be attentive to the needs and wants of the people. On 29th July 2021, the Student Council, Extended Council and Class Prefects were invested with their duties for the forthcoming academic year. We reached out to our student leaders to know more about what their position means to them, what inspires them, and what they wish to achieve as the ‘Hero Warriors’ of the school.

“When I heard my name being called out as the next head girl, it was as if the entire 12 year journey from pre-primary till now was culminating into something this special. The time that I've been in the school, it taught me more than I had expected, about so many things in life, may it be work ethics, putting my thoughts forward or just simply making new friends. The opportunity I got as a part of the School Council was to return everything that I had received to the school by providing my leadership skills and showing who it had helped me become till now. It felt like a perfect end to this long journey, leaving me with something so memorable.”

Yours Sincerely,
Aishi M. Singh
Head Girl



Aradhaya Adhlakha, Sports Captain

My experience of being a part of the Students' Council for this year has been quite unique to say the least. Due to the pandemic, all our activities have been transferred online, which has come with its own share of challenges. However, what was heartening was the involvement of students even within this online medium, in the interactions we had with them. For me, the greatest success as a Council Member would be if the same vigour and energy that accompany school and school activities are replicated in this online world.”

Best Wishes,
Bhasvar Adlakha
Cultural Secretary



Aishi M. Singh, Head Girl

Each and every one of us since a young age has aspired to be one of those big bhaiyas and didis wearing a shiny silver badge on the uniform, once we grow up. So, it is indeed a matter of great pride and honour to be a member of the Students' Council this year. I hope that during the course of the year, I am able to make myself approachable to my juniors and that they feel comfortable contacting whenever need be. As the Sports Captain, I am glad that we have still been able to conduct online sports events/workshops with the same vigour had they been offline and look forward to each and every student's enthusiastic participation in future events.”

My best,
Aradhaya Adhlakha
Sports Captain



Bhasvar Adhlakha, Cultural Secretary

Meet the True Enigma: A Candid Talk with Impulse President Avani Kumar

Nandini Menon XI-E

In July 2021, the physics club of the school, Impulse, organised a variety of events including the extremely popular annual cryptic hunt, Enigma. We interviewed the President of Impulse, Avani Kumar.

N: Being the president of Impulse is probably one of the most prestigious leadership positions in MIS. How does one achieve such a marvellous feat?

A: So the first step has to be becoming a part of the Club, and earlier the better, because you'll have more time to show what you can bring to the table as a member of the club.

N: What is the process of organising an annual online cryptic hunt like?

A: During the behind-the-scenes of this event, our first step is to create cryptic questions, and every club member contributes so that our highly-confidential Google Doc can come into existence.

We finalise the dates and select the best questions. A 'Tech Head', usually the MINET President, helps us with the site.

We also crack lame jokes, send out pizzas and spam our own Discord servers under the pretext of 'doing work'.

N: I'm presuming Physics is obviously your favourite subject, but why is it so? How did your love for Physics grow?

A: I think it's hard to not find any science subject uninteresting, you just need to delve deep enough into it.

Before 11th grade, I was not happy with Physics, and I'm sure no one felt I was too good at it either. I felt that the textbooks did not answer my questions satisfactorily until I came to 11th. Though school physics left me often disillusioned, I used to enjoy watching Kurzgesagt and Ted-Ed videos on black holes, quantum physics, etc. back then I was lucky to have like minded friends and a sibling to discuss this stuff with!

N: Which physics invention, (old or new) do you think is the proper culmination of all discoveries made in the history of physics so far?

A: I haven't really thought about that before. I do like looking and being amazed at physics-related inventions, such as gyroscopes, telescopes, etc. There are even certain hypothetical structures which physics permits, that our current resources don't, such as stellar engines or the Dyson sphere.

I don't want to call any one of them the 'most important' one, because each of them has its place, and is just as cool!

N: Space Tourism is the new scientific trend for billionaires. Do you think, in our lifetime, it'll become as mundane as an airplane ride?

A: I honestly don't think so. I read a book highlighting thinking fallacies once that humans tend to overestimate the pace of the growth of technology. I feel that right now, the pressing need of the hour is to put an end to climate change, each of us by doing our bit rather than looking for a 'quick fix' in the form of other planets.



Avani Kumar, President of Impulse

N: How/what would you like to contribute to the field of Science?

A: This list will never end. I could go on and on about the things I would like to explore. I would like to investigate Neuroscience. I would like to try to find out more about things physicists still know little about, like strange matter, and what exactly goes on inside a black hole. And perhaps get light to make up its mind about its personality in the meantime.

N: Finally, any words for the next President of Impulse?

A: Keep the pizza party tradition alive and plan taking the club interschool 6 months in advance!

How Old Is The LGBTQ+ Community?

Nandini Menon XI-E

The landmark September 2018 judgement by the Supreme Court of India decriminalised homosexuality. In July 2020 the Indian government announced that it would allow members of the transgender community in the country's paramilitary forces. All this caused an uproar among a large section of people who insisted that India was slowly learning and imprinting western ideologies and concepts of liberalism.

However, history tells a different story. Historians will tell us that this rightly takes India back to its beginning as a potpourri of cultures accepted by all, where various sexual and gender identities were well tolerated, at times revered.

Pre-Colonial India was more tolerant towards variations in gender and sexuality. The criminalisation of homosexuality actually came much later, reflected in concepts of European morality based primarily on Christian beliefs that were alien to the Indian culture prevalent at that time.

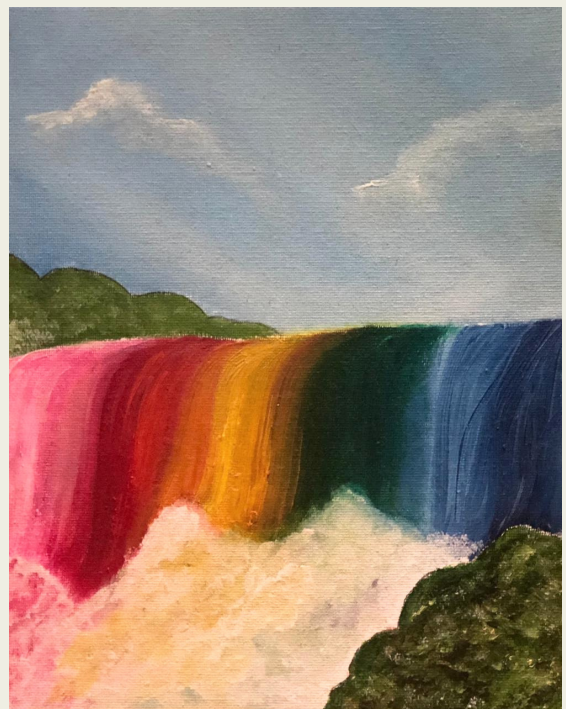
It is important to understand the history of homosexuality and its presence in Indian values and culture. Gender Fluidity was accepted in ancient India, and it can be traced to the ancient epics and scriptures as part of prose, poetry, art, and architecture.

Religious and scriptural lore accentuate the acceptance of homosexuality in India. A prominent example is Shikandi, considered transgender by many historians and mythologists, was born a daughter to King Drupad, but raised as a man, to fight in the battlefield of Kurukshetra and decimate Bhishma. Sufi poetry is suffused with accounts of same-sex couple during the medieval times.

The above instances hold proof of the presence and recognition of the LGBTQIA+ community in India long before the British came. Understanding and believing the history of homosexuality in India is paramount in order to install a sense of identity upon the LGBTQIA+ community in India. It will help remove the ignorance on behalf of Indian society, which ironically assumes 'queerness' to be a degenerate Western influence of "open-mindedness".

With enough evidence from history and mythology to suggest that the criminalisation of homosexuality was and always has been a foreign concept, its acceptance as a part of the all-absorbing and rich Indian culture should follow.

After all, it is time we caught up with our modern past in this primitive present to allow ourselves a better future.



Art by Nandini Chatterjee

Unveiling the Veil's Origins: The Indian Context

Prachi Kapoor XI-A

Some believe that the veil emerged in India after the Mughal invasion, while others say it began much earlier. This article attempts to elaborate on the beliefs and proofs of evidence of both sides.

Those who believe that the veil emerged after the Mughal invasion, argue that Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Jainism – which were prevalent in India – do not sanction women to be veiled. Hindu scriptures do not mention the veil; ancient Indian women went out unveiled. No goddess of these religions was veiled in depictions. In later periods, women of North India began covering themselves, and not those of South India – and because a major portion of the South was never invaded by Mughals, veiling must have been introduced by them.

An important source of evidence is literature. The drama 'Abhijnanashakuntala' (5th century CE), depicts unveiled women conversing with Dushyanta. A similar depiction is seen in 'Malatimadhava' (8th century CE).

Evidence from art is another important source. In his book, 'The Position of Women in Hindu Civilization', historian A.S. Altekar states that sculptures at Sanchi show unveiled women watching a procession, and sculptures of Ajanta caves depict an unveiled Queen Mayawati consulting her astrologers in her court.

It is claimed that the Purdah system was the first ever form of veiling observed in India. Muslim women strictly observed the Purdah, while non-Muslim women went out unveiled. It is believed that gradually, the practice of keeping women confined to homes and domestic activities spread throughout India with the coming of Mughals, and thus, veiling was introduced.

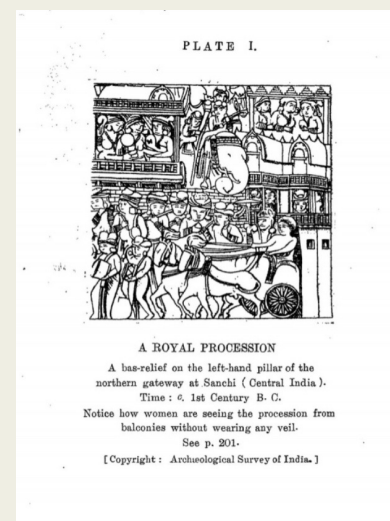
Those who believe that veiling began in India before the Mughal period, argue that, in his book, 'History of Medieval India', historian Satish Chandra states that purdah became widespread among upper-class women during the Delhi Sultanate (1206 – 1526 CE). Additionally, some sections of Indian society had advocated the veiling of married women (ghoonghat) since the 1st century BCE. Thus, veiling began in India much before the Mughals entered the scene in 1526 CE.

Dr. Nandita Prasad stated, "Historian Kegan Paul traces the practice of the custom back to the Vedic period. Anthropologist Patricia Jeffery says that seclusion and veiling of women was not unknown before the Mughal invasion. It appears that a social ideal recommending women to remain in seclusion to mark their complete loyalty towards their husband already existed."

Another much-deliberated debate is whether the ghoonghat symbolised forced veiling. Some argue that it was used for protection against harsh climatic conditions, while others say that it represented subordination. Looking at literature for evidence, in the drama 'Mricchakatika' (5th century CE), Vasantasena's mother asked her to wear her avagunthana (cloak veil) after accepting a suitor – implying that women had to observe a veil in public after their betrothal. After Vasantasena's wedding, she was given the veil as "a token of honourable marriage".

Thus, it is argued that the custom of veiling was followed in Islam and other religions prevalent in India alike, but in different contexts. While the former advocated it to safeguard women from other men, the latter devised it to enforce the subordination of women in the arena of kinship.

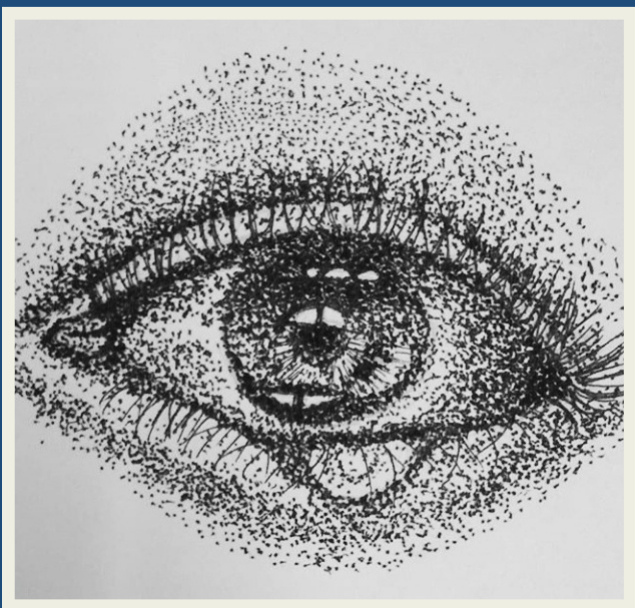
It should be noted that this article does not intend to provide the reader with information about religious practices of the past to be used as arguments to prove that one faith or culture is superior to another. We must remember that no religion/culture was - and is - alien to unfair practices. From Biblical patriarchy to Sati to Triple Talaaq, it is important to realize that patriarchy took, and still takes, different forms in different communities - and this is a reflection of entire societies, not of a particular culture/religion.



ART SECTION

In drawing, one must look for or
suspect that there is more than is
casually seen.

— George Bridgman



Manacle

Charika Singh XI-B

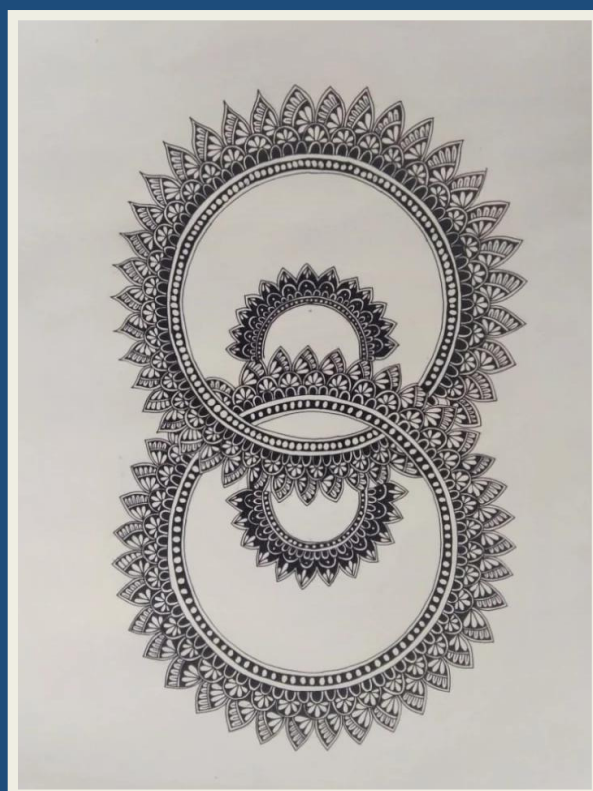
Life is like a chain where every single link counts. Here, the two lobes have been depicted to be interlocked, signifying a series of challenges or presents, that one should accept with an open heart to ensure continual rhythm.



Humane

Charika Singh XI-B

A teardrop is often perceived as a measure of weakness. However, I believe it is a gift to be well received. The points signify the elements adding up to form a wordless emotional representation, a tear. It might portray you as a lady in the eyes of others for it does not qualify as a quality of men, but it makes you a human!



Opere Solverit

Charika Singh XI-B

‘Opere Solverit’ is a Latin phrase for “hard work pays off”, which serves as the main theme of this artwork. The abstract is composed of 2 colours, black - that I associate with despair that restrains one’s prospects; and lavender emerging towards the middle, that serves as the sequel of one’s strife, depicted through the patterns.



Fabric

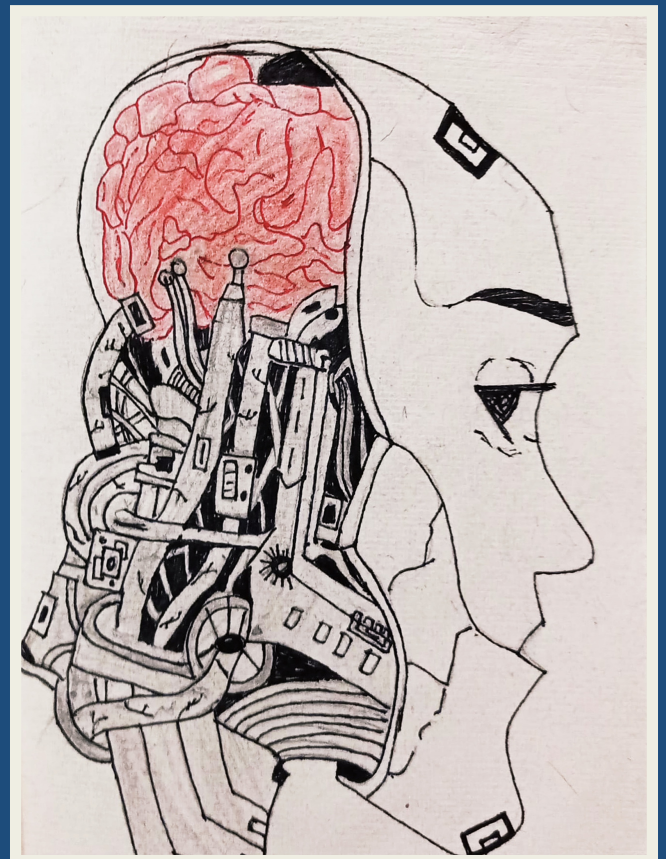
Nandini Chatterjee XI-D

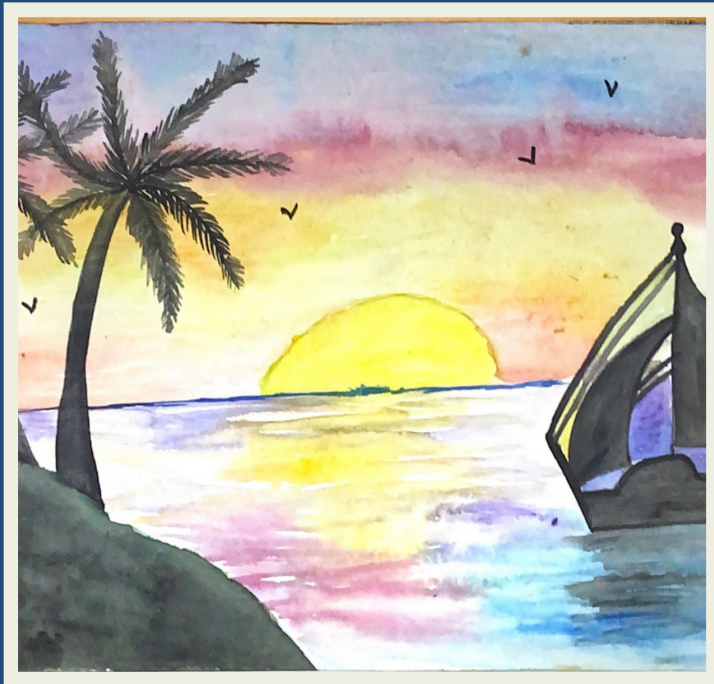
Each one is unique, yet we all are the same. People of a diverse variety of appearances, ethnicities, genders, nationalities, and socioeconomic background coexist in the ecosystem of society. Each one is unique, yet all are cut from the same fabric of humanity.

Digital Dystopia

Shreeya Sinha IX-D

Digital adoption all around,
Will finally reveal the start of the end,
Let us open our eyes and mend our
ways,
Before the terminators ascend.





Raainbow of Reflection

Nitya Gupta IX-E

Sometimes, we all feel blinded, lost like the drowning afternoon sun. We feel no one gets our true colours, but that's when the brilliant colours, representing the varying personalities shine and reflect on the river, and one sees that they aren't alone. Many have travelled that path too, there are always people who get what you mean. The trick is just finding them in the vast sky of happenings.

Vibrant Serenity

Nitya Gupta IX-E

The world is always full of colour. Things happen all the time, some good some bad. But we all need a break from the colour and turn to peace once in a while. My drawing represents the calmness intertwined with a splash of colour, in the same area, showing that things can coexist, we just need to find a balance.



Holistic Development

N.Rajareethigha XI-D

Nestled in seas of green and blue
Bedecked with blooms of every hue
The language of all must speak he who
destined the sun of growth to pursue



Our Human Knowledge Is A Candle Burnt On A Dim Altar To A Sun Vast Truth

N.Rajareethigha XI-D

This illustration draws souls from one of Sri Aurobindo's many sayings "Our human knowledge is a candle burnt on a dim altar to a sun vast truth", and attempts to enunciate the violation of this axiom within human society. Here, the sun is representative of all that is withheld by this universe. Hidden behind an illusion of the burning star, the small candle represents all human knowledge. Befooled by this mirage, the seeking of this miniscule fraction of knowledge perceives it to be the ultimate truth and crowns it atop a mountain of glory. But in actuality, the gentle flicker of the flame is only a poor imitation of the furious glow of the sun akin to how the minuscule and static nature of a drop of water contratradsicts the vehement waters thrashing violently against rocky crgs. For ultimately, "what we know is a drop, what we don't know is an ocean".

BOOK REVIEWS

“Books and doors are the same thing. You open them, and you go through into another world.” – Jeanette Winterson

How Comfort Can Be Found in the Simplest of Things

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse •
Charlie Mackesy • HarperOne • 2019

Devyani Rai XI-A

Reaching out and asking for help is often the hardest thing to do, no matter how old one is. After all, time does not take away the fear of vulnerability. Music, movies, and books bring comfort, allowing one to escape one's harsh realities and letting one's imagination take over.

This is why I found the book, 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' a piece of literature that is both nostalgic and comforting, perfect for people of all ages, despite fundamentally being a 'children's book'; one that is filled with

hand-drawn illustrations and very few words. It breaks free from the conventional storytelling structure, with no villains to battle and no lovers to rescue.

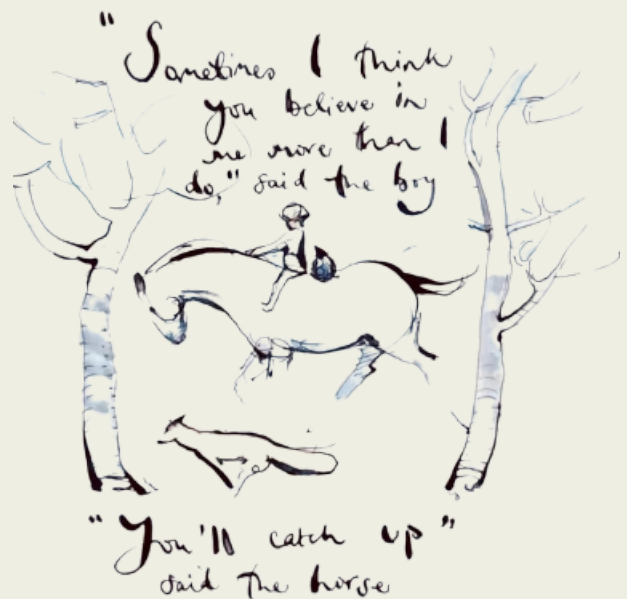
Rather, it consists of short exchanges between the four friends and main characters. If the average reader were to sit down and read it one go, like I did, it would not take them more than thirty minutes. So why does a children's book like this one require a recommendation that is perhaps longer than itself? What sets it apart?

It is how it leaves room for interpretation: the empty spaces in the book that allow the reader to soak in every line of dialogue and look at the expressive hand-drawn illustrations sketched by the author, Charlie Mackesy. It represents friendship, self-acceptance, and comfort. The story starts off with the boy meeting the mole, who says, "I am so small", to which the boy replies, "Yes, but you make a huge difference". This exchange prepares the reader for what is to come: words of comfort, of solace, of reassurance and of acknowledgement.



Soon, the pair meet a fox and travel together through the wilderness where they stumble upon the horse, all the while opening up about their fears, insecurities, and doubts. Throughout this journey of harmony and self-discovery, the reader eavesdrops on such conversations, which are applicable to all spheres of life, making the book very heart-warming. The handwritten way of printing words along with the occasional humorous quip make the reader feel like they are rifling through letters sent by an old friend; words that they would want to hear in times of need. The simplicity of the book adds to its charm, evident even more so when the author does not shy away from writing of things that are very philosophical at times.

It is a story of realisation, as the mole speaks of how "The greatest illusion is that life should be perfect"; it addresses dealing with loss and grieving, as the horse tells the boy how "The storm will pass" and how you, the reader, are a loved and valued human being.



Love: The Greatest Power

Messages from the Masters: Tapping into the Power of Love • Brian Weiss • Grand Central Publishing • 2008

Kimaya Bindra XII-A

According to Dr Weiss, the earth is like a "chaotic one-room schoolhouse" in which evolving souls reincarnate to learn faith, charity, compassion and the transcendence of fear and anger.

Messages from the Masters written by Dr Brian Weiss was published in the year 2000. He wrote a collection of five books of which the first was, Many Lives Many Masters and the second was Messages from the Masters. It is not necessary to read the previous books before the later ones as they are all independent of each other.

Dr Brian Weiss opened an unexpected door into the astonishing realm of past-life regression. Drawing on the wisdom of the Masters, the spirit guides who shape our destinies, the author gives us his most outstanding achievement to date. He reveals the essential life force in the universe and the ultimate healing energy. Its name is love. In this book the author employs case studies in which people give intimate and startling testimonies to the miraculous potential of love through past- life regressions, near-death experiences and communication with deceased loved ones. You will explore what happens after we die, strategies for fighting anxiety and healing relationships, the role of God and self-determination. You will explore exercises and meditations to harness the power of love and utterly transform your life.

The simple, easy to understand English makes it possible for people of all age groups to read the book and open up their minds to a whole new world. I personally was intrigued by the many case studies provided in the book which made me look at everything from a whole new perspective, and evoked the strong feeling that anyone reading this book cannot remain unchanged by its profound insights and message.



Art by Aanvi Kumar

How Hatred Can Grow Into Something Much Worse

Saanvi Maurya IX-E

**The Hate U Give • Angie Thomas •
Balzer + Bray • 2017**

I cannot imagine how challenging it would be to tackle the voice of a movement like Black Lives Matter, but I do know that Angie Thomas did it with finesse. Thanks to a realistic delivery, fraught with emotional seesaws, *The Hate U Give* is an important portrayal of the difficulties minorities face, all around the world, every single day.

The hype around this book has been unquestionable, which, honestly, made me eager to get my hands on it. It is truly mesmerizing; THUG was in the most heartbreaking reality of the present social issues and racism around the world.

The book examines the way society uses stereotypes of Blacks to justify violence and racism against them. Such typecasting protects White communities from reflecting upon systemic racism, which perpetuates discrimination.

Doubtless, this book will meet with resistance from many thanks to its controversial content and label, but if you have ever wondered what it was like to walk in a black person's shoes, then this is an unflinchingly honest place to start.



In Angie Thomas's debut novel *THUG*, Starr Carter bursts into the YA scene with both heart-wrecking and heartwarming sincerity. It revolves around a teenage girl who is grappling with racism, police brutality, and the retaliation to her activism after witnessing her black friend was murdered by the police. The book has become a young adult bestseller and was adapted into a movie shortly after its release. This author is definitely one to watch.

Calendar

Date	Event
4 Sept	Teacher's Day Celebration
13-25 Sept	Half-yearly Examination: Classes 6-12
1 Oct	Celebrating the Mahatma: Special Assembly
8-10 Oct	MISMUN
12-14 Oct	Autumn Break
22 Oct	Math Quiz: Classes 9-10
27 Oct	Inter House Geo Map Quiz: Classes 9-10
28 Oct	Inter House Geo Map Quiz: Classes 6-8
29 Oct	Kahani Vaachan: Class 6 Inter House Quiz: Classes 9-12
2 Nov	Special Assembly: Diwali
11 Nov	Prof.Nadkarni Memorial Inter School Competition: Classes 6-8
17 Nov	Special Assembly: The Mother's Mahasamadhi Day
18 Nov	Doha Vachan: Class 7 Online Quiz 'Evolve-PD' Biology Club, Synapse: Classes 9-12

20 Nov	Science Day: Classes 6-8
25 Nov	Sanskrit Quiz: Classes 6-8
26 Nov	Constitution Day: Special Assembly

MEET THE TEAM



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Head Editor



Risha Srinivas
Head Editor



Nandini Menon
Associate Editor



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