



The MIS Gazette

THE MOTHER'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - THE LYCEUM FORUM

New Delhi 2020-21

ISSUE-7

HISTORIC TIMES: FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



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WORDS OF HOPE FROM MS. SARIN

Nothing could have been more pertinent and immediate in its appeal and context than the theme for this year's Themis Gazette. Historic Times: for better or for worse?

Charles Dickens describes the epochal times of the French Revolution in *A Tale of Two Cities* :

"IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE AGE OF WISDOM, IT WAS THE AGE OF FOOLISHNESS, IT WAS THE EPOCH OF BELIEF, IT WAS THE EPOCH OF INCREDULITY, IT WAS THE SEASON OF LIGHT, IT WAS THE SEASON OF DARKNESS, IT WAS THE SPRING OF HOPE, IT WAS THE WINTER OF DESPAIR."

One cannot but wonder whether all historic times evoke similar sentiments. At present, while the world is still reeling under the havoc-wreaking impact of Covid-19, it may be too early to conclude!

Indeed, these are 'historic times'! Unprecedented and almost surreal!

This is the present that all of us suddenly found ourselves in.

Date: March 2020.

Our world changed! While pain, grief, and uncertainty gripped us, we searched the depths of our being for strength. There was an urgent need to recalibrate the way we think, connect, live, and even dream. With intermittent periods of lockdowns, we were isolated from the rest of the world, but never have we felt so one with it. Around us, people reached out in unimaginable ways to lend support and help when the others struggled in distress. The turbulence continued, we unlearned and relearned. We created new pathways to connect with friends, relatives, and more importantly our inner selves. As we grappled to make sense of what left us in a tizzy; slowly, gradually, and yet surely, we were born anew. Stronger and more resilient.

I extend my best wishes to all the students as they endeavor to explore individual and collective experiences through narratives on 'change'.

MILAN MALA SARIN

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A LITTLE MESSAGE: DR. JYOTI HIRANI

"ATTITUDE IS A CHOICE. HAPPINESS IS A CHOICE. OPTIMISM IS A CHOICE. KINDNESS IS A CHOICE. GIVING IS A CHOICE. RESPECT IS A CHOICE. WHATEVER CHOICE YOU MAKE MAKES YOU. CHOOSE WISELY."

- ROY T. BENNETT

Someone else's lack of kindness to you should spur you to be kinder to others. Someone's lack of affection to you should make you warmer in your interaction with others. Someone's lack of respect for you should make you respect others more. Do not pass what is given to you. Pass that what you wish to receive.

Become the center of the circle that you always wished to be a part of, because even the universe began with a single dot. Relationships thrive when each person gives of themselves to the other. How people treat you is their karma; how you react is yours.

While we may not have control over another person, we do have control over ourselves. In order to build relationships, you have to shift the focus from yourself — and what you will get out of it — to the person you aim to forge a relationship with — and how they will receive value from what you offer. No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

Lead with compassion and follow with kindness. Transformational relationships are born from empathy, careful listening, curiosity, and love. Before long, you'll see that the more you give, the more you receive in return. The guiding light is the belief that every one of us possesses unique value — a true gift that we are meant to share with the world.

"THE TRUE MEASURE OF A MAN IS HOW HE TREATS SOMEONE WHO CAN DO HIM ABSOLUTELY NO GOOD."

- SAMUEL JOHNSON

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Beloved Readers,

WINSTON CHURCHILL HAS SAID," ALL THE GREAT THINGS ARE SIMPLE, AND MANY CAN BE EXPRESSED IN A SINGLE WORD: FREEDOM, JUSTICE, HONOR, DUTY, MERCY, HOPE."

In today's world, today's scenario, above all comes hope. Having hope that a better and brighter future is there, is the one thing that can keep us going in this hard and seemingly endless sea of pain and anguish. We are surrounded by a shroud of sorrow, death, and devastation, where what will ensue is uncertain, where the probability of having a happy, untroubled, and carefree future seems bleak.

But there will come a dawn, a daylight where this grey and despondent suspension we are living in will be filled with peaceful and tentative waking of birds. The air that we will breathe will taste sweet and savory with hints of spring because the winter would have ended. And when not if this winter ends, everything will go back to being normal except one; that is us.

We would be a million times stronger, and a million times happier as we would have weathered a storm that none had seen or thought of before.

We would be the survivors of this hurricane and we would be the ones to bring back our normal. In order to create a sense of normalcy in our lives, we have to start now. So, we urge you to start. Start where you are and with what you have. But do not stop. Just start. Because if you do not start now, then you cannot expect the world to be normal again. But for now, we have started or more like continued something for you and for us. It is said, in the time of destruction, create something.

So, we, the editors of The MIS Gazette, have created this issue of the gazette because politics hasn't stopped; because this world has not stopped to be dynamic and ever-changing. We have brought hope and light by writing about our past year's accomplishments; to see that we have achieved something even in times of melancholy; something both we, as the editors, and you as our readers, are proud of and are happy to see because we write to taste life in the moment and in retrospect.

This magazine reflects the culmination of the combined efforts of the Editorial Board, students and our supportive teachers who hope to ignite curiosity in the reader.

***All the views expressed are personal and are not aimed at hurting the feelings of the readers**

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YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

2020-21



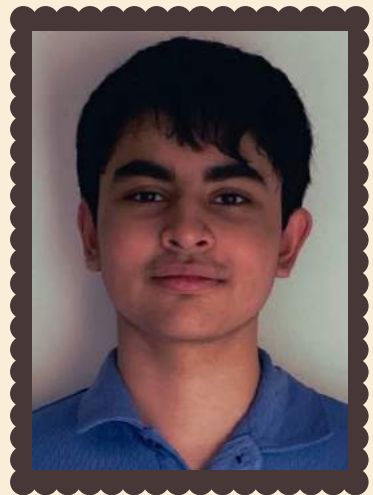
AARUSHI BAWA



ARADHYA ADLAKHA



K. SIRISHA SARMA



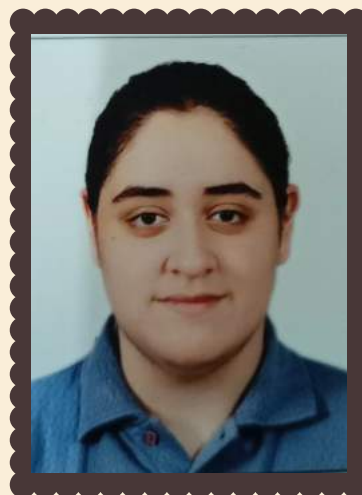
SUSHMIT GUPTA



AHANA LAL



BHASVAR ADLAKHA



PRABHNOOR KAUR



VIDUSHI MOHAN

THE FABRIC OF THE YEAR

DOES JUSTICE COME IN HUES?

Looking back on the amalgamation of calamities that was 2020, it's hard to select one single source of chaos, but a good place to start...

FULL ARTICLE ON PAGE 12

A GREY PATCH

In today's society, times are changing more rapidly than ever before. We see ourselves living in a constant state of transformations-whether it's us...

FULL ARTICLE ON PAGE 12

THE POPULATION DEBATE 2020



Virtual Event

11.07.2020, 4 P.M. Onwards.

Lyceum is the Humanities forum of The Mother's International School. Every year, it hosts a range of events to imbibe creativity and dexterity amongst students in various fields like public speaking, debates, moot courts, interviews etc. It also provides the children various opportunities to witness events and interact with accomplished individuals.

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THE POPULATION DEBATE 2020

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The World Population Day is observed annually on 11th July. The day signifies, recognizes, and reestablishes the importance of family planning, gender roles, human rights, poverty, demography, etc.

The Population Debate is an event, which attempts to shift the focus towards the urgency and relevance of issues related to the population. During such times of crisis, the debate topics were centered around the implications of the Coronavirus pandemic on the population arrangement. They comprised of key issues like Communalism, Digital Learning, Multilateralism, Democracy, Demography and Demand, Labor Laws, Poverty, and Power of the Population.

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THE POPULATION DEBATE 2020

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The judges were Ms. Natasha Abrol, who very kindly joined the event from The United States of America, and Mr. Chandraditya Raj. They are both great achievers in the field of debating and have nurtured, guided, and advised students for numerous years. The former Principal, Ms. Sanghamitra Ghosh, the current Principal, Ms. Milan Mala Sarin, and Lyceum teachers including Ms. Jyoti Hirani, Ms. Malvika Pathak, and Ms. Jayanti Banerjee graced the event with their presence. The participants comprised of Humanities students from grades 11 and 12. In total, 7 teams made it to the final event, each team comprising of two members. The whole event was moderated by Rhea Gupta and Vamika Aggarwal, both being former 12th graders.

The event commenced with fruitful speeches given by each member. The first speaker speaking for the motion and the second speaking against the motion. Each dialogue brought to the house new perspectives and strong arguments on mature and relevant issues. The current examples, analysis, and enthusiasm made the event enriching and a learning experience for everyone. Once all speeches were over, the judges along with their feedback provided techniques to better the skill of debating and tactics to use in crucial times. Ms. Jyoti Hirani appreciated the efforts in hosting the virtual event and The Principal, Ms. Milan Mala Sarin gave a few words of encouragement. The house was then open for more discussions beyond allotted topics. A rewarding discussion on the importance, need, and benefits of multilateralism versus bilateralism were initiated by Mr. Chandraditya Raj. Members of varying teams gave their inputs. The heated debate argued the ideal and practical aspects of the ideologies while weighing the pros of one to that of the other.

Unfortunately, due to the proximity of time, the debate had to be ended for the announcement of results.

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THE POPULATION DEBATE 2020

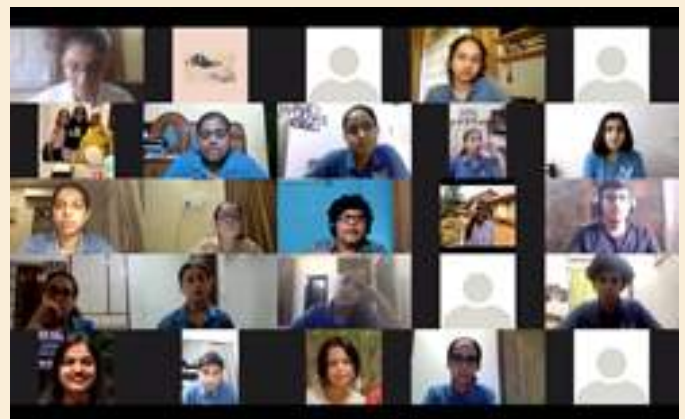
CONT. FROM PAGE 3

Each team presented valuable viewpoints making the marking very close-knit. The team which received the first position was Team DNA comprising of Ananya Iyer (XII-F) and Bhargavi Prakriya (XII-A), the team holding the second position was Team Prove Us Wrong comprising of Ayonija Rai (XII-F) and Janhavi Bhatnagar (XI-A). The position of the first best speaker was held by Samhitha Sankar (XII-A) and the second position was secured by Dhriti Vatsyayan (XII-A). With that, the event ended on a high note, with each participant taking back something new and a great learning experience.

JUST A MINUTE – 2020

Lyceum, The Humanities Forum is named after a peripatetic school inaugurated by Aristotle himself with the aim to develop education in its truest sense. With the same objective in mind, Lyceum often organizes proceedings aimed at developing confidence and proficiency in students of classes 11 and 12. 'Just a Minute' was an event organized on 1st August 2020 virtually through Zoom with the aspiration of achieving the same goal by Maanya Kocher and Dhriti Vatsyayan under the constant guidance and support of Ms. Jyoti Hirani.

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JUST A MINUTE - 2020

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The event focused on inculcating within the students the ability to speak for a minute as an extempore. The topics provided to the students were primarily quotations pertaining to politics by various personalities from around the globe. The students were required to speak on the allotted topic in the context of India, backing their speeches with examples and facts. Each student was given their topic two minutes in advance. They were to gather their thoughts and ideas during that time before their turn to speak arrived.

It was a pleasure to host two skillful Mothers' Blossoms as the judges for the event. Mr. Vedant Gupta and Mr. Ojas Date very kindly consented to be a part of the initiative despite their busy schedules.

During the course of the program, the Lyceum Magazine – The MIS Gazette 2019-20 was launched by Ms. Jyoti Hirani. It holds accounts of all the events which took place in the past year. The event was made more pleasant by the presence of various teachers from the humanities department and our Vice-Principal – Ms. Simranjeet Kaur. She sent her words of encouragement via a message. The former Principal – Ms. Sanghamitra Ghosh and the current

Principal – Ms. Milan Mala Sarin sent their wishes and regards via a message as well and looked forward to attending future events organized by the Forum.

The event ended with the announcement of results. The first position was secured by Samhitha Sankar (12-A), the second position was secured by Vidushi Mohan (11-F) and the third position was secured by Ananya Kalra (12-F). The students thoroughly enjoyed the event and it was yet another vista for them in the virtual world.



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ONLINE MOOT COURT: 21 AUGUST 2020

Alice in Wonderland, sounds like a good play for an English drama, right? But what if it is changed to a legal case? Who would've thought there's a sequel where Alice could be framed of a charge and tried in a court? Class XII Legal Studies students gave life to this legal case of Alice in the Wonderland written by Heather Gascoigne.

It was done in the form of a moot court. A moot court is a co-curricular activity at many law schools where participants take part in simulated court or arbitration proceedings, usually involving drafting memorials or memoranda and participating in oral argument. In this innovative way of doing an online moot court, Alice was framed for a charge to have caused disruption in the wonderland and have beaten cookies. All the students were dressed as various characters such as Cheshire cat, white rabbit, queen of hearts, Mad Hatter and of course Alice herself. The female parts were given to males and the male to the females to make it more amusing. There were three students acting as judges and the others acting as the defence who were defending Alice and the crown fighting for the Plaintiff's side.

In the end as the crux of the event, the defendants and plaintiff's questioned the various witnesses and the judgement came out to be in favour of Alice and she was proven to be not guilty.

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ONLINE MOOT COURT: 21 AUGUST 2020

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Humanities Students of Class 11 and 12 along with many staff members were present to watch the Moot Court on Zoom. Everyone loved it and overall it was very informative and enriching experience for both the legal studies students and the viewers.

THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

LYCEUM is the Humanities Forum which encourages analytical thinking and discussion-based learning. It celebrates freedom of expression and positive social change. Keeping its spirit alive despite the uncertain times, the forum has been conducting meaningful activities. On 28th August 2020, The Asian Parliamentary Debate was conducted by the LYCEUM forum, on the motion THBT absolute freedom of speech and expression will obstruct national security. The Proposition and the Opposition each consisted of 3 members, from classes 11th and 12th. Both sides advanced powerful and passionate speeches justifying their stance.

The Proposition highlighted the fact that absolute freedom will obstruct and harm national security and lead to societal disharmony, misuse, and over-exploitation of the rights. The Opposition, in response, highlighted the importance of freedom for citizens and society as a whole, helping to curb abuse of power by the government by keeping it in check, encouraging intellectual debate and discussion as well as protecting the security and the voice of the common man.

The judges for the day included renowned social entrepreneur and Ph.D. researcher Mr. Vibhor Mathur and Ms. Shravangi Nag Lanka, a 3rd-year law student, who has participated in and won many national and international Moot competitions.

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THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

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They provided insightful critiques to the participants as well as provided valuable and meaningful advice for their future endeavors. The event concluded with the Proposition being declared the winner and the title of the best speaker being awarded to Rhea Rinwa.

REMEMBERING THE MAHATMA- GANDHI JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS

Amidst the gloom and anxiety of living through a pandemic, we need a source of inspiration to survive more than ever. Remembering our great leaders is one such way of doing that. In that tune, MIS celebrated the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi through a virtual assembly on 1st October 2020. The assembly was put together through a mosaic of performances, all filled with the life message of our beloved Bapu. Students from classes VI-XII participated in the program and adorned it with their talented recitals, songs, skits, and art. The all-faith prayers underlined the very important message of syncretism and the oneness of the ultimate reality.

It was inspired by Bapu's own prayer meetings in which all religions were given equal space and importance. Important events from Bapu's life were narrated through art highlighting his journey from being Gandhi to becoming the Mahatma.

The preparation of the assembly leading up to the final performance was an opportunity to re-engage with the life of Mahatma Gandhi. His values and teachings are more relevant in the world we are living in currently than it ever was. It acquires added significance when the younger generation embraces and understands them. The students of MIS paid a beautiful tribute to the Father of our Nation in the truest sense.

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THE CONSTITUTION DAY ASSEMBLY: 26 NOVEMBER 2020

This year has been very different from what was anticipated, and yet it did not dampen the spirit of celebration. 71 years ago, on the 26th November 1949, the lengthiest and the most comprehensive document in the world, the Indian Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India.

To commemorate this significant day, Humanities students of Class 11 and 12 put forth a Special Assembly. The 45 minutes of celebration provided an extremely enriching experience to the audience. Highlighting the role of women leaders in the Constituent Assembly, who are most often forgotten and confined to the dusty pages of history, was an excellent idea, to celebrate this day. Each speaker was very confident and spoke with so much conviction, that the audience was actually transported to that historic time in Parliament! Once again it helped us look at our Constitution with renewed respect. It reminded us that this is no ordinary piece of legislation; it is a sacred document framed after profound deliberations and enshrines the aspirations and vision of enlightened leaders. We have been gifted such a treasure!

The comperes of the day, Prabhnoor Kaur, Bhasvar Adlakha, and Agrani lead the entire assembly in a very graceful manner.



THE CONSTITUTION DAY ASSEMBLY: 26

NOVEMBER 2020

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It was followed by 8 powerful speeches, given by the students who represented the women members of the Constituent Assembly. The concluding part included recitation of eleven Fundamental Duties. To end this assembly, the national song Vande Mataram was sung by K Sirisha Sarma, with our National Flag waving in the background, making each one of our hearts swell with pride on being a citizen of India.



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

A Special Class Assembly was organized by the students of Class XI to mark the significance of the International Human Rights Day on December 10th, on the theme- 'Recover Better- Stand up for Human Rights.' The assembly began with a song, Only the Young, helping transition the theme from last year to this year. This was followed by recitations and a song, urging the audience to strive towards the development of the susceptible groups throughout the world by the means of spreading awareness and the spirit of brotherhood.

The videos and the documentaries shed light on the importance of being aware of our human rights, for it is only the names, dates, and locations that change but the fact that these rights are frequently violated, remains universal and static.

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INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

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This was followed by a short yet informative quiz covering the various aspects of rights. The students then took a pledge to raise their voice against the violation of others' rights apart from that of their own.



SHAPING TOMORROW

The students of class XI took the lead to help shape a better future on January 25, 2021, as a Special Assembly was conducted in recognition of National Voters' Day and the Republic Day of India. The students reminded the audience of the power vested in their hands and also of their duty to build the nation that they aspire for, by making judicious use of their Right to Vote. In the form of a pledge, they promised to uphold the democratic traditions of the country by ensuring maximum participation through informed and ethical voting, while encouraging others to do the same. The real significance of Republic Day was emphasized upon by the students as they highlighted January 26 as more than just a day of celebration, but also a day that was a result of immense struggle and countless sacrifices. In the end, the moving lyrics of 'Ae Watan' filled everyone's hearts with great pride of belonging to a beautiful motherland.



IN LIVING COLOUR # 2020

DOES JUSTICE COME IN HUES?

Looking back on the amalgamation of calamities that was 2020, it's hard to select one single source of chaos, but a good place to start (apart from the obvious pandemic), is the murder of George Floyd. Spawning protests and waves of social justice warriors all expressing their anger over the racist nature of the crime, Mr. Floyd's death went on to serve a greater purpose: creating a platform for people to speak out on the deep-rooted racism in American society.

This is not the first time something like this has happened either. Data shows that racial minorities are disproportionately killed every year in America in spates of police violence, in comparison to Caucasians. Black men are about 2.5-2.8 times more likely to be killed by a law enforcement officer than white men.

However, this is definitely not a problem entirely endemic to the US. In places such as South Africa, although apartheid may not ever have been explicit insomuch as the actual mention of the word in official documents, it was clearly embedded in their legal system during the era of the Union.

The Constitution created during that time was flagrantly discriminatory, and legislations such as the Native Lands Act (which prohibited black people from purchasing or leasing land outside certain reserve property kept aside for them) and the Native Labour Regulation Act (which prohibited strike action by black Africans) installed the seat of white supremacy in South Africa. Furthermore, laws such as the Industrial Conciliation Act and the Apprenticeship Act reinforced a colour bar as part of the country's industrial scene.

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DOES JUSTICE COME IN HUES?

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Even today, the effects of apartheid can be seen worming their way through certain parts of South African society. After all, it was a mere three decades ago that it was properly abolished.

Domestically speaking, although colorism is definitely an issue deeply ingrained in Indian society, which can be tied to institutions such as caste and class, we can safely say that it does not play a large part in our criminal justice system.

Thus, we can see that, historically, the color of one's skin has always seemed to play a large part in how a person is viewed in the eyes of justice.

Although it is said that justice is blind, it appears that through the actions of many, she lifts her blindfold to assess the tone of a person's skin before offering them what she thinks they deserve as opposed to an impartial view.

Even if the international track record so far in terms of judging a person based on their skin color has not been great, one thing is clear: justice should not be on the basis of the amount of melanin in one's skin.

Anohita Dutta, XII-F



HYPOCRISY AND US

We live in a country where-
People blame the politicians for being corrupt,
But aren't we all in our own little ways?

We blame the country for being disorganized,
But aren't we all just the same?

We all sympathize with the George Floyd incident and call out America for
discrimination,
But don't even think once before calling someone names or even think that it
might be just as racist.

We say that the British took away our wealth and culture,
But didn't we let them do so until it was just too late?

We choose to boast about speaking French,
While not even feeling a pinch of shame for not being able to speak our very own
native language.

We live in a country where,
We rush to call everyone else hypocrites when we actually ourselves are ones.



Vanshika Mahipal, XII-A

A GREY PATCH

In today's society, times are changing more rapidly than ever before. We see ourselves living in a constant state of transformations- whether it's us or the world around us. Likewise, the concepts of ethnocentrism and cosmopolitanism have evolved and made their way into what we know as and of the modern society.

Ethnocentrism, in its most comprehensive sense, can be defined as the disrespect of diversity. It refers to the ideas of evaluating others through the notions of your own culture and, thereby, devaluing those different from yours.

Cosmopolitanism, on the contrary, is the firm belief of everyone being entitled to the same amount of respect notwithstanding their nationality, culture, religion, kin et cetera. The difference between the two brings us to the question of which one of them is dominant in the present day. The answer is simple.

Modern society is extremely complex and cannot simply be divided into two conflicting sections in almost any sphere of life, and in fact, it would be almost ignorant to do so. We reside in a world where each living generation was brought up in diametrically different conditions.

Our grandparents witnessed a period primarily characterized by ethnocentrism and our parents lived in one which was only beginning to realize its existence; slowly moving towards a cosmopolitan way of life. Our generation, on the other hand, grew up in the age of technology, where everyone around the world was closely connected through just a single device in their hands.

We began to understand and acknowledge that culture being different from our own does not mean it's incorrect.

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A GREY PATCH

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That's when the principles of sensitization and integration started grasping strength in this world of unacceptance.

Ergo, the way I see it, society at present can be defined as a concoction. As paradoxical as it seems, ethnocentrism and cosmopolitanism can and do coexist. Eventually, modern society will essentially be governed by the ideals of cosmopolitanism but for now, it cannot be seen as the solitary driving force for it. Similarly, while the ethnocentric perspective has taken a considerable backseat, its existence is still present and practiced in many parts of the world.



The current epoch is facing more multigenerational differences than any other before it, and that makes it radically impossible for us to draw clear demarcations between the two. With an entire cohort of the world's population being set apart by being ethnocentric, another being a good mix of both, and the rest of humanity being mainly cosmopolitan, we cannot bring this black or white dichotomy to a conclusion.

Hence, we establish the existence of a grey patch; a fusion of the two polar opposite concepts. Therefore, modern society is not only ethnocentric and neither is it only cosmopolitan. What it is though, is a complicated combination of both.

Naomi Sengupta, XII-F

HOW WE CAN IMPROVE THE DECLINING HEALTH OF DEMOCRACY WORLDWIDE?

Democracy is ill; it's on life support. Not just in India, or the underdeveloped and developing countries, but in the developed nations too.

Trends of misinformation and miscommunication are slowly taking over, as transparency is getting reduced worldwide.

Mistrust between governments and citizens is increasing, and corruption is becoming a common characteristic amongst all in power.

New democracies are weak and fragile. While older democracies are struggling to ensure equitable and sustainable development for their citizens.

Administration and welfare of the country's people are no longer the agendas that drive political parties.

Power and the hunger for it are what quenches the thirst of most political leaders.

Democratic erosion happens when the people and the press are unable to say what they want to say when criticism of the government is banned when information is not made available to the people and when protesting against government rules and policies are disallowed.

Such backsliding can be observed in numerous nations today, not to mention how it is adversely impacting the future of the youth and the people living in these very nations.

However, if there is one thing that we know about circumstances like these, it is that things get better and that there's always hope. Democracy is dying, but it isn't dead yet. We can still revive it.

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HOW WE CAN IMPROVE THE DECLINING HEALTH OF DEMOCRACY WORLDWIDE?

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We can take the first step forward and educate ourselves, as well as others on political, social, economic, and other issues that concern not only our own but nations all around the globe.

We can start the chain of real news and break the vicious cycle of rumors and misinformation, simply by spreading information that is authentic and real.

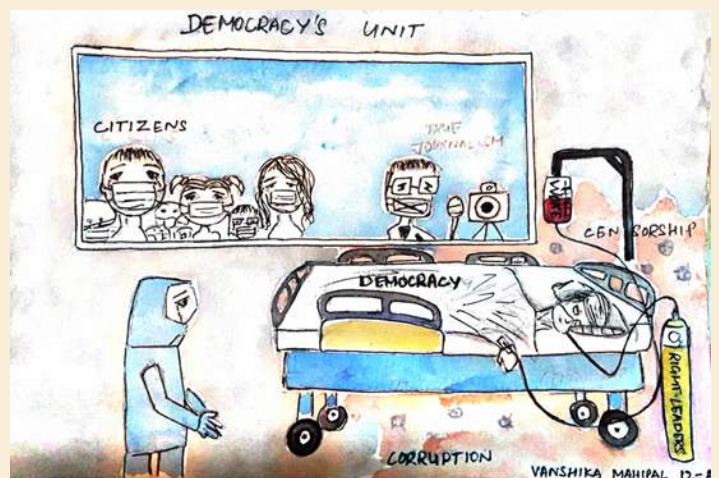
Additionally, we can begin, by verifying what we hear from people first and only then passing it on forward.

There's a lot we can do as individuals. And so, I change my statement. Democracy is resilient; it evolves over time just so that it can be built back, again and again, each time better than the last.

As long as we don't change, nothing will. We must continue to fight against injustice.

We need to stay angry, and stay woke, as we are the leaders of the future, and the responsibility of making the world a better place is now ours!

Yuvika Sharma, XII-F



BLIND GODDESS

The flawless statue which,
Once stood with pride,
Upholding every citizen's right,
Now stands cold like a blind goddess.

The lawless care is shown towards the game
of chess which is well played,
But somehow only the white prevails;
No matter how much you play this game with care,
In the end, the oppressor is always correct
and is given the crown of "justice."

The statue which is supposed to be rational and wise,
Now comfortably wears the bandage,
Hiding her two festering sores,
Which I might say were once her eyes.

An endless saga of marches, rallies, posts stacked on,
Social media to "seek justice" when a black is shot,
A white is free to walk away,
And a yellow Asian is killed just for fun or to calm one's nerves.

A great man once spoke his mind about
a 'dreamland' where all will know sweet freedom's way...
A world where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth.

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BLIND GODDESS

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I am sorry to say, but this Utopian world
is just a fragment that may not even exist,
in our so-called 'modern world';
Sure God made this world equal,
And used every color in his palette
to call it 'beautiful',
But where there is a blind goddess,
There is no justice and only lawlessness.

After turning history's pages and knowing very
painful yet successful fights for equality and justice,
I still am hurt to see,
Why is justice blind and color,
A major issue today?



Divyanshi R Jang, XII-F

MODERN SOCIETY – COSMOPOLITAN OR ETHNOCENTRIST

These two words are quite opposite to each other.

On one hand cosmopolitan refers to when people are very open to new culture and ideas of doing so. This type of society is mixed with different cultures and people from all over the world. Cosmopolitan society residents adapt the culture of convenience depending on their income level and neighbour, a society where they reside. A more flexible approach towards other religion and culture exists.

Whereas ethnocentrism refers to a society where people judge each other on basis of their culture. We can say that ethnocentrism means that one may see his or her own culture as the correct way of living. We can say that ethnocentrism is rigid.

Considering today's time and development, I won't say that our society is fully cosmopolitan; it is partially ethnocentrism.

Progress is there and we are still achieving it. Modern society as we see today is more inclined towards the cosmopolitan society as during the professional work it really doesn't matter about one's culture. Education also plays a vital role in our understandings of the concept.

We all have been raised differently and we all are the owner and makers of our own mindsets. Some people believe that culture plays the most prominent role in one's life. But people judge too easily. we can understand the concept of ethnocentrism with the help of an example – our Indian society has always been based on the caste system

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MODERN SOCIETY – COSMOPOLITAN OR ETHNOCENTRIST

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Despite the Indian constitution denying us to practice, this caste discrimination people still to do. On the other hand, there are people who eagerly get knowledge about other cultures as well as they respect the other culture. In our society or world, we can find that people often try to prove others' cultures as wrong or invalid. Our society is gradually turning towards a cosmopolitan society but still there exists a flavor of ethnocentrism. Both of them have their own meaning and understanding best way to come up with the situation turn towards mankind and humanity instead of defining the world.

We can never decide what a country or world is because it all depends upon one's mindset. We develop our own point of view with what we understand.

So, it totally depends upon your understanding. We all should respect all cultures and accept that everyone has their own culture. We cannot deny the fact that culture plays an important role in our lives yet at some points in life we need to overcome the cultural tradition.

Velentina, XII-F



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OUTCASTS

Delicate stone holding weighing
scales,
The cloth around her eyes for such a
long time.
A verse of her in every Greek tale.
A verse that justice will always be
blind.
The blindfold now is left as a
principle,
For the judges to cover their eyes.
Systems can be mitigated from the
crumble
Only when the court doesn't deal in
bias and lies...
I can't spend a day more in this tower
I am lost in the world of nights.
Tarnished face, tarnished power.
Take me back to the light.
Locked in a concrete cell
It's been over five years,
But I, really can't tell
Because I am so crippled in my fears.
Who knew that just for color,
An honest man, can be put behind
bars?
When my daughter asks where's her
father,
She will only be told to find him in the
stars.

I don't know if my honesty holds any
worth,
Am I only left here to be chastised?
Long past blood once lived and heard,
To be one with the color of lesser
pride.
My mates are subjects of pillory,
And there so many more too,
People who are black, like me,
Or brown, yellow who are considered
outcasts by you.
And we are at the mercy of biased cops
in daylight,
So we wage the wars within.
And we are at mercy of their guns at
night,
All of my colored brethren.
The judges don't wear their blindfolds.
Sitting under the hand of the bias
parade.
Then how is justice blind in the court,
If the authority passed the verdict
depending on my skin shade?
So tell the others who parade that they
are "fair"
That their disguise is over and won't
last,
Someone's honest father or brother is
always locked in there,
And they don't want to be outcasts.

Misha Sharma, XI-F

NONE OF US CAN BE FREE UNTIL EVERYBODY IS FREE

We might call ourselves a free country but many sections of the society still find themselves desiring liberation not from some ruling body but rather from the oppressive systems and situations that are created and enabled by the ruling bodies. To honor the members of the LGBTQ+ community, every year the month of June is celebrated as 'pride month'.

This year marks 51 years since the celebrations first began. Through the medium of this article, I would analyze the history and struggles faced by the members of the community and what has been done for the same, and what needs to be done. Every year, people worldwide come together to celebrate how far gay rights have come, which allows people the freedom of being who they truly are.

Pride month is also about honoring the history of those vulnerable groups who struggled for decades in battles against prejudices and brought us here, to this point of freedom and acceptance. However, we must not forget that much work is still left until the LGBTQ+ community is fully accepted and recognized. The history of pride month celebrations lies in the 1969 Stonewall Riots. On June 28, 1969, an uprising took place in one of the most popular gay bars of New York City, USA- The Stonewall Inn. At the time, the NYC police would raid queer bars and harass the queer community quite frequently. The American Constitution, back then, too possessed laws that banned homosexuality. The incident foreshadowed several protests and the same year the first official Pride parade was carried out and the tradition has continued to date.

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NONE OF US CAN BE FREE UNTIL EVERYBODY IS FREE

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Let's talk about the status of the LGBTQ+ community in India. While the Indian youth now experiences more acceptance than ever, everyday challenges continue to exist. The freedom to freely express their identity and choices lacks in several households, schools, offices, and other social settings.

Thus, many are subjected to bullying, extreme forms of judgment, and social seclusion that causes a great deal of mental and emotional pain.

With the increase in reach of social media in India, urban areas to be specific, every day, efforts are being made on various platforms to spread awareness regarding the subject and many voices and struggles are being heard on a much greater level than before.

These films portray homosexual characters and homosexual relationships. However, all of this still brings light to a rather small part of the diverse struggles that are faced by the members of the community every single day. Rural India deals with its youth in a ghastly manner. Often family members sanction honor killings when they find out about their children and in some parts, lesbians are subjected to 'corrective-rapes', often perpetrated by their family members. Such eradication of basic human rights and dignity makes one question what the government of the land has done to curb the situation? For India, the idea of human rights rests on the premise that all human beings are equal and thus actions that violate the dignity of an individual and act as a hurdle to equal treatment towards him, simply violate the constitution.

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NONE OF US CAN BE FREE UNTIL EVERYBODY IS FREE

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In April 2014, the Supreme Court of India ruled that the rights and freedoms of transgender people of India were protected under the Constitution. Four years later, in 2018, India's Supreme Court decriminalized consensual same-sex relationships. The historic order reversed Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code.

Both judgments are considered as a landmark in protecting and recognizing the LGBTQ+ community in the socially conservative country.

The positive impact of the court rulings seen is the freedom of expression of sexuality and queerness in public spaces without any fear of reprisal by the authorities but the social stigma against the same continues to exist. India thus has a long journey to make.

The Indian Parliament passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, in 2019 which is regarded as problematic for many reasons. The act does not offer reservations in public employment and education. India also lacks a comprehensive anti-discrimination code. So, while the Constitution prohibits discrimination, it only applies to the government and its instrumentalities.

This means the private sector can easily get away with projecting discrimination in matters of employment, housing, health, and education amongst other areas. The matter of same-sex marriage, too, continues to be an elephant in the room. Despite intense discussions about the need for more and better provisions for the members of the LGBTQ+ community, the government continues to stay silent on the topic

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NONE OF US CAN BE FREE UNTIL EVERYBODY IS FREE

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As the world celebrates pride month, we need to realize that while pride parades and conversations on social media play their significant part in the journey towards change, the month of June is way more than a mere celebration and means of enjoyment.

Being a good ally includes understanding, learning, and amplifying the struggles faced by the members of the community. Society cannot be regarded as a liberated one until each member that constitutes it, is truly free.

The fight for freedom thus continues to exist and the recognition for the same should also exist beyond just the month of June.

Anvika Juneja, XII-F



NO PRIDE FOR SOME OF US WITHOUT LIBERATION FOR ALL OF US

With the onset of the pride month, awareness, self-love, equality, and increased visibility of the LGBTQ+ community are all widely-discussed topics.

At the same time, the deteriorating impact of transphobia on individuals belonging to this community cannot be ignored. Pride was started by queer and trans women of colour and trans women are one of the most targeted demographics in the world.

Trans women of colour have a life expectancy of 35 years old, which is less than half the global average for women.

Transgender persons are burdened with various factors: from gender dysphoria and animosity from their family and society to constant exploitation in different spheres of life.

Transgender persons have been a part of Indian society for centuries. There is evidence to suggest the existence and recognition of transgender and non-gender-conforming individuals in ancient Hindu writings like Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Even during the Mughal period, trans individuals, known as the hijras, were given high positions in the Islamic religious institutions. At the beginning of British rule, the hijras enjoyed protections and benefits from the State.

However, the arrival of more European travellers who were repulsed by the sight of the hijras changed their position in society. The highly patriarchal Victorian societies were famously obsessed with the gender binary and were unwilling to accept any deviance from the norm.

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NO PRIDE FOR SOME OF US WITHOUT LIBERATION FOR ALL OF US

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As a result, by the second half of the 19th century, the hijra community was criminalized and denied basic civil rights under the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871. Victorian morals continue to influence the situation of the hijras in contemporary India.

On April 24, 2014, a private member bill, the Rights of Transgender Person's Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha. This bill provided various rights such as the right to equality and non-discrimination, life and personal liberty, free speech, to live in a community, integrity, along with protection from torture or cruelty and abuse, violence, and exploitation to members belonging to this community.

More recently, on November 26, 2019, The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, was passed by the Parliament.

The Bill defines a trans individual as a person who does not go by the gender assigned at birth.

It prohibits discrimination against them in employment, education, housing, healthcare, and other services. The Bill allows self-perception of gender identity but it mandates that each person would have to be recognized as a 'transgender' on the basis of a certificate of identity issued by a district magistrate. Hence, these individuals are subjected to psychological, medical, and public authority scrutiny, which essentially nullifies the right to self-determination.

On April 18, 2020, the central government sought public feedback on the existing rules, in a bid to make them more inclusive and responsive to the needs of trans individuals.

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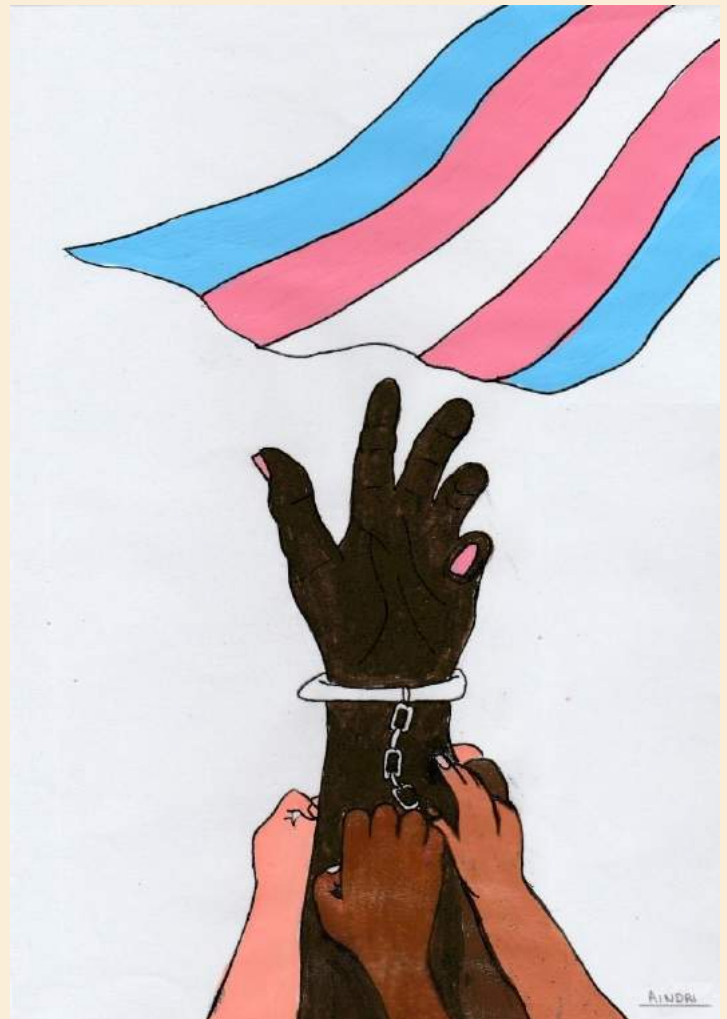
NO PRIDE FOR SOME OF US WITHOUT LIBERATION FOR ALL OF US

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However, this move was ill-timed since the COVID-19 lockdown had constrained the movement of the transgender community and made it difficult for them to discuss and provide adequate feedback.

In conclusion, more policies and schemes need to be implemented by the government and we need to work together to eradicate the stigma and spread more awareness about the trans community to uplift them as a whole.

Aindri Dasgupta, XII-F



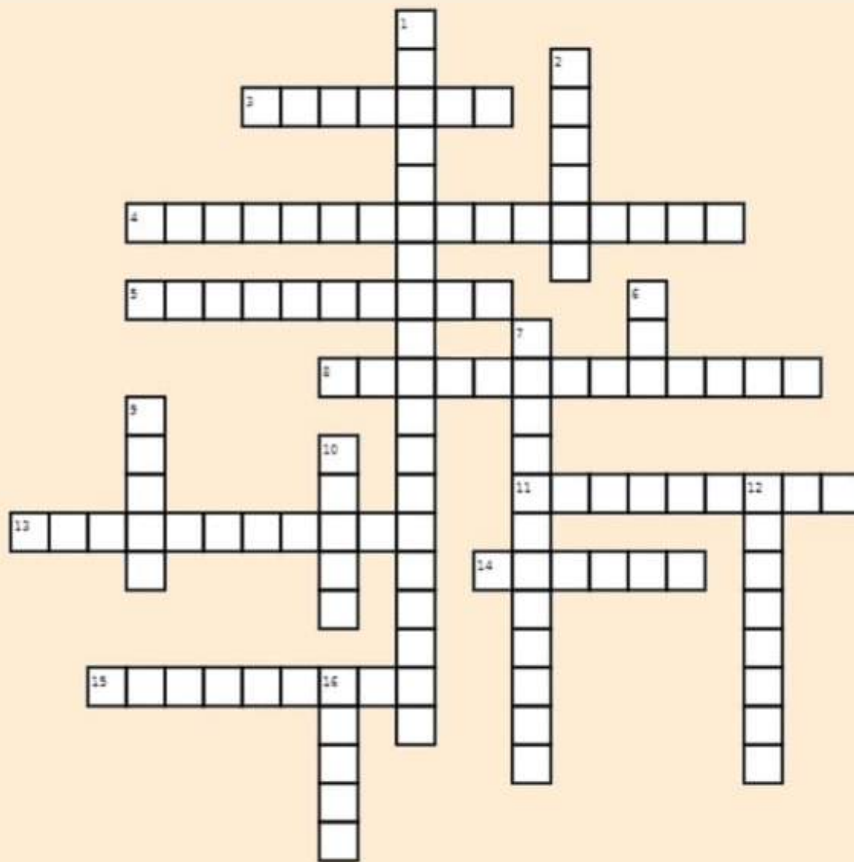
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Fire Up Your Brain: *CROSSWORD*



Down:

1. Chief Advisor to the Bengal CM
2. Fortune's world's greatest leader
6. The first country to send their ambassador to India
7. First Female Vice President listed in Forbes 50 over 50
9. Global vaccine alliance
10. Iran's blazing naval vessel
12. New Chief Justice of India
16. Orange flag rules again in this state

Across:

3. Bank which released report titled 'India GDP: Marathon effort'
4. First female Army Secretary in the US
5. Hailed all over the world for her efforts to curb the Covid-19 pandemic in Kerala
8. State that launched Cleanliness Drive called CLAP
11. European country pulling out from 17 +1 grouping
13. Politician who coined "Change we can believe in" and "Yes, we can"
14. Antiguan diamantaire
15. Same chief minister in this state since its formation

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ANSWERS

Look for the answers in the magazine. Read through it. Look for the page in the prompts given below and then find the bold words colored in pink there. Arrange the words and... Voila! You have your answer.

ACROSS

- Chief Advisor to the Bengal CM - Page 2
- Fortune's world's greatest leader - Page 12
- The first country to send their ambassador to India - Page 4
- First Female Vice-President listed in Forbes 50 over 50 - Page 5
- Global Vaccine Alliance - Page 6
- Iran's blazing naval vessel - Page 7
- New Chief Justice of India - Page 8
- Orange flag rules again in this state - Page 9

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DOWN

- The bank which released a growth estimate report titled 'India GDP: Marathon effort - Page 10
- First female Army Secretary in the US - Page 11
- Hailed all over the world for her efforts to curb the Covid-19 pandemic in Kerala - Page 3
- State which launched Cleanliness Drive called CLAP - Page 13
- European country pulling out from 17+1 grouping - Page 14
- The politician who coined "Change we can believe in" and "Yes, we can" - Page 15
- Antigua Diamantaire - Page 16
- Same chief minister since its formation - Page 17

HAS OUR SOCIETY EVOLVED?

The world is evolving, our societies are modern, most of the countries are liberal, democratic and respect the rights of all citizens equally, and how easy it was for me to just pen these words in this article, in the same way, these words are written in many constitutions, embedded in the “so-called moral fabric” of a country, but our eyes can very easily disregard the ideals laid down by the societies all over the world.

The stories of apartheid in South Africa, antisemitism in Germany, or history of slavery and systematic discrimination in several countries make us all feel sad and sympathetic towards the survivors of the same, but have we managed to end this in the present society?

Definitely not, the recent recognition by the US president of the 1921 Tulsa discrimination is a positive step forward, but the recent cases of discrimination against a particular race in the United States just show the prevalence of the backdated and senseless idea of difference based on race even in the present-day society especially in a country like the United States with a very high population of literate people. not only does the fear of violence entails a man of color but he faces this discrimination from the time he is born, in school when he is looked at differently, or later when it is tougher for him to get a job than other of the same caliber as him, and yes we see all this in the 21st century. The reason for the continuation of this mindset is an effect of the way modern societies work, countries are so fearful of accepting their past mistakes that often the history of racism in one's own country is conveniently removed from history, thereby keeping it away from the young minds.

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HAS OUR SOCIETY EVOLVED?

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Talking about these issues in a family setting is not very common rather it makes several household awkward to discuss issues like these with their kids whom they think of being too young to understand but at the same time, these kids imbibe this social pattern of racism in their subconscious mind which later becomes very difficult to discard entirely.

It is the society that condemns these acts, it is the society that promotes this too. Society neither evolves in 1 day nor does it lack the possibility of every change, it certainly does and the people will be the catalyst for this change, talk, discuss, the debate about issues, bring them to the forefront, read, research, develop and be that one person the world might be looking for.

Maanya Kocher
(Batch of 2020-21)



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