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AZURE

A Newsletter

Letter From The Editor

Dear Reader,

I hope you're doing well!

It is my honour to present to you the fifth issue of The Mother's International School's Newsletter, Azure. Over the past few months leading a team of dedicated editors and designers, I've come to realize that Azure symbolizes more than a mere platform for expression.

Azure, in essence, fosters connections and builds a community. It serves as a unifying force, fostering understanding and building bridges within our school community as it brings together diverse themes, ranging from philosophical ideals to current affairs. Particularly, the Jauhar Cup interview and the France National Day article reflect the diverse perspectives and ideas of the student body and highlight Azure as the mirror of the community that it was meant to be at its inception.

Over the past few months, we welcomed six talented editors and five creative designers to our team, who have contributed immensely to this issue. I take pride in their dedication and creativity, as they have brilliantly collaborated on this issue. I am certain that they will continue to hone their skills and strengthen the ideals that the newsletter stands for.

I've found in Azure a home for the author within me, seeking a voice to express thoughts and emotions. Therefore, I take this opportunity to emphasize the power that words hold in our lives. Each word we choose has the potential to inspire, educate, and influence. From ancient wisdom to modern community, words have driven revolutions, ignited imaginations, and shaped destinies. So, let's infuse our writing with passion, purpose, and a desire to make a difference. With every word, sentence, and paragraph, let's embrace the transformative power that only language can command.

Remember, your voice matters. The stories you share and the insights you provide contribute to the richness of human expression. I hope Azure serves as a platform to nurture the writer within you.

Best,

Hridayansh Khera

Head Editor

Right under our noses

Katyayni Sharma X-D

Whenever someone mentions Egypt, or pyramids, we think of the pyramids of Giza. And it's rather natural to do so. It's all that is talked about from the mysterious lands in Egypt. But not today. I'm here to talk about a rather unknown topic from the land of the pharaohs.

The lost pyramid of Huni.

To start off, who was Huni in the first place? He was an ancient Egyptian king, the last pharaoh of the third dynasty. His reign is estimated to be 24 years long, ending in 2613 BC.

Although there is evidence that Huni really did exist, there is absolutely no evidence of a pyramid being found of the king. In those times, every single prominent figure had some kind of pyramid where they were buried alongside their people, in a separate cemetery. The absence of this pyramid is what makes the research on Huni even more interesting.

Also, with King Huni being incredibly wealthy, and associated with building many structures along with pyramids to the point where he was referred to as the first ruler to introduce the concept of step pyramids, it is extremely difficult to accept the fact that the lost pyramid of Huni had never existed in the first place or shall never be found.

Perhaps it is a good thing, for curses of the ancient Egypt pharaohs are not to be meddled with.

The curse of Osiris is a horrifying yet enchanting tale to be told. It all started when Egyptologist Walter Brian Emery discovered a little statue of Osiris, the Egyptian God of Death, during an excavation near Saqqara in 1971. Taking the statue with him, he went to the village near the dig site, along with his assistant to stay the night.

As Emery headed to the bathroom to take a shower, he began weeping uncontrollably. Hearing this his assistant rushed over to him and recalled him gripping his sink in a state of pure shock, as if he were traumatized. He stood there completely paralyzed. Soon after, Emery was diagnosed with right side paralysis, and lost the ability to communicate. He died the very next day.

In fact, our very own Zahi Hawass, the renowned Egyptologist who led the search for the lost pyramid of Huni might also be the victim of an ancient pharaoh's curse.

The curse of Kom Abu Billo claimed one of Zahi's dearest family members, year after year. His aunt died the day he was bringing artifacts back from Kom Abu Billo's site, his uncle the next year, and his favourite cousin, the year after. Even though this "curse" has taken three members from Zahi's family, he disagrees, claiming that there is no such thing as a curse in the first place.

It's funny all this happened right under our noses!



Art by Ira Sabharwal X-C

Battling Within: A Review of Foroux's Guide to "Win Your Inner Battles: Defeat the enemy within and live with purpose"

Kashvi Kapoor XI-B

The self-help book genre is constantly evolving and expanding. As more people show interest, such books offer knowledge on various topics, ranging from keeping oneself happy to becoming a great leader. They are great for instilling positive thinking, affirmations and goal setting. However, execution is equally important, and this is where Darius Foroux's "Winning Your Inner Battles" stands out from the rest.

The book's theme revolves around the most challenging battles in life, those individuals have with themselves. The book's main focus is on winning these inner battles by building self-confidence and overcoming fear, emphasizing the identification of causes and consequences while sharing practical ways to overcome them.

Like anyone else, the author has positioned himself with an insatiable desire to become flawless, perfect and live up to society's standards. Candidly sharing personal experiences enhances the credibility of his advice, making it engaging and interesting.

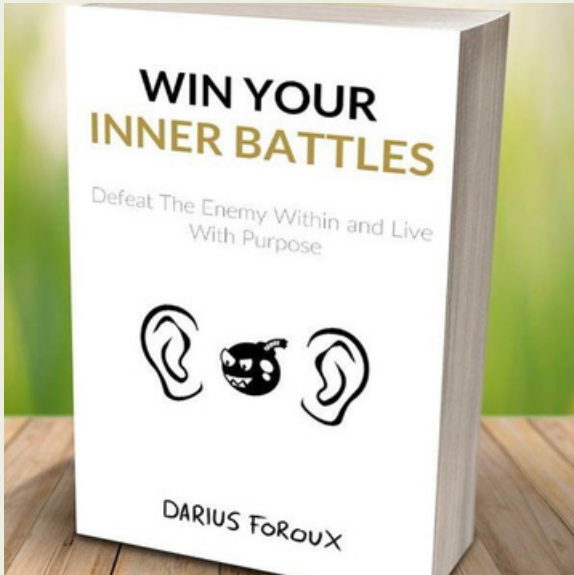
He shares ways of overcoming challenges based on his experiences, observations, and knowledge gained from wise people he crossed paths with in his life. For instance, finding a mentor can be a challenging task. So, to begin with, one should know why they need a mentor and what they want to acquire through this mutual relationship. Considering it is a mutual relationship, the mentee should also have something to bring to the table. The mentee should be as passionate as the mentor, and show genuine interest in learning rather than merely running after paychecks.

Likewise, each chapter centres on a specific internal struggle. For instance, the inability to take a step towards the life one dreams to live but fails to due to numerous problems that keep deviating their attention. "Rich people have problems. Poor people have problems. But is that a reason to not do something? Life is not a contest my problems are worse than yours. If it's the attention you want, get a dog," Foroux mentions. Such straightforward wisdom resonates powerfully, prompting a confrontation with their excuses.

The book's pages are adorned with gems of wisdom that prompt introspection, such as 'Don't become too dependent on the things you own, or the stuff will own you,' and 'Fear defeats more people than any other thing in the world.' Such insights from Foroux's experiences and observations become invaluable tools in the reader's journey toward self-improvement. "Progress is doing small things every day. Unfortunately, there are no shortcuts." Abiding by his words, the writer doesn't promise magical transformations but a roadmap to navigate through the problems with practical strategies and a renewed sense of purpose.

It stands as a guiding light, empowering individuals to work their way out by simply following the steps: improve your competencies, put them into practice, see results, grow more confident and repeat.

The book serves as a source of motivation, suggests actionable strategies, and prompts a dialogue with oneself to confront and thereby overcome the battles within. Therefore, "Win Your Inner Battles" is a must-read for those aspiring to succeed but not taking a step forward.



Technology and AI: Boon or Bane

Akshaya Sharma VII-E

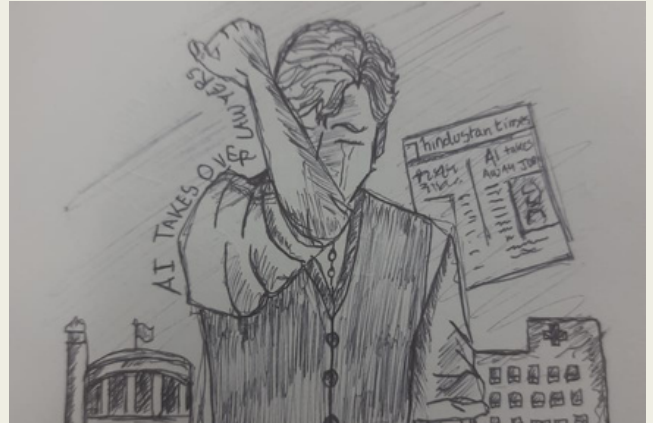
With the rise in technological developments and inventions, Artificial Intelligence has found its way to people's extensively long list of fears. But the question arises - Why fear AI? Data showing that there is a 75% chance of AI taking over the world completely by 2050 answers this intriguing question.

Artificial Intelligence has already started to become involved in the complexities of medical surgeries and it won't be long before it starts doing the job of lawyers, engineers and architects.

In his book '21 Lessons for the 21st Century', while comparing the advantages and disadvantages of AI, Yuval Noah Harari said that not only our jobs are threatened by AI but also our sheer existence. He observed that in a few years, AI will become powerful enough to read our feelings since they are nothing but chemical reactions in our brains. This leads to a number of problems such as privacy concerns and security issues. Furthermore, the benefits of AI may not be evenly distributed, leading to increased economic disparities between nations or within societies. Nations racing to develop superior AI military technology may strengthen global tensions and increase the likelihood of conflict. So, to prevent all this, should we stop AI from developing? While it is true that the power to do so lies in our hands, if we look at this problem through a contrasting lens, we will realize that AI can also confer benefits to humanity.

In the coming years, it will achieve things that are beyond human imagination. Discoveries and innovations that humans might take decades to make, will be possible through AI in just a couple of days (or who knows, maybe even hours or minutes!).

As a result of the increased efficiency and accuracy of AI, the mistakes that we humans make while doing certain tasks, won't happen at all. Taking all this into consideration, the major question is- What would you choose? Do you want the world to continue being as it is or let AI rule it, for the greater good?



Art by Rushaan Basak XI-F

Learning without Thought is Labour lost

Eshita Rakesh IX-C

"When thought is too weak to be simply expressed, it is clear proof that it should be rejected" is an oft-quoted line. This line applies to situations in our lives where we quickly jump to conclusions and make assumptions about what another person is saying. In all likelihood, we will assume the other person to blame us for certain deeds. This conclusion often breeds negativity, though it is false and unfounded. We should, therefore, think a good deal before arriving at any conclusions.

William Hazlitt, the great English scholar, and writer, said, "Great thoughts reduced to practice become great acts." His words clearly imply that only great thoughts are even worthy of getting translated into acts if once constantly practices them. In other words, we first need to organize our thoughts well before coming to any judgment. Good judgments alone can help us nurture a true response to a given solution.

An open mind is sure to lead to a fruitful conclusion. By being thoughtful, we not only save our own time and energy but also win over others' favours. Our remaining engagement makes others well-disposed to hear our points of view and patiently hearing others out, simply makes our opinions acceptable to them.

"You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you." Whatever we learn should be accompanied by thought. With a heightened awareness of what others want to communicate, we are better equipped to handle situations appropriately and make a powerful impression, because as Confucius rightly said "Learning without thought is labour lost."

Theories on Time Travel

Katyayni Sharma X-D

Well, to start off, what is time travel? I'm sure all of you are familiar with the term time travel or have at least heard of it. In its essence, time travel is the hypothetical activity of travelling either into the past or the future. Although it is uncertain to determine if time travel is possible or not yet, there is evidence that speaks in favor of it, and that speaks against it.

Essentially, what Einstein did was, instead of treating space as a flat plane or sheet that holds the entire universe upon itself, he thought of it as curved and malleable sheet of say, cloth that was able to form gravitational dips around huge masses that eventually pull other objects in, similar to what a heavy ball would do if it were to be placed in the centre of a trampoline or a cushion. It would cause any object smaller than itself to slide towards the centre, or towards itself.

The closer an object gets to the centre of the dip, or the ball placed at the centre in this case, the faster it would start accelerating. According to Einstein's theory, because time moves more slowly as you move faster through space, the closer an object is to the centre of the object, the slower time moves for that object.

Now, knowing that time stops for an object that moves faster than the speed of light, why haven't we already come up with a way to leap forward, or backward in time? Well, in order for us to send a person into the future, we would either have to somehow manipulate and use the intense gravitational acceleration caused by black holes or shoot the person into space as fast as we can, so he moves with a speed that is close to the speed of light itself. With all the resources and knowledge that we possess currently, we can only expect to leap a few microseconds into the future.

Now suppose one wants to travel back to the past. Is it inaccessible? If one day our knowledge about how it all works allows us to send a human into the near future by travelling at the speed of light, would it be possible for the human to use time dilation to return to the past, and even if it were possible, why hasn't it already happened yet?

I mean, if it did exist, we would always have been aware of its existence in the first place!

I suppose that's the beauty of it.

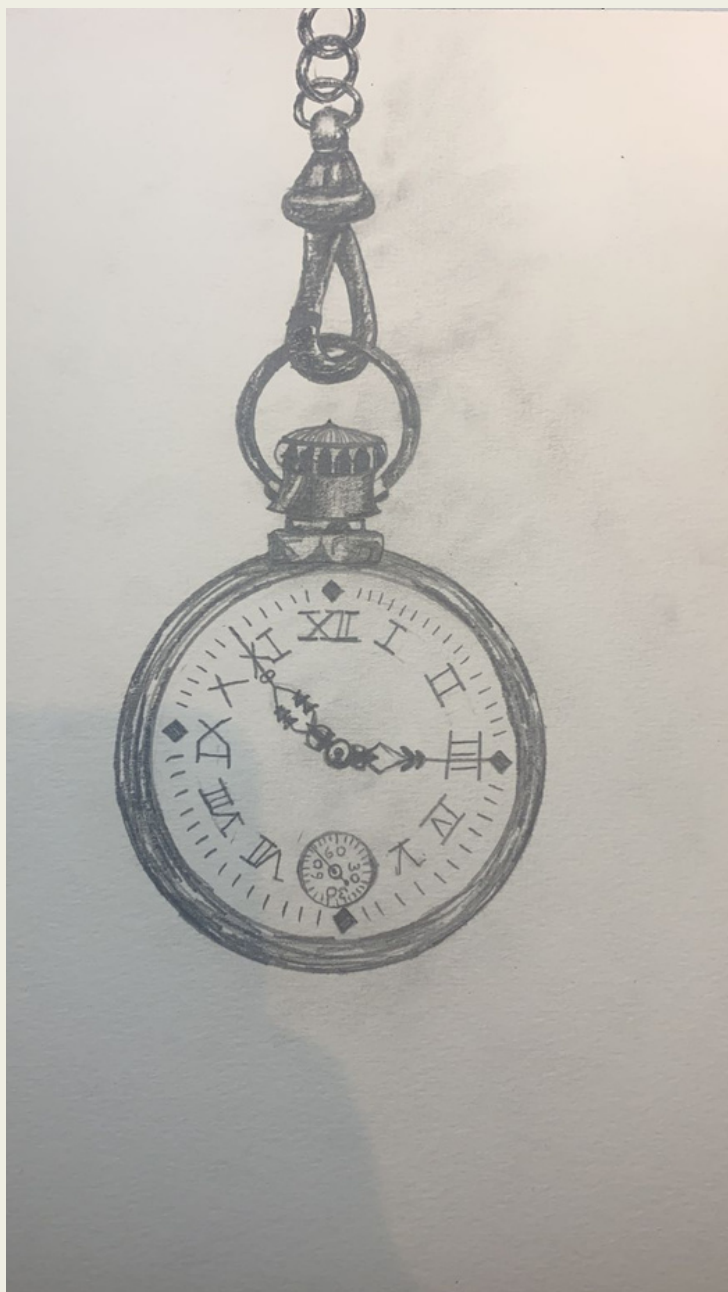
This also gives birth to another theory, rather a paradox.

The grandfather paradox says, if you would travel back in time to kill your grandfather; that too before your father was born, there was no possible way you could have ever existed. Yet here we are travelling back in time to kill our grandfathers. Also, if we were to think about it, people that may travel to the past, subsequently become a part of the past itself, making them responsible for an event they had come to change in the first place. For example, suppose your best friend dies in a car accident and you go back in time to prevent that from happening, because duh! But the steps you take, the things you change in the past to prevent your best friend's death become the very reason for it.

And so now you must live in a time loop filled with guilt and remorse. Not very pleasant, is it?

If we can't possibly use time dilation to return to the past, is it forever inaccessible? Not really. At least theory wise, it is not. Einstein proposed that time travel into the past is possible and could be achieved through what is now known as an 'Einstein-Rosen bridge', a type of wormhole.

Well, if you've watched stranger things, you'd be aware of what a wormhole is, but for those who haven't, a wormhole is basically a tunnel, or a curve in the space time continuum that connects two very distant points in space. As of now, we believe this is impossible for the simple reason, wormholes are not stable enough, and exist for extremely short amounts of time. Supposedly, even if a wormhole was stable, it would require certain knowledge of particles and the way they behave, and we simply do not have that yet. For example, hypothetical particles and states of matter that exist, and they have certain physical properties that would go against everything we know about physics, such as a particle having a negative mass. It is either we are right about what we know, or we simply do not know anything.



Art by Ira Sabharwal X-C

India Rising: The Battle for Glory in Valorant's International Arena

Pranav Dudeja XI-E

E-sport, or competitive video gaming, has gained tremendous popularity in recent years with millions of players and viewers around the world. The Valorant Champions Tour (VCT) is one of the biggest and most prestigious e-sports competitions in the world, attracting top teams and players from around the globe. The VCT "Lock In" is a major tournament that takes place at the beginning of the year, setting the stage for the rest of the season. In this analysis, I will explore the impact of global e-sports played on an international stage in VCT Lock In and its impacts on the Indian gaming industry.

Firstly, e-sports being played internationally is a huge step for our country because it provides a platform for Indian players and teams to showcase their skills and compete with the best in the world. India has a large and growing e-sports scene, with a passionate fan base and talented players. However, Indian e-sports have often been overlooked on the global stage, with few opportunities for Indian players to compete against the best teams from other countries. The VCT Lock-In provides a chance for Indian players and teams to make a name for themselves and demonstrate their abilities on the international stage.

Secondly, the tournament has a strong effect on the Indian subcontinent because it can help in increasing awareness and interest in e-sports in the country. India is home to an ever-growing loyal fanbase for e-sports among the youth of the nation. However, many people in India are still not familiar with e-sports and do not understand its potential as a medium for competition and entertainment. By participating in the VCT Lock In, Indian players and teams can help to raise the profile of e-sports in India and showcase its potential to a wider audience.



Finally, the multiple and prestigious opportunities provided to organizations and players during this tournament are a major factor in highlighting the growth of this industry to the populace. The e-sports industry is booming, and there are many opportunities for organizations and businesses to succeed and thrive. By participating in the VCT Lock In, Indian e-sports organizations can gain exposure and recognition on the international stage, which can help to attract investors and partners and facilitate growth.

In conclusion, e-sports played on an international stage in VCT Lock In can become a source of great development for India, as they provide a platform for Indian players and teams to showcase their skills, increase awareness and interest in e-sports in the country, and provide opportunities for Indian e-sports organizations and businesses to grow and succeed.

As e-sports continues to grow and evolve, India has the potential to become a major player in the global e-sports scene, and the VCT Lock-In is an important step in that direction.

Lost in the Fire

Mandovi Ray Chaudhuri IX-B



Art by Rushaan Basak XI-F

Once the single greatest archive of knowledge in the ancient world, the Library of Alexandria is now lost to history. The story of its destruction is a question mark, multiple different accounts make it hard to establish a clear explanation. Let's explore why this foundation is a legendary marvel till this point in time.

The year was 332 BCE when Alexander the Great founded the city of Alexandria to be the capital of his new Egyptian dominion. Subsequently, his successor, Ptolemy I Soter, was the one who established the "Mouseion" or the Royal Library of Alexandria in 283 BCE. It was a shrine of the Muses modelled after the Lyceum of Aristotle in Athens. The structure was not limited to just the Library; it encompassed lectures areas, gardens, a zoo and one shrine devoted to each Muse. It was funded by the royal family. Scholars, scientists, poets, writers, linguists, copyists and other members of the Mouseion lived there, free of charge, and were provided with meals and some form of salary. Why would such patronage be provided? The purpose was to allow the greatest minds of the era to fully dedicate themselves to study, writing and teaching, free from all mundane distractions of a daily life.

Housing around half a million manuscripts in its heart and home to over a hundred scholars, the library was so brimming with knowledge it had a "daughter library" at the Temple of Serapis.

The contents comprised of a bulk of Greek literature, a corpus of Egyptian records as well as documents from other nations. There are some very interesting stories on how all these books came to be at the library. One such riveting tale is that of how Ptolemy III managed to obtain the original texts of the great dramatic poets Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides. It goes as such- The choice texts were safely stored in the Athenian state archives, forbidden to be let out.

However, Ptolemy III was able to convince the governors of Athens to allow the texts to be borrowed by him to make copies. To guarantee that they would be returned in perfect condition, a pledge of 15 talents of silver (1 talent is worth about \$23,000 in today's currency) was deposited in Athens. When the time came for the texts to be returned after having copies made of them, the king sent back the duplicates! He kept the originals for the Library. The pledge of silver was willingly forfeited.

Now, what became of it? The great Library unfortunately seems to have not lasted beyond 6 centuries. History names many culprits behind its destruction so the mystery is not due to a lack of them but rather an abundance of them.

The first of them, most notably, is Julius Caesar himself. He was obstructed by boats in the harbours of Alexandria, on his pursuit of Pompey into Egypt in 48 BCE. Faced with this block he ordered the boats to be burned, and flames, having consumed the boats, spread to the city and the Library. But the Library endured even after this loss; records exist of Mark Antony having given Cleopatra 200,000 more scrolls for the Library, well after Caesar's attack.

Along came the second blow, when Theophilus, who was Patriarch of Alexandria from 385 to 412 CE, turned the institution into a Christian church. The texts held in it were apparently destroyed by the Christians who moved into it followingly. The final straw was supposedly when Alexandria came under Muslim rule. The Muslim ruler, Caliph Omar, held the stance that the library's contents would "either contradict the Koran, in which case they are heresy, or they will agree with it, so they are superfluous." The materials took 6 months to burn. These three are not the only ones that fingers have been pointed at however.

Historians argue and debate till date as to who exactly is responsible. But the only conclusion that can be inferred from this for sure is that, with the loss of the wonderful Library of Alexandria, a treasure of knowledge and a remarkable piece of history was lost as well.

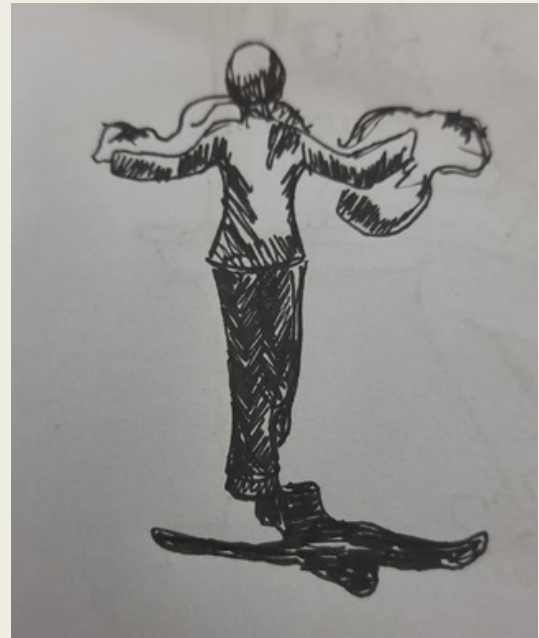
The Mysterious Serbian Dancing Lady: Fact or Fiction?

Pranav Dudeja XI-E

The Serbian Dancing Lady, also known as the Dancing Shadow, is an urban myth that has captured the attention of people around the world. This myth revolves around a mysterious lady who is said to dance in a peculiar manner on the streets of Serbia at night. The myth gained widespread attention through videos shared on social media platforms, sparking debates about the authenticity of the phenomenon.

Let's delve into the details and explore the mystery surrounding the Serbian Dancing Lady.

According to the legend, the Serbian Dancing Lady fell in love with a man from another village, but her love was not accepted by her family. As a result, her spirit is believed to haunt rural areas of Serbia, where she can be seen dancing and singing melancholic songs. It is said that encountering her brings misfortune and ultimately leads to death. This myth is deeply ingrained in Serbian culture, inspiring various artistic expressions such as music, literature, and film.



Art by Rushaan Basak XI-F

In February 2023, a 12-second video surfaced on TikTok, featuring a woman dancing in the streets of Zvezdara, Belgrade. The video, filmed from a nearby house, shows the woman dressed in a traditional Serbian costume, swaying her hands and moving her heels in a repetitive pattern. The video quickly went viral, garnering millions of views and sparking fear among internet users.

The authenticity of the Serbian Dancing Lady remains a subject of intense debate. Some believe that the phenomenon is real, citing personal encounters and the long-standing folklore surrounding the myth. Others argue that the videos could be staged or manipulated, and question the credibility of the sightings. Despite efforts to investigate the truth behind the Serbian Dancing Lady, concrete evidence has yet to be presented.

The Serbian Dancing Lady continues to captivate the imagination of people worldwide. Whether she is a real supernatural entity or a product of urban legend, the mystery surrounding her remains unsolved. The myth has become a cultural phenomenon, sparking curiosity and fascination among those who seek to uncover the truth. Until an unmistakable sign of her existence emerges, the Serbian Dancing Lady will continue to dance her way through the realms of folklore and popular culture, leaving us to wonder about the boundaries between fact and fiction.

Minimalist Wardrobe Towards a Sustainable Tomorrow

Rubani Singh Tyagi IX-B

Has it ever struck you, just how many clothes you possess? Do you dread the moment when you realise that you need to organise your wardrobe? This clothes-o-phobia is understandable, but take a moment to question yourself, "Can I make a change in my lifestyle?". Your dream can become reality, and one that is environmentally friendly as well. Minimalism is the perfect key to unlock doors to plausible solutions. Owning a colossal wardrobe is a threat to nature, too. Let's see how.

There are multiple ways through which micro-plastics enter our waterways, but a significant contributor to this problem is our clothing. Almost all of our clothes have synthetic fibres in them (plastic) which break down every time we wash our clothes, leading to another refill of micro-plastics into the oceans and seas. Minimalism is a method everyone can adapt to. Today, consumerism is becoming a problem, silently taking over our lives. Let's work responsibly towards SDG 12 : Responsible Consumption and Production, a leap in not owning more and using less, rather owning less and using to its full capacity.

Why To Work Towards A Minimalist Wardrobe

Advertisers will do anything to get their products to sell. A lot of us are personalities who love clothes and buying extensively is what we work towards. However the truth is that we are never satisfied with what we already have!

In our wardrobes, never-ending articles of clothes we "hardly" wear surround what we "love" to wear. Do we ever think of how much simpler everyday life would be if we had lesser choices of what to wear? We need to learn to use what we have and love. Though surprising, having three to four pairs of shoes is sufficient to last a long period of time.

Working towards a Minimalist Wardrobe also helps us find out our true style. Everything doesn't suit a person. This can help us contribute to preserving the resources we have on Earth. The less we consume, the less we produce but how can we go about this?



"Take your pick. But remember; the Earth is one."

To Work Towards A Minimalist Wardrobe

Minimalism is aimed towards students and adults alike. Students were made to lead a life of simplicity and focus, not fashion and distraction. To start off, make yourself a 1-3 year planner, on how

1. Make 3 piles of clothes including those you are emotionally attached to, one of clothes you are unsure of, and one of the clothes you are completely sure about giving away.
2. Get yourself a wardrobe that can take all the clothes you wish to keep, as well as shoes and accessories. This way, all your possessions are in one place.
3. Always give your clothes room to breathe. Maintain your Minimalist Wardrobe the way it pleases you, for example an aesthetic or neutral look.

Make sure to use clothes you keep to their full capacity and only get yourself new ones when you are completely convinced that they are essential.

Swap with friends, donate to charity, and send to responsible recycling programs.

1. Example of a Minimalist Wardrobe-
2. 5-6 shirts and T-shirts together
3. 3-4 pants (All seasons)
4. 2-3 sweaters and jackets
5. 2-3 pairs of shoes (all kinds)
6. Limited accessories and jewellery

In the words of Leo Tolstoy, "Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself." Doing it alone can make our efforts feel worthless, but this multiplied by millions of people is a certain leap in responsible consumption.

Medical Emergencies and First Aid Response Session by Dr. Joshi

Rubani Singh Tyagi IX-B

A comprehensive session on handling Medical Emergencies and First Aid was organized by the Synapse Club (Biology club) of The Mother's International school on Tuesday, 9th May in the duration of the SEWA club periods. The aim of the session was simple - to equip the audience, that is the students, with the necessary knowledge and skills to respond effectively during medical emergencies that may arise within the school premises or in their daily lives.

Held in the Hall of Grace, it lasted for approximately an hour and 15 minutes. The audience comprised students from all Science SEWA clubs, along with their Teachers in-charge. The session was conducted by Dr. Medha Joshi, an expert in the field, who has been a part of the Medical fraternity for over 35 years and is currently practicing in the field of General Medicine in the Fosma Maritime Institute, Noida. Abhishek Bhattacharya (grade 11) and Rohan (grade 12) introduced her to the students. Dr. Joshi began the session by emphasizing the importance of first aid and its crucial role in saving lives before professional medical help arrives.

As a measure of reinforcement and observation based learning, the visiting doctor practically demonstrated and explained the correct procedures for administering first aid, including

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, dealing with burns, convulsions, cuts, fractures and other physical trauma.

Towards the end of the session, participants had the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification on various topics related to first aid and medical emergencies. Dr. Joshi aptly addressed their queries and provided additional insights and examples of extremely relatable situations to enhance their understanding.

The session ended with a Vote of thanks delivered by Sanskriti Gaur (grade 11) and Jeeya Chauhan (grade 9) after which Dr. Joshi was presented with a gift by the Science faculty members including Ms. Sharmila Banerjee, Ms. Anjali Sareen and Ms. Meghna Pohani, on behalf of the school to express gratitude and appreciation for a well conducted and insightful session of great importance.



Art by Rushaan Basak XI-F

Anger and Ego

Eshita Rakesh IX-C

Conflict is the disagreement of thoughts when two opposite thoughts emerge from the same source. If the source is your own mind then the conflict may be called the 'conflict within'. Don't we often say, "My head is saying one thing and my heart another"? We know that neither the head nor the heart generates thoughts. Differing thoughts emerge from the same space, The Mind Space. Though an invisible conflict, it could be more serious than a physical conflict.

A mind that battles conflicting thoughts isn't peaceful. Some of us are at the top, close to liberation, the awakened soul, and others at the bottom of spiritual evolution, close to ignorance. The person at the top too suffers, he too has emotions, and he too enjoys an ice cream. He isn't a robot. He hasn't renounced his worldly duties but is engaged in life.

A scientist who doesn't feel frustrated can never research. A social activist who feels no anger can never provoke change. An entrepreneur without desire cannot create an empire. Yet we are told that we must detach ourselves from anger, ego, and desire, as these are undesirable characteristics.

Perhaps there is no contradiction here but misunderstanding. Anger, ego and desire help us perform worldly functions. They could be positive attributes of a spiritually settled soul but dangerous in an ignorant soul. Who is in control?

If a mind is controlled by empirical thoughts that owe their existence to human characteristics of pain, pressure, anger, ego and desire, then the soul is ignorant. When it is occupied by thoughts that originate from consciousness and are used to implement intuitive thought, then the soul is spiritually settled. For spiritually settled people, "empirical" and intuitive thoughts converge and the result is positive.



Art by Eshita Rakesh IX-C

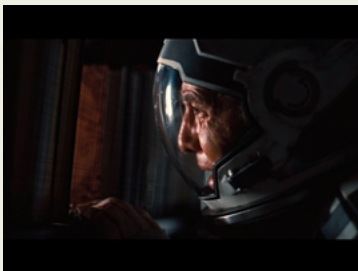
Interstellar: Nolan's Epic Sci-Fi Odyssey

Geethakrishna Muvvala XII-E

Are we truly alone in the vast expanse of the universe, or do other habitations exist beyond the boundaries of Earth? This question has aroused curiosity in many minds. As we peer up at the night sky and look at the stars, we can't help but wonder: could there be other civilizations out there, flourishing on distant planets? In "Interstellar," we witness a desperate Earth on the brink of collapse, urging humanity to look to the stars for life. The film takes us on a cosmic rollercoaster, highlighting the mysteries that lie beyond our reach. This sci-fi epic not only captivates us with its breathtaking visuals and mind-blowing concepts but delves into the psychological aspects of human behavior, resilience, and the pursuit of personal interests.

Are we truly alone in the vast expanse of the universe, or do other habitations exist beyond the boundaries of Earth? This question has aroused curiosity in many minds. As we peer up at the night sky and look at the stars, we can't help but wonder: could there be other civilizations out there, flourishing on distant planets? In "Interstellar," we witness a desperate Earth on the brink of collapse, urging humanity to look to the stars for life. The film takes us on a cosmic rollercoaster, highlighting the mysteries that lie beyond our reach. This sci-fi epic not only captivates us with its breathtaking visuals and mind-blowing concepts but delves into the psychological aspects of human behavior, resilience, and the pursuit of personal interests.

"Interstellar" explores the indomitable nature of the human spirit and the relentless pursuit of survival. The movie paints a haunting picture of Earth, affected by an environmental collapse that will lead to its apocalypse, where our protagonist, Cooper (Matthew McConaughey), finds himself torn between love for his family and a higher calling to save humanity. One of the most striking themes in the movie emerges through Michael Caine's powerful dialogue "Do not go gentle into that good night, old age should burn and rave at close of day; Rage, rage against the dying of the light." This poetic verse serves as a mantra for the characters, pushing them to fight against the inevitable, to resist surrendering in the face of adversity. Their collective struggle embodies the human refusal to yield even in impossible circumstances.



The film further explores the psychological depths of Cooper when he discovers the tesseract, an otherworldly construct that transcends the confines of space-time. He is deeply moved when he sees a heart-wrenching flashback of his daughter, Murph, pleading with him to "Stay." This moment is a testament to the film's ability to tug at the heartstrings of the audience, evoking a profound sense of love, sacrifice, and longing. Nolan masterfully portrays this moment, highlighting Cooper's vulnerability, regret, and the haunting weight of his choices.

The movie also delves into the darker aspects of human nature. The pursuit of personal interests and survival often blurs moral boundaries, leading some characters to betray the greater good for their own agendas such as Dr. Mann's betraying and manipulating the crew into rescuing him and taking him to the last viable planet for humans.

Christopher Nolan's direction in "Interstellar" is nothing short

of remarkable. His unparalleled vision and innovative storytelling techniques transport the audience on an emotional ride. With exceptional attention to detail, Nolan crafts a realistic portrayal of space exploration, through mesmerizing cinematography and complementing it with Hans Zimmer's soulful score. His ability to blend intellectual concepts with human emotions results in a movie resonating deeply with viewers, leaving them spellbound and introspective.

In the end, "Interstellar" reminds us that in the face of uncertainty, it is our emotions and connections that define us, as we journey through the darkness of the unknown.



Is There Another You?

Aliya Sarkar Verniers X-D

Is there another me? That's an idea we've entertained ever since we were little, and we were first told about doppelgangers. Wouldn't it be astonishing if there were more than one of you out there? The same person, reading this text at this exact moment, or perhaps someone in a parallel world who is somewhat different, and is the Prime Minister?

Speaking from a physicist's point of view, one would look at a few factors to determine whether there is another you. First, we would look at the chances of your very existence. You, sitting here, reading this article in this newsletter, perhaps with a cool drink or a tilt of head, and are only in your current state due to many, many previous events - from the moment the Sun was formed of gas and dust, to the time Charles Dickens began A Tale of Two Cities with 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times', to the time Elon Musk (for some obscure reason) shot his car into space, and to the moment you opened this newsletter. It has literally taken the shift of every minuscule atom and earthquake for the world to be as it is at this moment, including you. From this, one could conclude that you are very, very improbable. Your creation is extremely unique, and to replicate it once, let alone an infinite number of times, sounds like folly. However, it would not be impossible.

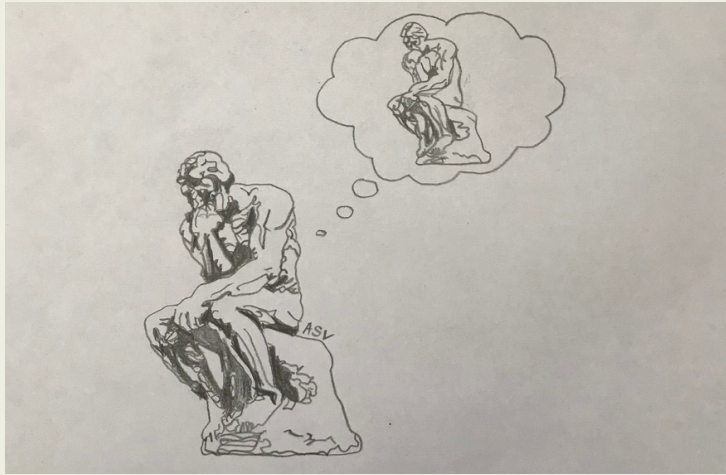
Star Trek, Doctor Strange, Doctor Who and so many other sci-fi stories involve the idea of the multiverse: in short, the theory that our universe is one amongst infinite universes. One variation speculates that each universe is just a slight bit different. Physicists got this idea while they were racking their brains about how, sometimes, our universe is just so random. For example, why is the value of gravitational acceleration 9.8? Why not 10? Or 1? Or a number a little less imperfect?

Well, if each universe were to have small differences multiplied by infinity, somewhere or the other, the values would be 1, or 10. We just happen to live in

the universe which has randomly, by celestial lottery, drawn the '9.8' straw.

Another such instance occurs in quantum physics. An electron decides to bounce right. Why not left? Well, "Just because" it is not good enough for physicists. The quantum multiverse speaks of a multiverse in which, whenever one thing happens and not the other, the universe splits in two, or multiple, to accommodate every infinite possibility that could have occurred. Simply, in another universe, you blinked five milliseconds before you did just now, and variation upon variation until infinity. Now apply the multiverse to yourself. According to these theories, there might be an infinite number of "yous" out there, and they could be practically the same, or slightly different.

So, you can rest assured that, whether you find it marvelous or terrifying, there may well be another of you out there.



Art by Aliya Sarkar Verniers X-D

Was Barbie Worth Watching ?

Navya Gupta, X-D

It's time to answer the obvious question going around in every person's mind these days... is it worth watching? Is Barbie worth watching? As soon as the first teaser of the movie came out, everyone, including me, had many different interpretations about this movie. Some said it was "too girly", while the others believed it was "too pink". As a matter of fact, even I had different expectations from the movie initially. I felt as if I was just going to another one of Hollywood's cheesy rom-coms. However, as more and more clips and trailers were posted, people's opinions changed too, and finally the movie was released on the 21st of July, with an amazing cast, starring Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling, Emma Mackey and many other great artists, who gave a brilliant performance.

The movie had a satirical, quirky start. It first talked about how smoothly things worked in the magnificent "Barbie Land". The writers of the movie had portrayed the exchange of gender roles in a very light and entertaining way, almost like a parody in the first half; how all the Barbies did the official, corporate work of their world while the Ken dolls sat back and did household chores. Initially, there were a lot of jokes, mockeries and funny scenes, however, the second half was filled with deep, emotional and serious scenes, talking about various social issues faced by women in everyday life, as well as the issues faced by men. The movie begged the question, what is a woman's identity alone, other than being attached to a man in her life, who is she as a woman? The movie also talked about how the Ken dolls are not valued enough in the Barbie world.

Some people feel that while the first half of the movie was light-hearted and entertaining, the second half was the complete opposite. Some people believed it had too many over dramatic speeches, while some considered the speeches and the dialogues well structured and even had goosebumps while hearing them.

The creativity and the cheerfulness of the movie really sidelined its edginess for many people. On the other hand, it is also said that the movie had turned the whole genre, for which it was marketed, upside down. It converted from a light, humorous movie to a serious, emotional one, which was really disappointing for many people.

Many men were delighted to see how the movie spoke about a man's social issues too, and how difficult it is for them to face society. Needless to say, Ryan Gosling's outstanding performance made it all worth it. However, some feel that the movie has portrayed men as weak, and emotionally inferior to women. I feel that a man should also be able to express his emotions, his feelings should also be valued and it's okay to cry, to feel sad and emotional both for a man, and a woman.

The ending has its own fanbase, as well as haters. The movie had an open ending; it was open to interpretation whether a sequel of the movie will be produced or not. While the ending may have surprised and satisfied many viewers, it was confusing for many, too. Like I said, that is how open ended movies are...open to interpretation. Therefore, based on all the theories out there about the film, it's finally your call whether to watch it or not.



14 Julliet: A Commemoration of Culture and Revolutionary Valour

Aliya Sarkar Verniers X-D

We all know about the cultural richness of our school and the importance it gives to celebrate and pay tribute to such various edifying commemorations.

One of these is most definitely 14 julliet or Bastille Day. The 14th of July brought about much excitement and

anticipation amongst the students of MIS. It was an occasion to remember for both the students who participated in and organised the events as well as those students who watched and listened to the assemblies that were held and of course, the teachers who made the entire event possible.

Bastille Day is celebrated as the French National Day in France, on the day that marked the beginning of a revolution 234 years ago, one that would go on to transform the country completely and also inspire social, political and cultural changes around the world.

The celebrations began with the French Quiz, which attracted a host of students to display their savviness on all matters French and francophone and, of course, learn more about French culture. While the participants whispered amongst their groups for the best answer, so did the audience.

Then came the day to bring French culture into the assembly hall- with poetry recitations and songs of the revolution! With Debussy playing as people entered the hall, we all got the opportunity to sample history and have a taste of the momentous revolution with the brilliant performances on liberty, equality and fraternity. The sheer effort put in by both the reciters and singers to perfect their tone, their accents and their musicality blew away the audience and the distinguished judges. Students across classes ventured into uncharted territory and, though they were nervous, filled the assembly hall with the harmonies of the French revolution with talent and passion.

As the judges made their difficult decisions, two ballet variations were performed, with one having music composed by Maurice Jarre and being based on Victor Hugo's novel 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame'. The performance painted the stage not only in pirouettes and lithe movements but also messages of the revolutionary struggle that the French people had to fight. This combination enraptured the audience.

Finally, to conclude the celebrations with a triumphant bang, the students of class VII, with their enthusiasm and pluck, entered the stage in reds, whites and blues to sing the French National Anthem- La Marseillaise. Finally, people filed out of the hall, enamoured and amazed, discussing the day's performances.

Two days were thus spent in enjoyment and wonder, exploring the history and culture of France together. We each learned something new and strengthened our international bonds with France in the process. By learning about each other's cultures, we step into one another's shoes. That mutual understanding, respect and knowledge is what weaves our worlds together and unites us all as people.



Beyond the glitter and tulle: Encapsulating the True Essence of Ballet

Saanvi Sharma IX-E

As children, we have all undoubtedly seen, whether in storybooks, on TV, or in movies, a dainty little character with flowing arms and a fluffy dress waltzing about on her very tip-toes in beautiful pink satin slippers, captivating the gaze of everyone who looks at her, including us. This is the ballerina-effortless, beguiling, and magical.

Even though in our popular culture, the art of ballet is often overlooked as a mere girlish production of theatre, this is not the case. When ballet first emerged around the 15th century in the courts of Italy, it wasn't athletic with high jumps and turns. It was much more docile with small steps and slight arm movements. In fact, the satin slippers called pointe shoes, now integral to ballet, did not exist at all. The shoes were flat, and the dresses were long and heavy. This renaissance ballet was used in courts while hosting political guests from other countries. It was essentially a political form of entertainment, reserved only for the highest echelons of nobility.

So, how did it evolve into what we know today? The art travelled to France due to Louis XIV. He was so enamored by the dance that he established the Royal Academy of Dance in France, where orphans and peasant children came in the hopes of living a better life under the academy's patronage. In France, ballet was further developed, and the fundamental positions and steps of ballet were created and named in the Royal Academy. Those who excelled were then provided with promising careers in the Royal Opera, where they gained fame,

recognition, and many accolades. However, the shoes were still not pointe shoes; they had sprouted heels and become more supportive. The true origins of pointe shoes can be traced back to the 18th century, the Romantic era. Here, Marie Taglioni, an Italian ballerina, daughter of a shoemaker, had an idea. On the opening night of "La Sylphide," dressed in an airy white dress, she put on her new invention—a wooden shoe with silk ribbons. As the stage filled with fog, she gracefully glided across it, becoming the embodiment of the Sylph. She mesmerized every member of the audience. No one could understand how she had achieved it, yet the ballet was a tremendous success.

During the Romantic era, ballet also reached the Russian Empire, where geniuses like Tchaikovsky and Minkus composed brilliant pieces such as "Swan Lake," "The Nutcracker," and "Don Quixote." Choreographers like Marius Petipa choreographed ballets like "Giselle," "The Sleeping Beauty," and "La Bayadère."

Ballet underwent a true revolution in Europe. During this time, George Balanchine, a Russian dancer who had travelled to New York City, established a small theatre company under his name. A student of Petipa, Balanchine was determined to follow in his master's footsteps. He modernized ballet with more avant-garde costuming, dramatic movements, and music compositions that included hints of vivacious jazz within their otherwise classical nature. His modernization was a hit with American audiences. Following this success, ballet as we know it today began to take shape.

The success of the iconic Christmas ballet, "The Nutcracker," attracted families year after year. Both children and parents were captivated. Subsequently, ballet started to be showcased on TV, a tradition that continues even today in Russia. Children's storybooks and cartoons began using the richness of ballet for entertainment, reaching an even wider audience. Thus, one day, you and I, while sitting in front of our TV sets or reading books like "Angelina Ballerina," were awestruck by all the glitter, flamboyance, and sheer fun of it all, yet remained unaware of the true facts behind this magical art.



Art by Rushaan Basak XI-F

Lack of Representation in Bollywood: A Look Beyond the Glamour

Anya Gupta XI-B

Bollywood, one of the most dynamic and influential film industries, undeniably acts as a bridge connecting its vast audience belonging to innumerable diverse communities. It produces a plethora of films every year, captivating the world with its vibrant dance, music and cinematic experiences. With that being said, it is equally important to shed light on the fact that the industry is severely lacking in terms of diversity.

With limited representation of marginalised communities and extremely little progress, it becomes necessary to feature actors from communities such as LGBTQ+, Dalits, Adivasis and acknowledge their narratives. In cases where they have found resonance on the silver screen, they have been subjected to mockery, caricatures and derogatory portrayals. This acts as a hindrance to social progress and inhibits a culture of inclusivity.

Statistics also reveal that there is still a significant pay gap between women and men with extreme underrepresentation and relegation of women to stereotypical roles. Immense gender bias remains prevalent both on screen and behind the scenes, preventing creative decision making and reinforcing traditional gender norms.

Colourism, a deeply entrenched issue in India, is yet another barrier that the Indian cinema has failed to overcome. More often than not, actors and actresses with fairer skin tones have been favoured over those with darker complexions. This consigns them to inferior positions and limits their opportunities, fostering self doubt and insecurity.

The problems highlighted above undoubtedly give rise to a call for change. It is heartwarming to see winds of change sweeping through the industry but there is still a long way to go. It is vital to address these deeply ingrained biases, shatter glass ceilings and demand nuanced story telling and better representation to make strides towards a more equitable and empathetic cinematic environment.



Art by Rushaan Basak XI-F

Cyberchondria: The Risks of Online Health Research

Sneha Dogra XI-F

It is common knowledge that the Internet is a double-edged sword. We, as actively online individuals, should be aware of the hazards we might face on this platform. These may come about internally (for example, addiction) or externally (for example, online predators). Cyberchondria, which can be concisely described as Internet-induced hypochondria, is one example of a danger that is caused due to internal factors.

Hypochondria, or Illness Anxiety Disorder, is the psychiatric disorder which involves a preoccupation with the idea that uncomfortable or unusual physical sensations, more often than not insignificant, are an indication of a serious medical condition.

With the rapid advancement of technology and the Internet, it has become exceedingly easy to enter your symptoms into a search bar and receive a myriad of diagnoses. While this may prove to be useful and help people make educated decisions about their health and medical treatment in some cases, it is merely a source of unnecessary concern in many others. From this, stems the unfortunate clinical phenomenon known as “Cyberchondria”.

Most definitions of cyberchondria indicate online health research associated with heightened distress or anxiety, and its two theoretical models.

The first, involves specific metacognitive beliefs. For instance, one such belief might be that an individual needs to be 100% certain that they are healthy, which can lead to incessant searching and worrying about health-related symptoms. Another can be the belief that one is uniquely vulnerable to health problems or that one's symptoms are indicative of a very serious condition, which can intensify anxiety and fear. The second involves excessive reassurance seeking (ERS), derived from the first model, in which the individual goes to great lengths to ensure good health (aside from the necessary routine health checkups), often wasting their money and the valuable time of healthcare workers.



Art by Rushaan Basak XI-F

Studies show that there is a direct link between Internet addiction and cyberchondria. One study (involving students) describes how time spent online, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, led to at least 50% of Internet users searching for online health-related information, with 56% of them self-diagnosing using the information available online.

Due to a lack of medical knowledge and accuracy, external influences, and biases, self-diagnosis can be very dangerous and can easily aggravate the individual's anxiety. Conversely, individuals may be more prone to becoming Internet-addicted if they have both proximal (pre-existing mental health problems) and distal (behavioural / environmental factors that have an indirect causal influence on a specific disease outcome) risk factors.

Cyberchondria is a growing concern in today's digital age, as more and more individuals turn to the internet for health information and resources. By taking a proactive approach to managing our online health activities, we can safeguard ourselves from any detrimental ramifications that may come about with this change in use of health resources and maintain a healthy relationship with technology. The Internet is not, and never will be, a substitution for the personalised and expert care provided by medically trained healthcare professionals.

Dual Leadership on the Football Field: An Interview with Shauryya Nirwal and Shaurya Narayan, Captain and Vice-Captain of the Football Team

Anya Gupta and Kashvi Kapoor XI-B

A: How long was the preparation for the prestigious Jauhar Cup and what was the process like?

Shauryya Nirwal: We trained for the tournament for nearly four months. We started out in April with about 40 people coming for morning games. Our highly supportive football coaches, Bagga Sir and Harish Sir shortlisted the players in May. Our main focus, initially, was to gauge an idea of the skills of the squad which would play in the Step By Step tournament and subsequently, the Jauhar Cup. The efforts put in by each and every member of the team, truly, are commendable.

K: What according to you was the most satisfactory aspect of being a captain? What challenges did you face while leading the team?

Shauryya Nirwal: The most satisfactory aspect of leading the team was watching the players play with extreme grit, passion and determination. The extreme challenge I faced while being captain was motivating my teammates when we squandered. It was equally challenging to maintain discipline on and off the field.

All in all, captaining the team was an immensely gratifying and enlightening experience for me and I am truly grateful for having received the opportunity to do so.

A: How would the team handle football-related injuries during practice as well as the actual match?

Shaurya Narayan: Handling football-related injuries during practice and matches requires quick action and team support. Our main centre back, Priyanshu, and several other players were injured just when the tournament was around the corner. Despite these setbacks, they continued to play due to limited options. Emphasizing warm-up routines, proper techniques, and swift medical attention during practice helped prevent injuries, thus creating a resilient team.

K: What strategy did you use to keep the team motivated in the face of adversity, such as when the other team scored a goal? What do you think was the team's greatest achievement during the span of the tournament?

Shaurya Narayan: In the quarter-final football match against Gyan Bharti School, falling behind a goal in the 10th minute could have demoralized us. However, having faced Gyan Bharti numerous times before, losing definitely wasn't an option. Our immediate positive reinforcement, resilient mindset, and quick communication allowed us to regroup

swiftly. Soon, we exploited our strengths, netting 2 goals within 5 minutes. This experience in particular, highlighted our ability to stay strong under pressure and execute strategies effectively.

A: Surely everyone experienced a mixed bag of emotions after the final match. How did the team deal with the outcome?

Shaurya Narayan: The aftermath of the final match against Step by Step School brought forth a range of emotions within the team. While the loss of 4-0 was disappointing, it provided a valuable lesson in dealing with immense pressure which seemed to overwhelm us on the field. Amidst this mixed emotional response, it was heartening to see the junior members of the team training on day one after the match. The importance of not only physical preparation but also building mental fortitude was highlighted as a result of the match.

K: What do you think the team can take away in terms of improvement and what advice would you offer to the future players?

Shauryya Nirwal: My advice to the future team is to build team bonding and chemistry well in advance, which is something we lacked this year. They can achieve this by simply spending time together in school, thus establishing trust and brotherhood. It is vital not only to practice consistently for physical preparation but also create a stronger mindset to deal with negative outcomes.

I truly hope the team wins the cup in the next tournament.



My Journey in School as a Dancer

Vaaniya Kumar XII-A

On a very ordinary morning, we were called to the dance room and were informed that we would be performing in a dance recital on Independence Day titled Bharatvarsham: The Spirit of Incarnate, an in-house artistic musical with varied dance forms and vibrant music creating a rich tapestry of rhythm and flow to the narration of excerpts from Sri Aurobindo's writings on Nationalism and India's role in the world. I was reluctant to commit at first, but we were talking about dancing, and I could never pass up an opportunity to dance. So, I joined this journey along with the other participants who were all eager to make it a success. Every morning began with stretching, followed by dance practice. Soon, morning practices were accompanied by run-throughs. I looked forward to the run-through the whole day so that I could escape from the stress of assignments and submissions and set foot into the world of dancing. The performance was soon, and it was time to pull our socks up. The preparations for an exciting performance were well underway. The props were being painted, the stage being set up and, measurements of costumes being taken, there was no scope of anything going wrong!

The day of the performance arrived, we woke up early and got ready. When we arrived at school, we all gathered together to do the last touch-ups and paid attention to the motivating words of Subhasish sir, who was also the choreographer of the dance. As we climbed up the stairs to the Hall of Aspiration, we heard nothing but our footsteps, The hall was quiet and soon the recitations began, this was our cue to start getting ready to perform. All of us were sitting with pin-drop silence, feeling jittery revising the steps for the last time. The feeling of nervousness can never be explained, how many ever times you may perform, it still remains. This time saw no change. It was then time for the performance to begin. We wished each other luck and went in to do our best. In no time the performance was over. We all gathered together for the curtain call and then celebrated. The practice we did for the past month was finally put into action. The performance received a great response from everybody who witnessed it.



Yet, beneath the celebrations, my emotions were filled with a hint of sorrow. Unlike my peers who celebrated the moment, I was rather sad; sad because this was one of my last performances in school. It made me trace back all the dances I have participated in, from class 1 to class 12. Each year allowed me to learn more about myself and further explore my love for dancing. What made me even more nostalgic and proud was when I met my playschool teacher who saw me performing. The tears in her eyes assured me that this wasn't the last time. All the compliments and blessings from teachers, parents, friends and especially Milan ma'am, Sanghamitra ma'am and Benu ma'am encouraged me to take part in more performances in future. This assembly was not just a learning experience but also a way for me to look back at my journey through the years as a performer. The assembly also inculcated a spirit of patriotism for our country and belonging to the values and ideologies our school has instilled in us.

Geopolitics in Flux: BRICS Nations Challenge U.S. Hegemony

Aditya Kadam and Lakshmeshree XII-A

Most Americans are close to total ignorance about the world. They are ignorant. That is an unhealthy condition in a country in which foreign policy has to be endorsed by the people if it is to be pursued. And it makes it much more difficult for any president to pursue an intelligent policy that does justice to the complexity of the world.

The global geopolitical environment has seen substantial shifts in recent years, with the rise of new power centers threatening the United States' long-standing supremacy. The formation and expansion of BRICS, a coalition of five large rising economies - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa - is one of the most prominent developments in this shifting balance of power. To comprehend present geopolitical dynamics and the countries joining BRICS, we must first examine the history of US hegemony, including the petrodollar system, before delving into contemporary political reality and future projections.

For a significant period of the century post-World War II, the United States has enjoyed unmatched global influence and economic dominance. The aforementioned hegemony was supported by a variety of factors, such as US technological achievements, military prowess, and the dollar's position as the primary reserve currency in the globe. This economic dominance was established by the early 1970s advent of the petrodollar system. The petrodollar system was an agreement among oil-producing countries to only price and trade oil in US dollars. In exchange, the United States provided military defense and support to these oil-rich countries. Due to the fact that 80% of all international trade is conducted in dollars, this mutually advantageous relationship generated demand for the dollar internationally and helped the United States maintain its economic dominance. With the fall of the Soviet Union and

America's widely anticipated victory, the world's politics changed from being bipolar to being unipolar, with the USA as the only superpower. However, over time, this arrangement has led to economic imbalances and geopolitical issues. Countries have expressed varying views on the US-led hegemony over the global order, which includes having a large effect on United Nations decisions, overthrowing other governments, dominating the global economy, and so on.

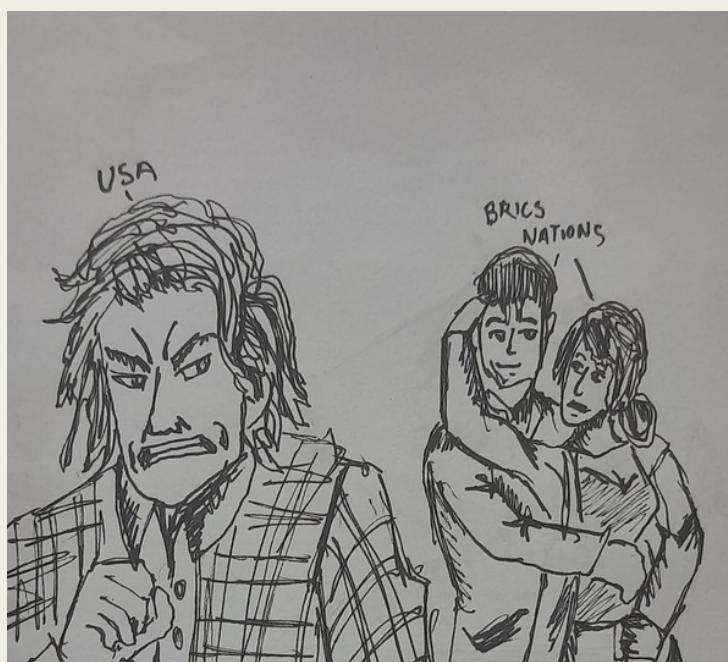
The global power balance has altered in recent decades. Since the 2010s, there has been an increase in the number of influential and expanding economies that have begun to play a significant role in global geopolitics. As a result of this change in trend, we are currently living in a multi-polar world, indicating that rather than having one (unipolar) or two (bipolar) dominant powers, power is now shared among a number of different states or "blocs of states". China's development as an economic giant, along with Russia's rebirth as a geopolitical force, has posed a challenge to US dominance. The geopolitical aspirations of rising superpowers like India, Brazil, and South Africa further exacerbate this transition.

China now boasts being the second-largest economy in the world because of its tremendous economic growth. With the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a major infrastructure and investment initiative spanning many continents, China's influence has grown around the world. Russia has reasserted itself on the global stage under President Vladimir Putin. Moscow's involvement in the Syrian conflict, as well as strategic alliances with nations such as Iran and Turkey, has enhanced its influence in the Middle East. India seeks to take on a bigger role in world events as a result of its sizable population and expanding economy. Its connections with both the United States and Russia demonstrate its diversification policy. It is anticipated that until 2050–2070, India will surpass the US and assume second place in the global economy. Brazil and South Africa, despite being less visible on the global stage, add to the diversity of the BRICS. They aim to advance their interests by leveraging their regional power and resources.



The BRICS recently announced the admission of six new members in an effort to restructure the global political order and create a counterweight to the United States and its allies. From the beginning of next year, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Argentina, the UAE and Ethiopia will join the ranks of BRICS. Saudi Arabia is a significant surprise for the US since the Saudis and Americans have always traded oil in dollars, but the Saudis are currently looking into alternative options for global oil trading. A possible result of this is a global de-dollarization, which would diminish the influence of the US on the international scene and be catastrophic for the US.

To summarise, the BRICS countries will continue with their economic growth, potentially exceeding the G7 in terms of GDP in the next few decades. Their political influence will rise as a result of this economic heft. In opposition to Western-run international institutions, the BRICS may intensify collaboration and build stronger geopolitical alliances.



Art by Rushaan Basak XI-F

This might result in alterations to international governance structures. China and Russia will work to lessen their dependence on the dollar in international trade. Members that already have extensive bilateral ties with China are unlikely to see an immediate economic gain from participation. The New Development Bank of the group is still quite modest.

Geopolitical tensions between the BRICS states and the US are likely to persist, with possible flashpoints in Ukraine, the South China Sea, and the Middle East. The entire globe continues to follow these dynamics with interest and some trepidation about how they will affect future international relations.

ART SECTION

The aim of art is to represent not the outward
appearance of things,
but their inward significance.

— Aristotle



Unveiling the Enigma

Eshita Rakesh, IX-C

The tiger, a living masterpiece of nature's art, sports a regal coat of burnt orange and bold, dark stripes. Its amber eyes reveal a wild mystique and intelligence. Graceful and powerful, it moves with purpose and agility through its lush habitat. A tail adorned with dark stripes serves as the perfect counterbalance to its form.

Mandala Art

Anoushka Jindal, XII-E

A Mandala (Sanskrit for "circle") is a representation of higher thought and deeper meaning given as a geometric symbol, used in spiritual, emotional, or psychological work to focus one's attention. In essence, mandalas represent the connection between our inner worlds and outer reality.



The Brushstroke of Heaven

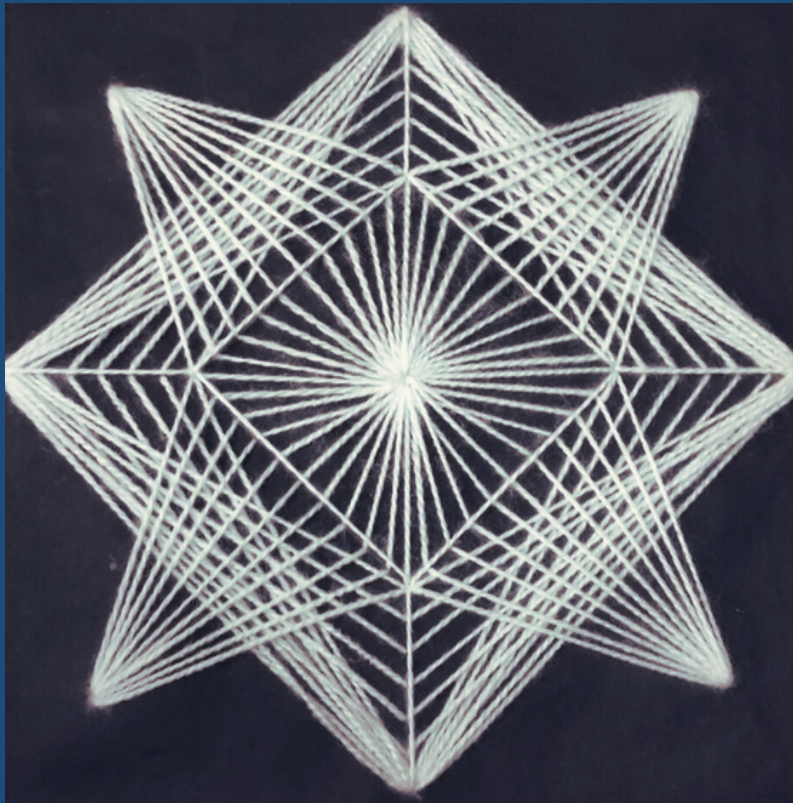
Eshita Rakesh, IX-C

Each evening, the sun gracefully sinks below the horizon, unfurling a magnificent sky. The heavens are painted with a palette of elegant colours, typically shades of orange, pink, and purple, which meld together in a harmonious symphony. Occasionally, delicate clouds add a layer of texture to this natural masterpiece. The gentle, warm light of the setting sun serves as a poignant reminder of the boundless beauty and wonder that the natural world offers.

Madhubani

Anoushka Jindal, XII-E

Madhubani painting is one of the many famous Indian art forms. As it is practiced in the Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal, it is called Mithila or Madhubani art. Often characterized by complex geometrical patterns, these paintings are known for representing ritual content for particular occasions, including festivals, religious rituals, etc. The colors used in Madhubani paintings are usually derived from plants and other natural sources.



Weaving Truth

Niharika Sehgal X-E

String art is characterised by an arrangement of thread stung between points to form geometric patterns. This art is a mental string art is an addicting artform that is inviting to the most experienced crafter and the new comer. This artform is one of the hidden gems that is sure to share joy through something unique and personalized that we design .

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

“There is one thing the photo must
contain – the humanity of the moment.”
– Robert Frank



Sunset's Last Kiss

Raddhika Garg, XI-C



Golden Rays and Rocky Shores

Simran Lall, IX-C



Rainbow After the Storm

Raddhika Garg, XI-C



Men At Work

Simran Lall, IX-C



Blackbuck and White

Malhar Mazumdar, XII-F



Musings By the Lakeside

Simran Lall, IX-C



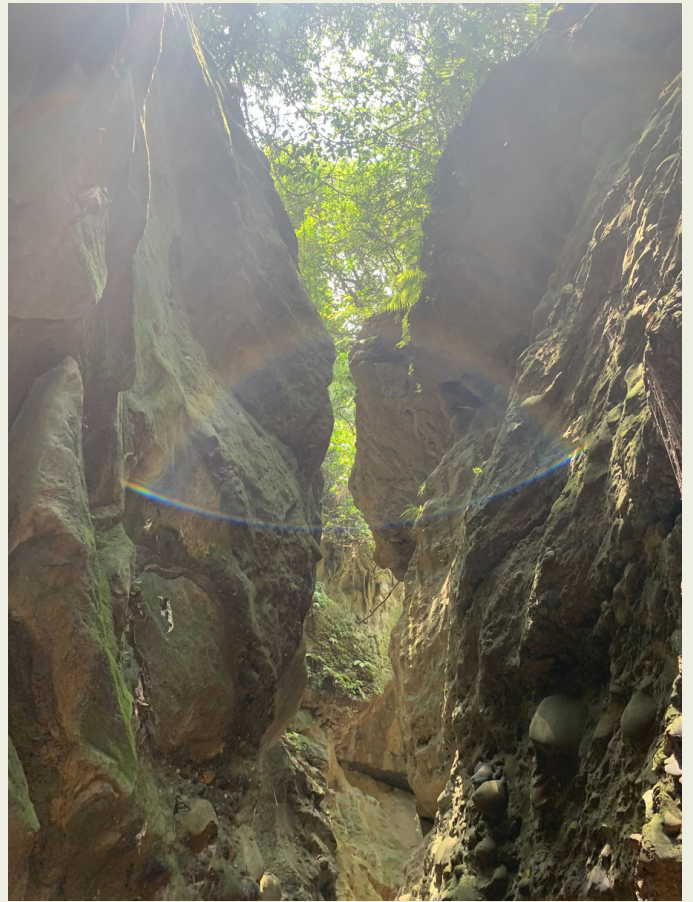
Golden Slumber

Malhar Mazumdar, XII-F



Inquisitive Eyes

Malhar Mazumdar, XII-F



Rainbow in the Cave

Simran Lall, IX-C



Mind of Innocence

Simran Lall, IX-C



Joy of Playtime

Shashwat Sagar, XII-F



First Quest for Dominance

Shashwat Sagar, XII-F

CALENDAR

Date	Event
2 Oct	Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday- GH
7 Oct	Parent-Teacher Meeting Senior Section (Holiday for Students)
10 Oct	World Mental Health Day: Classes 11-12
10-13 Oct	Mental Health Week: Classes 6-12
20-23 Oct	Autumn Break
24 Oct	Dussehra Holiday- GH
25 Oct	School resumes after Autumn Break
27 Oct	Samuhik Kavita Vaachan: Class 6 Cryptic Crossword- Alchemy Event: Classes 9-12
28 Oct	Maharishi Valmiki's Birthday- GH
31 Oct	National Unity Day: Classes 9-12
1 Nov	Karva Chauth- RH
4 Nov	Annual Physical Demonstration
9 Nov	Inter-House Geo-Map Quiz: Classes 6-10

MEET THE TEAM



Hridayansh Kherra
Head Editor



Shanvi Tanisha
Co-Head Editor



Pranika Singh
Associate Editor



Nitya Jain
Associate Editor



Dhara Mittal
Head of Design



Vanya Savara
Associate Head of Design



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Editor



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Editor



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Simran Lall
Designer



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Designer



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Bhavna Jain
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Dhruv Chhabra
Designer



Raddhika
Designer