

IIIrd Edition

THE

CROSSROADS

Anand Utsav Issue



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REIGNITING
THE FORGOTTEN



Ever rooted in Truth

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CIRS - An Emotion Beyond Words

The Chinmaya International Residential School came into being by the aegis of Swami Chinmayananda on June 6th, 1996.

From its humble origins with just 94 students and eight teachers, it now has 120 staff members and 575 students, hailing from India and 27 other countries.

Affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) - New Delhi and the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) - Geneva, Switzerland, CIRS is currently headed by the Chairman Swami Swaroopananda, the Global head of Chinmaya Mission.

Cradled by the magnificent hills of the Western Ghats, CIRS boasts of an impressive campus area with 80 acres of stunning flora and fauna.

"The serene view of the Velliangiri hill, combined with invigorating freshness of the CIRS culture, makes me crave to go back to my school", says Aryan Khedkar of Grade 12.'

The campus received the "Green School Award" by the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi.

"CIRS brings about a dynamic transformation within our students. primarily to foster soft skills and inculcate civilizational values to our children", says, Swami Anukoolananda - Resident Director, CIRS.

Smt. Shanti Krishnamurthy, the Director of Academics and Administration extols the school's uniqueness which stems from its implementation of the Chinmaya Vision Program. "CVP aims to bring about holistic transformation a student's life. It is Swami Chinmayananda's vision for education. CVP is the backbone for all academic and non-academic programs offered at our institution" she says.

CIRS was the 5th school in the country to offer the IB Diploma programme. Now, with an enriching experience of 22 years, CIRS stands tall as one among the premier IB schools in India.

"CIRS students have constantly exceeded excellence by achieving placements in most reputed universities world-over." says IB coordinator Shri Ganesh Eashwaran.

"CIRS personifies 'learning is fun'. CIRS has shaped me in ways I can't express in words" says Aparna Shivangi, an alumnus.

The school stands No. 1 in academic reputation, Pastoral care and Happiness quotient among the top co-ed boarding schools and is affirmed as the "most influential brand" by leading educational magazines over the years.

"CIRS students learn texts like the Ramayana and the Mahabharata and the Bhagavat Gita which helps foster high levels of enthusiasm, dynamism and happiness in them" says Br. Sanatan Chaitanya - Spiritual Guide

"Morning spiritual classes and evening prayer sessions helped me understand my strengths and weaknesses, and to achieve my goals" recounts Aishwarya Sudarshan, an alumnus who is a musician, dancer, public speaker and a budding event organiser.

The extra-curricular activities and hobby classes at CIRS range from music, dance and drama to photography, Vedic mathematics and ornithology. The vast campus at CIRS provides wonderful sports facilities that include football, cricket, basket-ball, tennis, athletics and badminton, etc.

CIRS has always been a happening place. Every Indian festival is celebrated with lots of fervour.

CIRS is also one of the very few schools that hosts TEDx-Youth events. This unique experience provides students with crucial organizing and marketing skills.

"I learned how to balance between all assigned tasks and understood the role of minute details helping me also handle other big programs dextrously." says alumnus Srishti Sarawgi, former core team member, TedxYouth@CIRS.

CIRS students who complete a minimum of 120 hours of Social-Service/Seva are awarded the Chinmaya Bal Sevak Certificate.

CIRS YouTube events this year involving both alumni and students have a staggering 35,000 views. CIRS is also equipped with its own recording studio to facilitate students in bringing out their creativity in music, theatre and oratory skills.

CIRS parents too closely work with the school providing help and guidance in varied avenues, like farming which happens on campus, setting up of the Audio-Visual Room and civil constructions.

CIRS is not just a school, but a scintillating emotion, a thriving phenomenon which touches the deepest core of a student's life, a memory which is cherished and loved by students even after their schooling. As I write this, my heart yearns to go back to my yonder years, just to take a peek into this monumental magic of Chinmaya, which spells greatness and strives to instil a grand vision in the citizens of tomorrow.

01 MASK-ERADE

by Pavni Mantri



All of us have different faces. Or so we think. In reality, everyone has a single face and an array of masks, each with its unique purpose.

Some wear a mask to gain sympathy, some to seek attention, while some wear them to hide their problems and maintain a cool façade.

Why do we wear a mask?
We wear a mask to avoid society's judgement. The fear that people will judge us by our exterior. It keeps us from taking off our masks and revealing ourselves. We never want to go that extra mile out of our comfort zones to ignore what everyone says.

It's like our brain builds walls, that trap us into a limited space and never let us explore the area beyond them. Being unique by nature is truly amazing, but wearing a mask just for the sake of being unique is unacceptable. At least, it was, and it still should be.

Nowadays wearing a mask to be unique is considered to be a life choice and more

often than not, we find that people in our close circles are also part of this life trend. When faced with hardships we take to wearing a mask.

Why? Why not just take it off and face the situation? You never know when help may come along.

Instead of seeking attention, perform feats that are worthy of other people's attention. Never try to gain sympathy, rise higher and become an emphatic person, don't just show pity and acknowledge the person's feelings.

You don't always need to be the strongest person in the room. It's okay to show vulnerability while facing problems. Nowadays being different from others in society makes you an outcast. More often than not, these different people end up forming a societal group.



Not everyone feels comfortable wearing a mask to fit in and they shouldn't feel the need to do so. People have the right to choose who they are and what they want to be for themselves.

To 'fit in' is to be the same as everyone around you. Sometimes wearing a mask isn't always the best choice, because wearing a mask to fit in means that you don't have any choice but to be the same.

Sometimes even we don't get a say in making decisions that may or may not affect our lives. How we want to be should always be our choice.

We see many instances of people wearing masks, especially in high school. The people who wear a mask try to portray themselves as strong and try to hide their weaknesses.

When we wear a mask, we are forsaking our true identity. Sometimes we start losing ourselves to our mask, our charade. We never take off the mask and be happy without our true nature.

Don't wear a mask just to impress a few people that don't like you, but instead sustain your true identity with the ample love that you get from your friends and family.

Remember, it does not matter what people say about you, because at the end of the day you are living for yourself. So, live with your own true identity. Free of the mask.

Metamorphose

**Opinions and comments came unasked for
It was nothing like the safe haven that sheltered me afore,
Tangles of perceptions and judgments formed a cocoon around me;
And I struggled to breathe -**

**It was suffocating, I...I...couldn't hold up anymore,
But with the fencing shackles of hurt and betrayal, I still managed to survive
Unlearning -**

**Slowly, the innate voice drowned deafening rigmaroles of confinement
When I stopped caring about the future and about others, came that transformation -
That metamorphosis of mine, into a carefree and insouciant butterfly!**

**My wings began to unfurl around me and I learnt to fly,
Beyond all the horizons that once bound me to a mulberry leaf;
Oh - isn't freedom sweet?**



- Reshmika S.V

02 REIGNITING THE FORGOTTEN

by Rohith C.B

Do you know who John Dalton, Isaac Newton, Copernicus, and Pythagoras are?

Many of you might. They are some of the most well-known scientists and mathematicians in the world. Their discoveries and inventions are a huge part of our lives.

But do we know who Bhaskaracharya, Baudhayana, Bharadwaj, and Aristarchus are? Well, not many of us do. They have also made great discoveries and inventions in the fields of science and mathematics.

One of the most widely used theorems in mathematics, The 'Pythagoras Theorem' was discovered by the well-known mathematician Pythagoras. This is all that most of us know.

दीर्घचतुरस्रस्याक्ष्णया रज्जुः पार्श्वमानी तरियग् मानी च यत् पृथग् भूते कुरुतस्तदुभयं करोति ॥

– (Baudhayana Sulbasutra)

A rope stretched along the length of the diagonal produces an area which the vertical and horizontal sides make together.

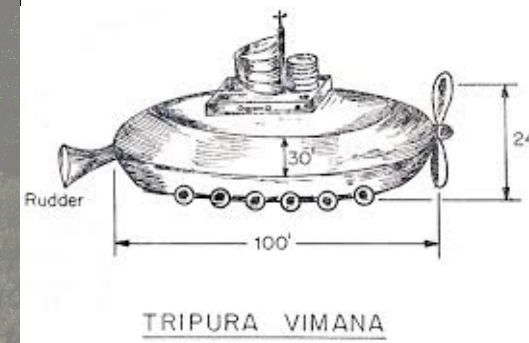
Is anyone familiar with this shloka? Well, this shloka also states the Pythagoras theorem but was written by Baudhayana. Baudhayana was an Indian mathematician who contributed a lot to the field of mathematics. He stated this shloka in the Baudhayana Sulbasutra in around 800 BCE (230 years before Pythagoras was even born).

Here, diagonals and sides are referred to as those of rectangles, and the areas are those of the squares having these line segments as their sides. Since the diagonal of a rectangle is the hypotenuse of the right triangle formed by two adjacent sides, the statement is seen to be equivalent to the Pythagorean Theorem.

Who Invented the Airplane?

Of course! The Wright Brothers, but here comes the most interesting part. Even this life-changing invention had been invented 1000 years before the Wright Brothers were even born.

Maharishi Bharadwaj spread the ideas of this extraordinary invention through the Vimaanika Shastra in around 400 BCE. The surprising fact is that this shastra is still available in India in Sanskrit. This mind-blowing shastra clearly explains the structure, operations and precautions for long flights, protection from natural calamities, and many more emphatic features. He also gave accurate sketches of the planes of 400 BCE. Shakuna Vimana and Tripura Vimana are some examples of the different types of planes. In his shastra, he also explained the detailed process of how they change their energy sources. They had the technology and skill to change their energy source from electrical energy to solar energy or any other free energy source available. This fascinating feature of the plane could be used in between the journey too.



These planes took off vertically. These are just a few features to name but the rest of the features and functionalities are available in the Vimaanika Shastra.

He even mentioned 70 authorities and 10 experts in operating those planes. The Vimaanika Shastra is written so perfectly

that a person could even now build a plane like that with all the features. In fact, during the British rule, a person named Shivkar Bapuji Talpade had taken the Vimaanika Shastra as his inspiration and built this masterpiece. The masterpiece built by him was also built before the Wright Brothers.

The same masterpiece which was built back then by Shivkar can also be built right now. This task seems to be impossible for many, but our ancestors had already built it many times.

All of us know a little about Aryabhatta. He invented the number '0' and also was the first person to calculate the first four decimals of the pi value (3.1416). This great scholar is also widely known as the father of mathematics. Apart from mathematics, he also achieved great heights in astronomy too.

छादयत शशी सूर्यं शशनिं महती च भूच्छाय।

–(Aryabhatiya Golpaadah 37) 499CE

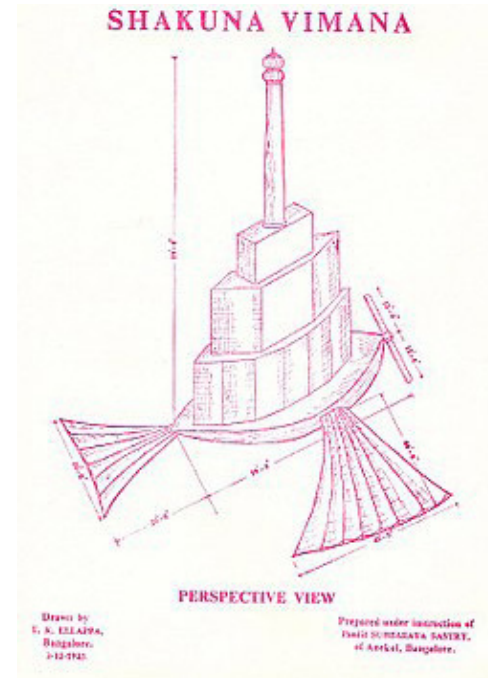
The moon covers the sun and the great shadow of the Earth covers the moon.

This shloka states one of his most brilliant discoveries in the field of astronomy.

The Cause of Eclipses.

Aryabhatta was very bright in his studies. He excelled in the field of astronomy and mathematics. He wrote 2 shastras – The Aryabhatiya and The Arya Siddhanta at the age of just 23. Almost everyone thinks that Copernicus is the only person to discover the Heliocentric Theory. But the interesting fact is that 1000 years ago, even before Copernicus's discovery, Aryabhatta had already discovered the same. Surprisingly, 500 years before Aryabhatta's discovery, Aristarchus of Samos had already discovered the heliocentric theory. Aristarchus is a Greek scientist who had crossed all limits in the field of science. Aristarchus had also made many discoveries. One of his many discoveries is the calculation of the circumference of the Earth. He was such a brilliant person that he had estimated the circumference of the Earth by analysing the rays which fall on Earth. Many of his discoveries are still lost in history.

Everyone praises Newton for his discovery of the law of gravitation. But Bhaskaracharya had discovered the law of gravitation centuries ago. These are just a few scientists out of many who are lost in history. This is a matter of great concern. Though the discoveries they have made are known to us, the first person to discover them should also be recognized. There needs to be equal importance given to all of them. It is now time to revive such scientists and recognize them in society.



03 ARE WE TRULY ALONE?

by Shimon John Augustine

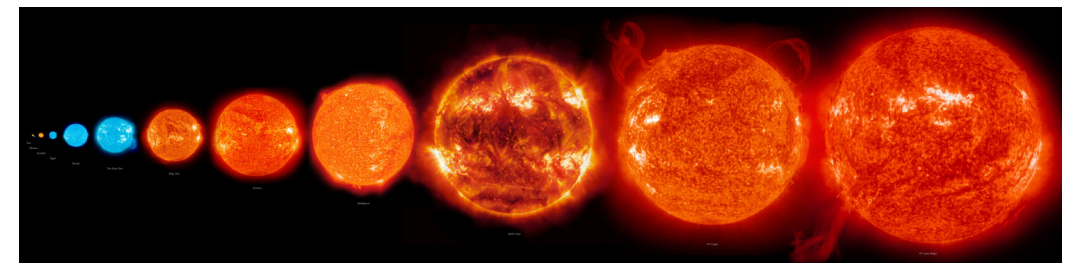
The world is a vast place, bustling with life of every kind, from the deep-sea jellyfish to the high-flying eagles and the giant trees. One species among them that has stood out for millennia is humans. We are an inquisitive and industrialist race that has made this world into a more connected, technologically enabled one. We have risen to the apex of evolution and have control over almost all of the earth's surface-level resources. But for ages, humans have looked up at the infinite night sky and marveled at its scale. Stars beyond count, beyond reach, entire galaxies left undiscovered. The possibility that there might be others out there, has piqued the interest of humans the world over, but throughout the waves of time, one question is perpetually washed ashore: "Where is everybody?".

It is a question that has plagued the pages of our history books for eons. Conjectures about extra-terrestrial life started as early as 400 B.C. Metrodorus who compared our living world to a shaft of wheat in the infinite field of the universe, and many others followed suit, giving varied theories as to why aliens exist or why humans are the sole intelligent life form in this universe. This conflict is best expressed in the "Fermi Paradox", proposed by Enrico Fermi, which argues that life should be very common in the universe given its size. Let me lay down a few facts - there are between 10^{22} and 10^{24} stars in the observable universe. If we were to take an accurate estimate, that 5% of all stars are sun-like in nature and that 22% of these systems have earth-like planets, that leaves us with around 100 quintillion planets that could potentially support life. The idea that another intelligent civilization is reaching out just like us seems very plausible, but from the radio silence that seems to pervade the universe, it seems almost contradictory that we haven't had any contact with an intergalactic species.

An answer to the Fermi Paradox seems to elude us even with our rapid technological growth, hence speculations have been springing up to explain the lack of detectable intelligent life in this universe. These can be broadly separated into 2 main categories. The first one being that higher life forms do not exist, leaving us to be the sole inhabitants of the entire universe. This could be true due to a theory known as the Great Filter. The Great Filter is a hurdle that every life form on the evolutionary track will have to go through and is very improbable to cross. Going back in time we could identify a few possible Great Filters in our past, such as the jump from prokaryotic to eukaryotic cells or the beginning of life itself. Leaving us to be the sole torchbearers of intelligent life ever. Another possibility is that the great filter is yet to come for our species. The filter that put a halt to the growth of other intelligent civilizations will arrive in the future as a cataclysmic natural event or the self-destructive nature of all intelligent life. As Sebastian Von Hoerner had beautifully put it, progress of mankind on earth was propelled by two main factors, the struggle for domination and the desire for an easy life. We can already see the effects of these catalysts on earth. War, resource depletion, climate change, environmental damage still run rampant on our planet due to our greed. We might be on the brink of an evolutionary hurdle that thousands of civilizations before us have tried and failed to pass, a frightening thought to say the least.

Another category for explanations to the Fermi Paradox asserts that, higher life forms do exist and that there are reasons as to why we haven't received any messages from them. Sentient human beings have only existed for 50,000 years which is a small blip in time on the universal scale. Intergalactic probes may have come and gone long before humans wielded fire. The whole universe may be as desolate as it seems to be, or it could be teeming with life forms of every kind and we wouldn't know due to humankind's sheer ineptitude in the galactic game. We might be tremendously stupid by broadcasting our location to a super-predator, like humans are on Earth, who in time will exterminate us once we are evolved enough to pose a threat to them. Highly evolved species may regard the physical world of biology and mortality as a backward place to live in, hence hitting the final Great Filter, transcension into an immortal, virtual reality where every need is fulfilled, and biological confines are discarded. We might convince ourselves that we understand the universe when, what we know might just be a fragile house of cards ready to topple at any moment, when a new player presents themselves.

We might be grappling with concepts too advanced for our current capabilities, but human advancement has always been made by taking leaps in the dark. If we ever do find signs of life, it might as well spell the near end of humanity or the start of a new age. So, the next time you look up at the night sky, I want you to ask yourself what you see; An endless graveyard with humankind next in line, a lifeless void ripe for colonization, or a breeding ground teeming with life and possibilities?



The Promised Land

Down at the quayside,
alongside the bay,
old man McKay, sat one day.

A steak on his lap, all in his hand,
he waited on in stoic silence,
for his escape from this land.

For a streamer bound for America,
the land of promised dreams,
waited to carry him across the stormy, stormy, sea.
A storm descended in all its fury,
and the stalls' patrons hurried swiftly
to coax fires warm and onward.

But old man McKay sat right there,
for hearth and home he had but none,
drenched all the way down to skin and bone.

The next morning out sailed the boat,
strangely, one passenger down,
for old man McKay had reached the Promised Land well before dawn.

- Ramkrishna Kulkarni

4 THROUGH THEIR EYES

Mrs. Saranya

Deputy Headmistress, CIRS

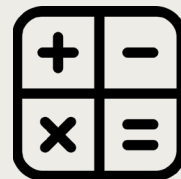
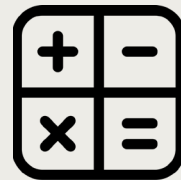
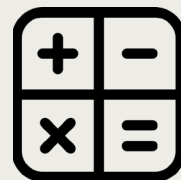
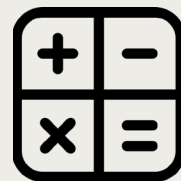
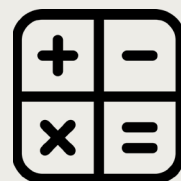
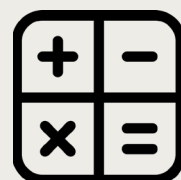
For seventeen long years, she has ensured that our school runs smoothly. Armed with her wide arsenal of knowledge, from the intricacies of mathematics to the hard logic of programming, any class she takes becomes an instant hit with students. As we welcome our families for Anand Utsav 2022 after a two-year hiatus, Saranya Ma'am shares her experience and wisdom with our entire extended family.



What is the best thing a student has taught you?

Students teach me a lot of things. When we grow up, we assume that we are done with learning. But, it's on the contrary. Often, we as teachers see the replica of ourselves in children. To us, kids are a bundle of energy. Be it hard work, patience, or the potential that they are trying to explore, everything is learning from a child. The pandemic gave us a glimpse of life without children and we missed that energy and pulsing vitality that makes us feel young too.

Not just for this interview, but I repeat this as always - this generation of children possesses loads of potential. What we are now is being surpassed by children at their age itself. So, every single day is filled with learning for me.



What do you find the most fascinating in CS/IP and what have you experienced choosing a career in this arena?

Computer Science and IP fascinate me a lot. But my love has always been Math. I joined the school as a CS teacher and I enjoyed teaching the subject. But I also got a chance to be a Math teacher wherein, I felt math is never about the syllabus alone. We always try to go out of the box in class. When we teach students lessons out of the book and allow them to think, it's very rewarding for both the teacher and the students. Because education is all about allowing a person to think. I always tell my students, "It's not about the final answer, it's about the process." That's the beauty of education. I have gotten so many gratifying experiences while teaching math. Teaching is not strictly confined to a subject. It's about being with the children and understanding them. By large, I could do that a lot in my math classes.

What is your favorite pastime or how do you like spending your free time?

I love art and reading books. But gardening is something I enjoy the most. It gives a lot of joy. It's wonderful to connect with nature. It's absolutely delightful to cook the vegetables from your very own garden. That's one of the most satisfying things to do.

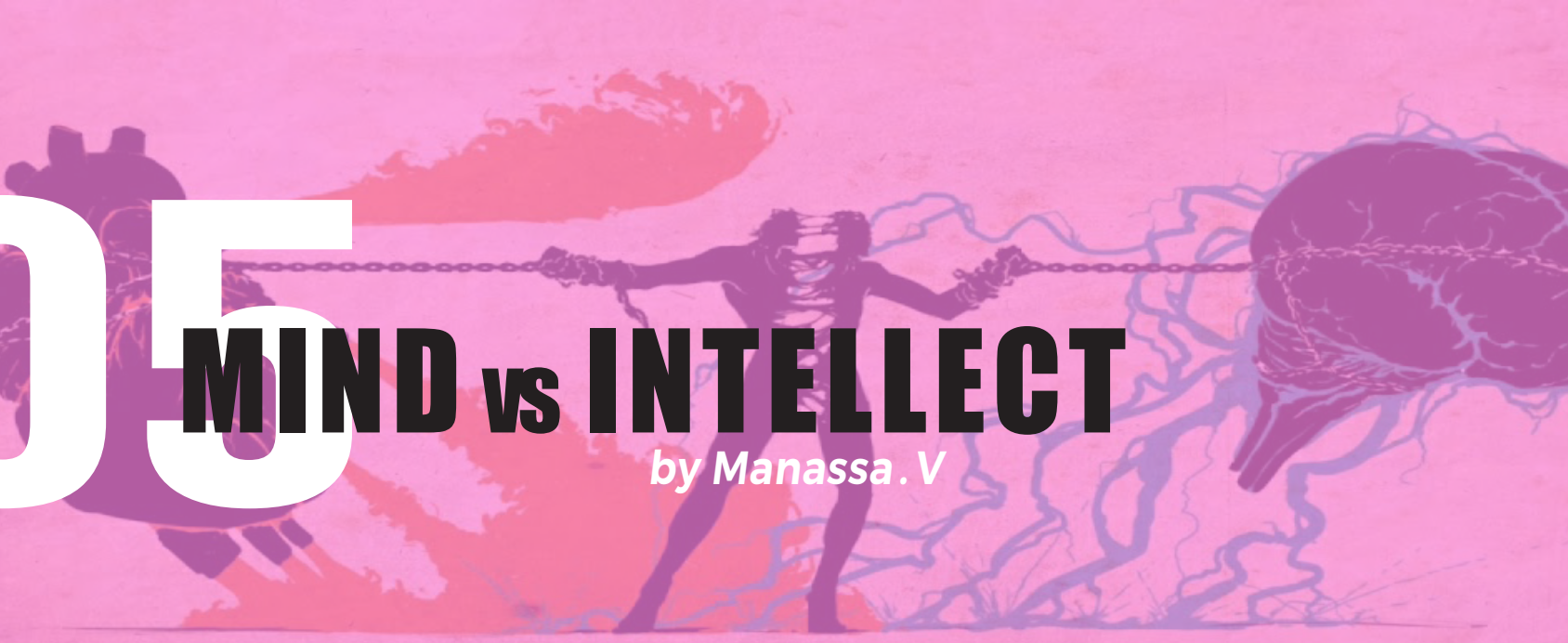
Having been in the school for 10 + years, what do you think has been the anchor that strengthens the school?

I would most definitely say that it's the teachers at CIRS. It's never a conventional teacher-student relationship that we share. Even if I might be the DHM, students come up to me and share personal stories, teenage feelings, and experiences. The connection we experience is so special and heart-warming.

The spirituality of the place is a crucial anchor, as well. The value systems provided here form the foundation that students would carry forth their entire life.

What part of teaching do you look forward the most to?

There are different sorts of children when it comes to their approach to learning. Some are spatial learners, and others are logical. Many are linguistic learners. When I'm able to identify their learning pattern and adapt my teaching approach to fit theirs; it's very gratifying. So, I always try to explore and expand my methods to fit different types of learners. And when a child says that they like a subject, and you are one of the factors who helped them along the way, you feel very happy. True happiness for a teacher is not when someone scores 95%, it's when they are a factor that helped kindle a child's interest in the subject.



Life is a constant, it is a battleground where numerous deathly wars are fought, the warzone of struggles to tell between right and wrong. One such fight that takes place very frequently, almost on a daily basis is between the mind and the intellect. Two very opposing, contradicting figures hold each side of the rope of decision making. The mind or the heart, euphoric and volatile, all over the place. The thinker, the dreamer, and the place where imagination runs free. The intellect, meticulous and uncompromising, always walks on the path and it's never the one to stray away. Each needs the other to thrive, what the mind generates, the intellect process and corrects.

The mind fabricates everything and anything, it has the power to dream. Dreams that lead to the very material world that encompasses us. But those dreams were accomplished, aided, and carefully crafted by the intellect. The intellect elucidates the difference between right and wrong, it guides us to make the right choices. Hence, the intellect has to be more authoritative compared to the mind so as to impose its decision. Let us take for example the case of a billionaire and a thief. Both desire money but one works for it while the other steals. The billionaire clearly yields to his intellect, and it is seen that his intellect is stronger than the mind but, the thief is succumbed by his mind and tends to listen to it than to his intellect which in the later stages of his life may leave his hands cuffed.

The mind should never be given consent to take over the intellect. Every choice we make is a dispute between the mind and the intellect and we must be strong enough to let the intellect take its course. The mind or the heart is also an unceasing site of thoughts. Most of these thoughts are usually fuelled by infatuation or liking. If we like something, our mind cannot and doesn't let go of it. It plays the same thought on repeat until it becomes an addiction. Be it drugs, a person, objects etc, the once innocent and silly thought is transformed into a dangerous obsession. The intellect is an immediate, at the beginning it tells us that it is wrong and issues a warning but as the mind keeps feeding the thought, it gives us a list of the plausible consequences that is most likely to occur if we go past its judgement. This is the final straw for the intellect, this is where it draws the line, and this is where we make our choice. Depending on what we decide our life unfolds as such, our story written in accordance.

The mind is also the maker of bliss, it lets us imagine. It has the capability to imagine the wildest of things, it allows imagination to run far, far to the unimaginable corners of life. It is the centre of emotions, letting us feel. Joy, empathy, anger, love, melancholy, pride, beautiful yet painful emotions that are the core of humankind. The mind is passionate, it is creative, and it is fiery when assisted by intellect. Though the intellect may seem unrewarding and harsh at times it is the only thing that is keeping us from falling into the pit of chaos, disaster and destruction, the protective barrier the mind needs. Let your mind wander, monitored by your intellect, let them help you grow. Make good decisions and keep your head clear, have a clear conscience and keep letting intellect win the tug of war between it and the mind.

मेरे प्यारे भारतवासियों आप सबको शत -शत नमन । यही वाक्य आज मैं इस आधुनिक युग में अपने किसी मस्तिष्क को कहूँगा तो वह मुझे अंग्रेजी में 'हाय' या 'हैलो' में उत्तर देगा। आखिरकार लॉर्ड मैकोले की इच्छा जो पूरी हो गयी। बड़ों का चरण-स्पर्श, उनका आदर करना विश्व में और कहीं नहीं बस भारत में ही सिखाया जाता है। अंग्रेजों ने भारत को बदला क्योंकि भारत केवल एक शक्तिशाली देश नहीं, एक जीवन है। वर्तमान में हमारा देश केवल विश्व में पाँचवी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था है और उससे भी महत्वपूर्ण दस हजार साल पुरानी सभ्यता है। इस प्राचीन देश की विशेषता न केवल इसके राजा-महाराजा हैं बल्कि प्रत्येक लोकजन जो इस देश की महानता और रक्षा के लिए स्वयं ही योगदान देता आया है ।

हमारे देश में त्योहारों की आकाशगामी सीमा है। वर्ष के आरम्भ होते ही उत्तर में मकर संक्रांति और दक्षिण में पोंगल का उत्सव मनाया जाता है। फरि फरवरी में सरस्वती-पूजा, मार्च में शिवरात्रि और रंगों का त्योहार-होली, अप्रैल में रामनवमी और उनके प्रिय भक्त हनुमान जी की जयन्ती, कृष्ण जन्माष्टमी, गणेश चतुर्थी, नवरात्रि, दीपावली और हमारे मराठी, सन्धि व तमिल नूतनवर्ष के त्योहार मनाये जाते हैं। । हम भारतीयों को उत्सव मनाना बहुत पसंद है क्योंकि जीतने की आदत जो हमारे खून में है। हमारे सन्तों-ज्ञानियों ने आज के फॉर्मूला व थ्योरम को पायथागोरस और अरिस्टोटल के दादा-परदादा के समय में ही उसकी खोज कर ली थी । हमारे देश ने प्रत्येक क्षेत्र में अपनी छाप छोड़ी है। साहित्य के क्षेत्र में पञ्चतन्त्र जातक: कथाएँ और संस्कृत ,कन्नड तथा तमिल आदि भाषाओं का साहित्य भी बहुत विख्यात है। अंग्रेजी लेखक व कविकेवल एक ही भाषा के ज्ञानी हैं परन्तु हमारे गुरु नानक और सन्त कबीरदास और मरिजा गालीब अन्य भाषाओं के विद्वान थे। रामायण और महाभारत विश्व की सबसे बड़ी काव्य रचनाएँ हैं। हमारे गौतम बुद्ध और महावीर जी के दर्शन शास्त्र उनकी गंभीरता के लिए जाने जाते हैं। नृत्य के क्षेत्र में भारत के हर एक राज्य ने अपना योगदान दिया है। जैसे भरतनाट्यम्, कथकली, कुचिपुडी, कत्थक इत्यादि चित्रकला के क्षेत्र में मौर्य साम्राज्य की संपूर्ण विश्व में ख्याति है। भारत ने खगोलशास्त्र में राशिफल की खोज अपने कैलेंडर से ही कर ली। आर्यभट्ट को गणति का जनक कहा जाता है ।

भारत ने इस विश्व को आयुर्वेद का उपहार दिया है परन्तु जब भी कोई बीमारी हमारा द्वार खटखटाती है , तो हम चिकित्सा के लिए विदेश जाते हैं। श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता और पुराण हमें जीवन जीना सिखाते हैं । तब भी हम सोचते हैं कि विदेशियों के जीवन से अच्छा कोई जीवन नहीं है । हम सब भारतीय विदेशी संस्कृति की ओर खींचे जा रहे हैं । हम उनके जैसे उनकी भाषा अंग्रेजी को उच्चारण करने का प्रयास करते हैं क्योंकि हम किसी अन्य व्यक्ति को प्रभावित करना चाहते हैं । मैं आपको बता दूँ की भारतीय रहने में ही सबसे ज्यादा आकर्षण होता है। हमें अपनी भारतीय संस्कृति का सम्मान करना चाहिए और उसे अपने जीवन में लागू करना चाहिए। भारतीय बनों, हमारा भारत महान।

07

ELEMENTARY

by Param.C.Yagnik



A spectacular detective who thinks in an extremely unique way, beyond one's wildest imagination. A man with such calibre that he could just look at you and know everything about you. And this is just the tip of this iceberg of a character. He is none other than Sherlock Holmes, the most celebrated fictional detective of all time. Dr. John. H. Watson, a medical man, late British army surgeon, journalist, connoisseur of women, knight of the battered Tin Dispatch, and a valiant and loyal personality, accompanies Sherlock through his adventures. There are innumerable stories about this one-of-a-kind detective. If you want to delve deeper, I would recommend the following books to you:

A Study in Scarlet
The Sign of the Four
The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes
The Return of Sherlock Holmes
Memories of Sherlock Holmes
The Hound of Baskerville
The Valley of Fear
The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes

Now let me introduce you to the man behind all these works, the creator and author of Sherlock Holmes, the great Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He was born in 1859. He studied medicine at the Edinburgh University and settled in London. His less thriving practice left him with a great deal of spare time. It was then that he began to write the famous Sherlock Holmes. Just imagine, a man who authored a world-renowned series just because he had a lot of free time. His very first masterpiece was 'A Study in Scarlet'.

Following the success of 'The Sign of Four' in 1890, he left his medical practice to devote himself to writing. While he wrote many other stories of adventure and historical romance, it was his detective fiction featuring the great Sherlock Holmes that stole the limelight. In fact, when Doyle got tired of the character and killed Holmes in 'The Final Problem' published in 1893, he was forced by public demand to restore him ingeniously to life. Arthur Conan Doyle lived a varied and adventurous life. He was a historian, a whaler, an athlete, a war correspondent, and a spiritualist. He championed two cases of injustice using his detective work to prove men innocent of the crimes for which they were convicted. He passed away in 1930.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's incomparable tales bring to life a Victorian England of horse-drawn carts and famous lodgings at 221 B Baker Street, where Sherlock Holmes earned his undisputed reputation as the greatest fictional detective of all time. Ever since Sherlock Holmes made a huge impact, Hollywood received endless love and appreciation from the three movies released by them. On the big screen, Sherlock Holmes was played by Robert Downey Jr. I just can't say enough about what it is about Sherlock Holmes that interests people. This is precisely why Netflix adapted the book 'A Study in Scarlet', published in Beeton's Christmas Holmes, in 1887. It completely changed the world's perspective of a detective. The moment one speaks of a detective, every one envisions Holmes. Such was the impact it left on the world.

WHEN YOU HAVE ELIMINATED THE IMPOSSIBLE
WHATEVER REMAINS,
HOWEVER IMPROBABLE MUST BE THE TRUTH

The interesting part of this impeccable series of novels is that it is not shown in the third person perspective. On the contrary, "Sherlock and Watson open the door silently" is read as "Sherlock and I open the door Silently". To add to this, Sir Conan's language is clear and perfect to the extent that if you read one of his stories, you can see an improvement in your vocabulary. Yet, his language is easy to adapt to, and, despite the suspense that keeps you on the edge of your seat, it is humorous. The author repeatedly said that Holmes was inspired by the real-life figure of Joseph Bell, a surgeon at the Royal infirmary of Edinburgh, whom he met in 1877.

Sherlock Holmes is arguably the best-known fictional detective. By the 1990s, there were already over 25000 films, television productions, and publications featuring the detective. The Guinness World records lists him as the most portrayed literary human character in film and television history.



The Voice

At times I hear this voice
Surrounding me with such rejoice
A sweet, soft tune
Accompanying me as I've grown

A voice that guides me home
When i think I'm all alone
A voice that brings light
When only the dark is in sight

A voice that hugs me, holds me,
And loves me all for free
And gives me strength, courage, and hope
For the days when it's hard to cope

Though I'm far away
And much has changed to my dismay
The voice of my dearest mother shall never be forgotten
As it is the reason for everything I have gotten

- Kriti Srinivasababu



08



KINDER JOY-BUT IS IT?

by Bhakti Thummar

*“But Mamma, the girl in the ad says the **blue** one is supposed to be for boys and the **pink** one is for girls.”*

- The little girl with dreamy eyes for the chocolate.

Colour is one of the most expressive things in our world. It makes the apple more luscious, the picture book more alluring, the trees more beautiful and the world a better shade to look through. But these very colours sometimes become a veil of prejudiced opinions. This veil makes it difficult for people to express themselves sometimes.

Little girls are supposed to like pink colour dressed barbies and little boys are supposed to like blue coloured cars. Are we made to believe that as we grow up, though? If our childhood toys tell us this, then isn't this something we learn from when we are young and our minds moldable? Toys are supposed to give us joy, hope and wonder. If they are giving us colour-coded judgement, then is the toy at fault?

Ironically, the chocolate inside is the same, whether the covering is pink or blue. The chocolate around the ball is always white and the chocolate ball is always brown. The essence is the same, then why does the covering matter?

I remember Kinder Joy always used to be my favourite chocolate. Whenever we went to the store, I'd tug my mum's hand, look up at her with a puppy face and beg for the 'pink one.' We would not even have reached the car, and I would have already torn the wrapping and then I would see the barbie toy and my face would immediately turn down. I didn't want the barbie, I wanted the angry bird. I would wonder how the kinder joy knew if I wanted a barbie or an angry bird. Answer is they don't, The Kinder Joy company doesn't know!

Since I have been a kid, my favourite colour has ALWAYS been orange. When a friend of mine saw this post, she said that the Kinder Joy, originally, was orange in colour! I couldn't believe it! What I wonder, having learnt this, is that their sales must have boosted after introducing the pink and blue ones, but what about other kids like me? Who grow up to realise that they couldn't confine their desires to these categories, maybe because their favourites were in the wrong category?

My point is that a chocolate making company can not tell me whether I am supposed to like the barbie or the angry bird. Whether pink is supposed to be for girls or blue is supposed to be for boys. No kid should have to swap their Elsa for the Transformer just because the kinder joy “meant” for them gives them Elsa. Elsa wouldn't want to go to a kid who wants to swap her now, would she?



09

A PERSPECTIVE ON INDIAN EDUCATION

by Atul Prasanth

It's highly debatable whether our present Indian education system functions truly as an 'education system'. After all, education is not a mad race for glossy percentiles. Rather, it is an exercise aimed at the holistic development of an individual. Such a myopic education system has systematically stifled the talents and abilities of a whole generation of students. It fails to recognize that both a student scoring 98% and a student scoring less than 70% could have abilities or strengths that could greatly benefit the country in the future.

Knowing that the education which an individual receives becomes the backbone of his/her decision-making aptitude in the future, I firmly believe that education cannot become a commodity. Good education must not be exclusively reserved for the elite or the upper middle-class. If every government school were to ensure a quality of education on par with expensive private schools, then the futures of the vast majority of students in our country is safe and secure. Such a glaring inequality in our country's education system can only be bridged with steps to improve India's public education system.

The school is where the seeds of knowledge are implanted in a student. A school must be a hub where a student is given space to recognise his/her talents and abilities. Daily classes, interaction with teachers, the fun that one enjoys with his/her friends, sports, extra-curricular activities, etc. aid the student's intellectual, moral and social development. Therefore, any positive change in our education system must commence by creating schools that truly work for students. At a micro level, each rural government school must be upgraded and its general infrastructure must be improved. A value-based system of daily learning must be inculcated in every school in order to create virtuous citizens of the future. Intra-school events must be organised where students can actively display their talents. Ultimately, the school, along with the teachers must guide high-school students to make decisions regarding their higher education pursuits in line with their talents and abilities.

The sombre truth remains that our education system has acceded to Macaulay's will of creating a 'class of persons who are Indians in blood and colour but English in taste, in opinions, in morals and in intellect.' In the name of secularization, we have effectively concealed a large part of our culture and history from our students and cut them from their roots. For instance, I believe that there is nothing communal in celebrating the festival of Guru Purnima in schools. After all, it is an Indian tradition to revere teachers. India's inherent civilisational ethos of 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam' (the world is one family) must be taught to our students at an early age. Unfortunately, a large part of our glorious history has been concealed from us and our history textbooks have only filled us with a defeatist mentality towards our own nation. The knowledge of our glorious ancient past will reinvigorate the pride in being Indian while the virtues of tolerance, respect and pluralism taught early in school will form the basis of our society in the future. Our students will develop an identity that is truly Indian yet staunchly committed to the world's welfare.

The greatest development in our education system since our independence is the formulation of the New Education Policy in 2020 by the Government of India. The successful implementation of this policy in every school will ensure that every Indian in the future remains prosperous and will actively work for the development of our country. However, while clause 26.2 of the NEP 2020 mentions that the state and central governments will work together to increase public investment in education to 6% of GDP, the current public investment in education is only around 4.43% of GDP, according to the government. The new policy can only be successful if there is a significant increase in public investment for education in the years to come.

The investment in education will bear positive long-term results. Every issue that our society faces today can be solved in the long run through good education. India's educational vision must be based on the larger vision to become a developed country by 2047 when we celebrate 100 years of our independence. India's education system must be able to bring the best out of every individual.

WHAT IF?

by Avika Mundra

Maybe somewhere lengthy light years away,
aliens exist to this day!
Their looks different and diverse.
Some gargantuan while others so miniscule
that they fit in your purse!

Maybe they chirp, purr or squeak,
maybe only knowledge their words seek.
Or what if their words are bitter and sour,
or maybe when they speak their words blossom into flowers.

What if the words are so fragile,
they fail to escape the mouth so agile?
Maybe the words fly as fast as they can go
minding not about what they reveal and show.

Maybe the ones who cares, lend their ear,
sometimes the words are sickeningly sweet, while others full of fear.
Maybe they only listen without uttering a word,
as the other drills on and on like a nagging nerd.

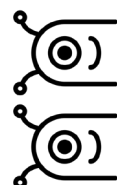
Maybe they listen to what is best,
ignoring the worst and taking in the rest.
What if they only hear lies,
their life filled with despair and cries.

Maybe they only see the beautiful things.
Maybe they see queens equal to kings.
Or what if they only see only the faults,
like the rest of the world is locked behind a vault

Maybe only themselves they see.
Ego wraps them in his clutches they fail to flee,
or maybe they care about everyone but themselves,
love thrives be it ogres or elves.

Maybe the see the world only in blue
or maybe their egos are made up of glossy glue.
What if they can't feel the heartbreaking numbness,
no emotions from toe to bottomness.

Physical or mental nothing at all,
not a teaspoon of terror as they fall.
Or maybe others feel more than they should.
Some feelings are bad while others good.



Their charisma contagious, their terror tenacious.
Gradually everything turns capricious,
indirectly able to control our mind,
painfully plundering whatever they find.

Maybe they come to see us in our dreams.
To wipe off our tears and calm our screams.
Or maybe they were here to steal from the start,
I think that's why some kids are dumb while others are smart.

Maybe they steal our jazzy joy, leaving a hole.
Our hopeful heart replaced by a sorrowing soul.
Maybe they live in destinations uncharted and unknown,
which, to reach, magical beans must be sown.

What if they live in a cinematic citadel on clouds,
where they do what they want and laugh out loud.
Or what if they live subliminally underground,
where they dwell saliently and sound.

What if they live in a city of lights,
celestial and strenuous from every height.
Or what if their abode is veraciously volatile,
their lives villainously vengeful and vile.

But what happens when they visit Earth?
Are we bold and benevolent or do we give them a wide berth,
What if they camouflage within a cavalcade,
as our consciousness fades away?

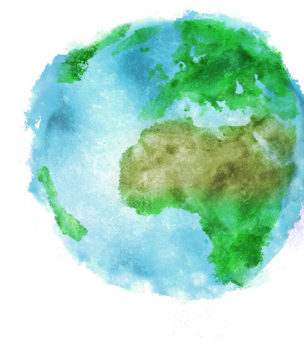
What will they think of humanity,
are our ideals our reality?
To the path we're on irreversible.
Even the British rule wasn't inalienable.

Is it colonial hangover we're affected by,
this defamation we have to deny.
Humanity on the brink of its existence
The need to reach the pinnacle of persistence.

Cerebral we are conquering every cataclysm,
altercations and animosity creating schisms.
The need to rise from ravages,
petty pittances and wispy wages.

Polluting the earth without a care in the world,
gallons of garbage and tons of trash whirl.
As Mother Earth's fury unfurls;
Let's rise like a phoenix from ashes,
clean the deep wounds and the gashes.

Stick up for the wounds and prepare for the better days,
for humanity we must chase.
No longer will we divide and fall, no longer we dubiously debate,
For now, we must acquire the key to harmony's gate.



1 CIRS CAPTURES



12 CREATIVITY CORNER



by Nitin Dony and Shashwath Santosh
(Alumni 2019-20)



by Dhivyan.P

Remember Me

Don't remember me with sadness
Don't remember me with tears,
Remember all the laughter
we've shared throughout the years.

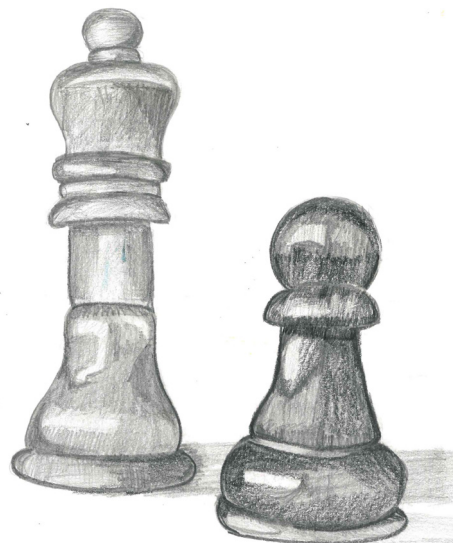
Don't wallow in loneliness
Don't be saddened by my absence
You no longer need me
Nor do we need to keep up the pretense

Remember our impromptu concerts
Remember our games of hide and seek
Every adventure we've had
From the peaks of mountains to the depths of the sea

Now - as you climb the ladder of maturity
A phase has commenced anew
I'm going to leave your hand now
And bid you adieu

When the young you surfaces again
When you feel glum
Remember - I was conjured by your thoughts,
I can be immediately summoned.

- Himanshi Goyal



by Siddh Challani

Alaska

She stood by the door, over the huddle,
She stood by the man, drowning in a puddle,
A puddle of tears, of sadness not joy,
A puddle of his sorrow and miseries,
A labrynth of suffering and pain,
A labyrinth of demise and bane,
"I'm sad!" he whispered, she heard,
But little did he know, his suffering would be no more,
Little did he know, he now had
A friend and not a foe.

- Rajeshwari Kejriwal



by T Muhil



by Utkarsh Chauhan



by Rayan Sindol



by Parul Sancheti



CLASSIFIEDS

- THE GRANDEST YET, WELCOME ISSUE 3 -

THE WAIT FOR ANAND UTSAV IS OVER.

Furthermore, The Crossroads Monthly is also looking to post requests in the upcoming Classifieds section. If you need or have any stationary, books, sports equipment, textbooks, guides that you don't use anymore, and if you are willing to give it away to a student, please contact Aneesh Mahesh of IB 1st Year for more details.

GIRL UP CIRS PRESENTS
ANAND UTSAV'S

NUKKAD NAATAK

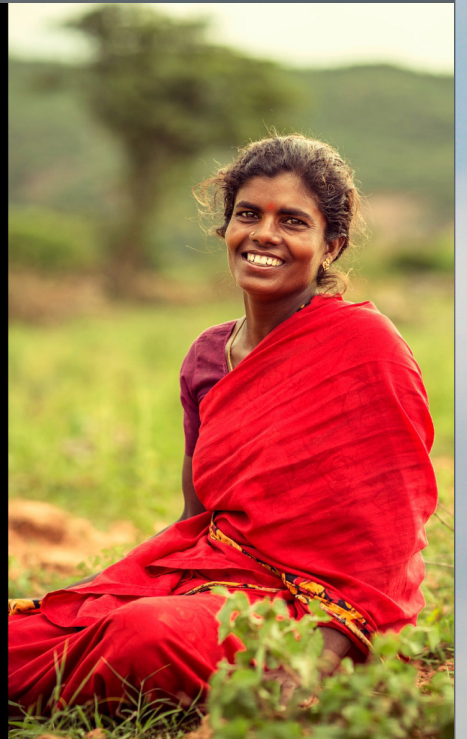
DON'T MISS IT!
10-11 OCT 2022

EQUALITY

STRENGTH HAS NO SEX.
MALE OR FEMALE
STRENGTH IS STRENGTH.

#Equalitystartswithus

#TweetsThatMatter



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