

The Crossroads

September Edition



Issue II

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"Creativity is seeing what others see and thinking what no one else ever thought" said Albert Einstein. In this space, we offer you a stage to show your creative insights and bring out your unique perspectives to the entire student body.

THE EDITORIAL

How many of us go around saying "I always know the whole story before I pick sides."? To what extent do we mean those words? Let's find out by examining a recent controversy – the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

All of us naturally see Russia as a power-hungry nation, invading and destroying a country with an army of 300,000 against their 1.2 million strong forces. We condemn Russia, brand the decision to invade "hasty and unnecessary", and call the global boycott of Russia a "step in the right direction".

However, we're so caught up in antagonizing Russia that we've failed to take a step back and ask ourselves one important question – why are we even doing this in the first place? Do we even know the complex geopolitical scenarios that have led to this explosive outcome?

A point to be noted before we dive into this mess – the human rights violations and war crimes that have been committed during the course of the invasion are absolutely unforgivable.

The Russian army has flaunted the laws of the Geneva convention, and their actions are despicable. This article, in no way, defends the actions of the Russian armed forces in Ukrainian territory, rather, it aims to educate people about the situations that led Russia to this drastic step.

We begin in Eurasia, right after the destruction caused by the Second World War. To halt the spread of communism and keep a check on the Soviet Union's global influence, a group of Western countries banded together to form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization – more commonly known as NATO.

A military pact signed by 30 countries, member nations of NATO promise to protect each other in the case of a threat to any of their sovereign territories. During the Cold War, it served as a major deterrent to the USSR's plans for a global communist utopia. As a matter of fact, a rival pact was formed by the USSR and its allies – the Warsaw Pact.

However, things would take quite a drastic turn. On the 25th of December 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev resigned from his post as the premier of the Soviet Union, and the sickle and hammer were lowered from the Kremlin. The once-mighty USSR now lay as fifteen independent countries.

Naturally, the end of an eighty-year communist era meant the end of the Warsaw Pact too, but NATO remained alive and kicking. It would continue to expand until there were only two countries separating it from the borders of the Russian Federation – Ukraine and Belarus.

Tensions reached an all-time high when Ukraine entered advanced talks with NATO leadership about becoming a member state. Not wanting to open the door to let the enemy in, Russia warned Ukraine about the consequences, should it join the organization. However, the warnings fell on deaf ears. The situation would continue escalating until it reached a climax on the 24th of February 2022, when the Russian Armed Forces breached the borders of Ukraine.

Think about it. What would you do if your worst enemy moved into the house right next to you? Russia did not act impulsively. It only acted after repeated warnings and notices. The fact of the matter is that it was left with no choice.

European and North American powers were knocking on its front door, and it was simply too much of a threat to brush off.

Next time we find ourselves looking at anything; from complex international relations to a fight between our friends, let's make sure to always find out the whole story before taking a stance.

In an age where news outlets and governments and increasingly promoting one-sided stories to further their own agendas, let's not fall prey to the eternal demons of propaganda and misinformation.



Jana Gana Mana Adhinayaka Jaya He, Bharata Bhagya Vidhata!

The opening line of our national anthem proclaims;
“Thou art the ruler of the minds of all the people, the dispenser of the destiny of India.”
A powerful first line that glorifies that bhagyavidhata of India, who would go on to lead the country to greatness. However, a slight inaccuracy would rear its ugly head. The composer of the song, Rabindranath Tagore, had not, at least at first glance, left any clue as to the identity of this bhagyavidhata.
Numerous instances throughout history have put on open display one core quality of the human race – the ability of the human race to concoct the most implausible theories where there is no set answer. Unfortunately, this situation would also fall victim to this human quality.

The only hindrance to the common masses was the fact that even they did not have the slightest clue as to who this bhagyavidhata was. Conveniently, the King of England, King George the Fifth, was visiting India. Free to speculate and spread rumors, the people were quick to react, and very soon, a rumor was floating around.

The Indian National Congress organized a ceremony to welcome the King to India. At the occasion, Tagore’s song was sung. It didn’t take long for people to connect two and two, and soon enough, rumors were spreading that this fated bhagyavidhata of India was none other than King George the Fifth.

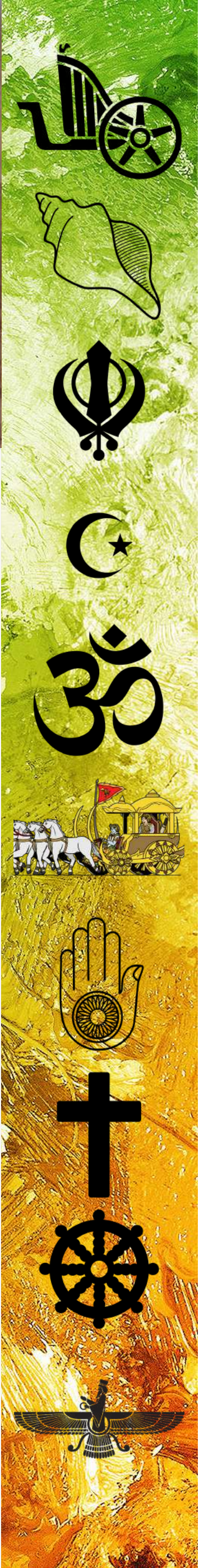
Available knowledge of our history compels us to question this popular assumption, how could this divine “dispenser of India’s destiny”, who was meant to guide India into the light, be a colonial overlord?

The song's writer certainly felt the question posed was valid. Rabindranath Tagore was having absolutely none of it. Aghast by the speculations and rumors that had thoroughly desecrated the meaning of his composition, he was quick to debunk any claims under this umbrella. In a statement made to “a certain high official in Her Majesty’s service, who was also my friend”, he is quoted as saying;

“I pronounced the victory in Jana Gana Mana of that Bhagya Vidhata of India who has from age after age held steadfast the reins of India’s chariot through rise and fall, through the straight path and the curved. That Lord of Destiny, that Reader of the Collective Mind of India, that Perennial Guide, could never be George V, George VI, or any other George.”

Even after this not-so-subtle message to the masses that their guess was wrong, the notion stuck. Everyone still believed that the song glorified the ruler of the colonizers, King George the Fifth. However, among the crowd, there were a few that realized the untruth of the rumor. Those few were back to asking themselves the very first question - who, then, was this bhagyavidhata?

At this point, one crucial fact must be taken into account. In 1911, Rabindranath Tagore wrote a five-stanza song in glorification of Bharat. When India’s founding fathers adopted the national anthem, they took only the first stanza of Tagore’s song and, as it would turn out, the answer to the widespread question on the identity of the bhagyavidhata of India would be present only a page length lower, in the third paragraph of this very same song.



The third paragraph of the song proclaims;
"The way of life is somber as it moves through ups and downs, but we, the pilgrims, have followed it through ages.
Oh! Eternal Charioteer, the wheels of your chariot echo day and night in the path
In the midst of fierce revolution, your conch shell sounds.
You save us from fear and misery.
Oh! You who guide the people through torturous path, victory be to You,
Dispenser of the destiny of India!
Victory, victory, victory to You!"

On closer inspection, we make several interesting observations. First, is the mention of an “eternal charioteer”, guiding the nation on the path of dharma through the ages. Next, although not noticeable in the English translation, the timeless expression "Yuge, Yuge" of the Bhagavad Gita fame, is used in the song. Finally, the song mentions chariots, conches, and various other iconographies all give us clues as to the identity of the real bhagyavidhata.

Born in a prison cell in Mathura to Devaki and Vasudev, his very existence was to rid our world of adharma. Enlightening all of civilization with the Bhagavad Gita, he is truly one who fits Tagore’s description of this being. All those familiar with this dark-complexioned Lord will see an uncanny resemblance to Krishna in the third stanza of the song.

An obvious question can be thrown at this assumption. How can a song containing religious iconography be adopted as the national anthem of a country which has a constitution classifying the country as secular?

It would seem Tagore followed a pattern of hiding the answers to all questions about the song in the song itself. Let’s take a closer look at the second paragraph of the song, which goes;

"Your call is announced continuously, we heed Your gracious call
The Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis, Muslims, and Christians,
The East and the West come together, to the side of Your throne
And weave the garland of love.
Oh! You who bring in the unity of the people! Victory be to You,
Dispenser of the destiny of India!
Victory, victory, victory to You!"

Everyone reading this can be excused for scratching their heads and wondering what Tagore was thinking when he wrote this song. How could one song contain both religious symbols and phrases speaking about religious accommodation?

Turns out that this idea was the very essence of Bharat. The concept that one can be rooted in their belief and practices and the concept that one can be accommodative of all faiths were never separate from each other. Instead, they were parallel concepts, coexisting side by side all across this land. The idea of religious pluralism was one underlying concept that constituted the core of this land throughout its history.

Rabindranath Tagore’s song brings out such a beautiful concept that was deep-rooted in our civilization, but how many of us knew about it? So many of us did not know that our national anthem was only a part of a much bigger composition, yet, when we delve into its meaning, such profound information is revealed. Numerous such treasures exist all across the pages of our existence. Whether it be Aryabhata’s mathematical masterpieces or Sushruta’s surgical genius, let’s all take a moment and explore the many, many secrets that are hidden all across our civilization’s history.



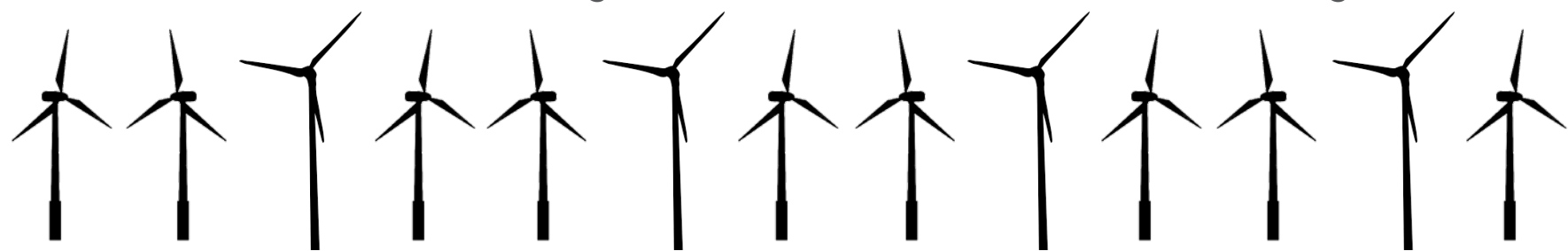
02 CLIMATE CHANGE

by Navadarshanth.S

Climate Change and Global Warming are terms that have attracted a lot of significant attention during the 21st century. When the subject of climate change is brought up, two numbers spring to mind. One is 51 billion, whereas the other is zero. The quantity of greenhouse gas we generally add to the environment each year is 51 billion tons, and zero is what we need to aim for. Here, greenhouse gases are the main culprits. They have kicked the process of climate change into overdrive. Currently, we are headed toward a climate disaster, an irreversible disaster.

However, not all hope is lost. We have a strategy in place and a deadline to beat to prevent this terrible calamity. The International community has set an ambitious target of lowering greenhouse gas emissions by at least 45% by the year 2030. Net zero refers to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to almost zero while allowing seas and forests to re-absorb any emissions that are not completely removed from the atmosphere.

Climate change isn't entirely caused as a result of human activities. Even natural processes contribute to it. The earth's climate is influenced by various phenomena like variations in the sun's energy and volcanic eruptions. But the alarming rate of global warming that has been increasing since the mid-20th century is driven solely by human activity. Some can contest that the sun has had a significant impact on previous climate change. However, the data indicates that while the Sun has contributed to historical climate changes, it cannot be the cause of current warming.



Life on Earth revolves around the greenhouse effect, yet human-caused emissions in the atmosphere are trapping and delaying the heat transfer to space. Nearly half of the light energy that reaches the Earth's atmosphere is reflected and emitted as infrared heat as it travels through the atmosphere to the surface. Greenhouse gases absorb around 90% of this heat, which is then reflected out into space at a slower rate. Carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbons, and water vapor are the five principal greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

There is no doubt that Earth is warming at a never-before-seen rate. Human activities are the pivotal cause. Although the temperature of the Earth has fluctuated over time, it is currently increasing at a rate that has not been witnessed in the previous 10,000 years. This data is overwhelmingly in favor of climate change. The temperature has increased by around 1 degree Celsius during the last 40 years due to rising global temperatures. The sea level is rising, the arctic sea is receding, the ocean is getting warmer, the ice sheets are melting, the glaciers are retreating, the snow cover is thinning, the frequency of severe occurrences is rising, and ocean acidification is rising.

In the future, the scenario gets much more intense and much worse. Sea levels will increase by 1 to 8 feet by 2100 as a result of global warming, which will continue throughout this century and beyond. Hurricanes will get more powerful and intense. Around the planet, there will be more droughts and heat waves, prolonging the wildfire season.

The length of the Frost-free seasons will increase, and precipitation patterns will undergo significant alterations. Given the current scenario, the global temperature will continue to rise and the Arctic is very likely to become ice-free. One of the major worries of climate change is the rise in sea level since it could displace humans at an unimaginable scale causing immense human casualties. Recent satellite studies show that the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets are melting causing a major increase in sea levels.

Even a partial loss of these ice sheets would result in a 1-meter (3-foot) rise in sea level. If both ice sheets melted completely, there would be enough water to raise sea levels by 66 meters (217 feet). Even a one-meter rise in sea level might force billions of people to leave their homes. Southeast Asia, Northern Europe, the Amazon Delta, and the Southeast of the United States will be the areas most impacted. According to projections by the international think tank IEP, 1.2 billion people will be displaced globally by 2050 as a result of climate change and natural calamities, causing these numbers to soar sky high in the upcoming decades.

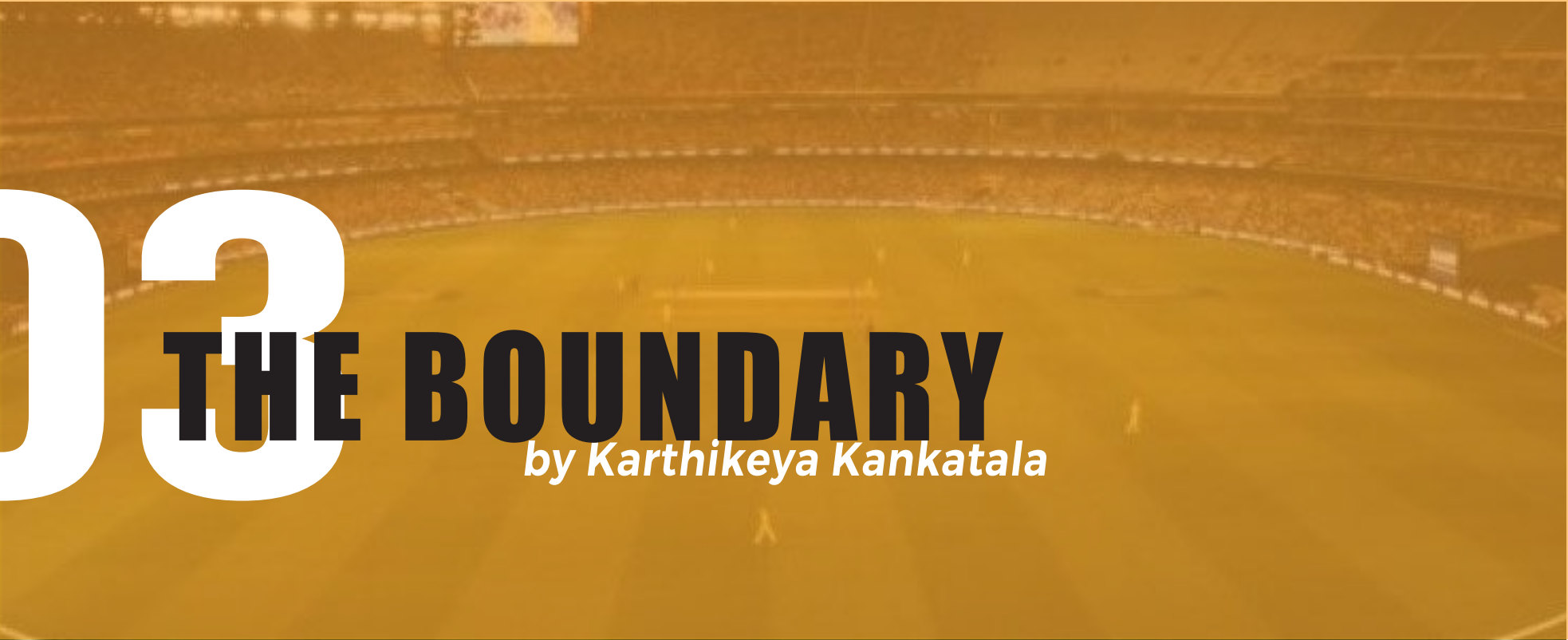
Climate change is predicted to be a much more deadly threat compared to the recent Covid-19 Pandemic. In reality, by examining prior pandemics that have resulted in significant human losses, it is possible to forecast and interpret the adverse effects of climate change in the future.

For instance, by averaging data from the COVID-19 pandemic and the Spanish flu pandemic over the course of a century, we can determine the percentage increase in the world death rate brought on by a pandemic. The death rate is 14 per 100,000 people annually. Now, what does it have to do with climate change? A similar rise in global death rates—14 fatalities per 100,000 people—is anticipated to occur by the middle of the century as a result of rising global temperatures. If emissions continue to rise at their current rate, climate change may be to blame for a whopping 75 additional fatalities per 100,000 people by the end of the century.

By the middle of the century, climate change may be five times more hazardous than Covid 19 was. The main causes that lead to the rise in global mortality rates include health effects influenced by climate change. A few of the health effects of climate change include the disruption of food systems, an increase in zoonoses, food-borne, water-borne, and vector-borne illnesses, as well as mental health issues. Floods, storms, and other types of extreme weather are also growing more frequent and becoming more common.

Human actions aren't just affecting humans, they are causing the suffering of other species on earth. At this point, it wouldn't be wrong to say that we are heading towards our extinction. If we care about the well-being of the lives on this planet; and to pass the planet on to the next generation in an uninhabitable shape then we must act now. It's already late to act but not too late just yet. Remember, everything we do matters and nothing's impossible, not if we have the will, the courage, and a good plan.





Cricket, cricket, cricket. I love cricket.

There once was a young boy named Raghu. Raghu was like any other boy and he always felt that way too. However, the one thing that set him apart was his extreme love and dedication to cricket. The very first time he played cricket, he got obsessed. He continued to play cricket day and night.

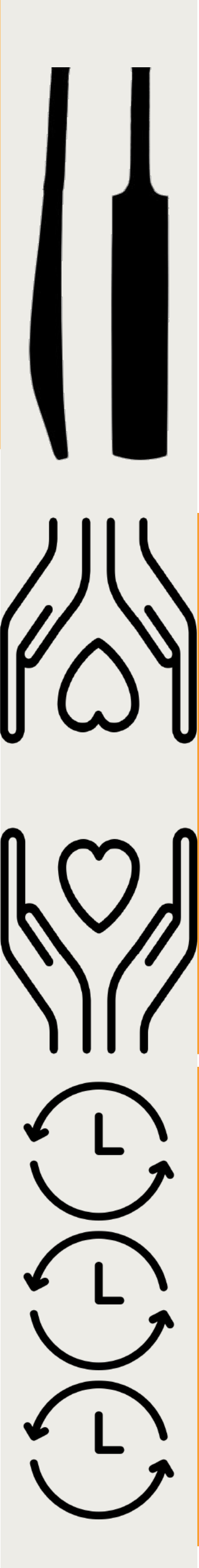
As Raghu grew older many things in his life changed, however one thing persisted, his love and dedication towards cricket. Even when he became a teenager, when every one of his friends was confused about life, he always saw a clear goal and worked towards it. The next few years of his life were exhausting yet fruitful. Pursuing his dream, he joined a cricket institution. Soon he was rising through the ranks, he became a national player, he even went on to become the captain of the Indian team who played matches globally.

His first match was against the West Indies, it took place in the old Manchester stadium. His preparations were intense, rigorous practice, minimal rest, trying his best. After all, this was the day he had waited for his entire life. His big day was finally here. He got into his car and drove to the airport, excited unlike ever before. He was so excited that he did not notice, the huge truck which was about to smash into the car.

Raghu's eyes opened in the hospital, his head was filled with confusion but that was replaced by utter shock and despair as he turned to face the calendar next to him. He had been in a coma for an entire year !!!

His family rushed to the room, everyone had bright smiles on their faces, and everyone rejoiced except Raghu. The realization had just dawned on him, his lifelong dream had been destroyed, his team had failed, he felt utterly useless, drained, and demotivated.

The day he was finally discharged, he walked home with not a care in the world, not even looking around or feeling anything until suddenly something rolled up to him! He turned around to see a bunch of kids playing cricket with a round wooden ball and broken sticks. He thought to himself "If I can't become a great personality, then I will make great personalities". And for the first time in a year, he saw hope. This sparked the start of his career as a cricket coach for the Indian team!



Years passed, he was almost 50 and still a coach, and he had finally found his true calling. He always coached his players with an iron fist, he always told them " We will train until success is ours". On the day of the next match, India won the toss and chose to bat. The team scored an astonishing 209 runs, thinking they were very well off the spirits were high. Then came the West Indies batting. They hammered 15 boundaries in just 3 overs. India was starting to feel the heat, they were starting to get tensed. The following overs went just the same. They reached a total of 205 runs. Then came the last over, West Indies needed only 4 runs in 6 balls. The bowler remembered Raghu's words, " We will win, we will train until success is ours". The bowler took a deep breath, he could feel the weight of the air, he took his run up and bowled. The ball went straight through the batsmen's guard and then BAM! Clean Bowled!! He stood on the pitch, bewildered and then reality struck him. They all celebrated and thanked Raghu for all his support. India had finally won.

Raghu knew that his dream had finally come true.

What is life?

Life is a gift from God entrusted to us. He hopes that we will make it meaningful in whichever way we can. We are all unique individuals. No one is born like you and no one will ever be born like you. Many a time I have come across people accusing God, blaming him for things that they don't have. Remember, we all want gifts in life, but the greatest gift is life itself. Life is a journey with lessons, hardships, heartache, and special moments. It will ultimately lead us to our destination, our purpose in life. The road will not always be steady and smooth; through our travels, we will face many challenges. These challenges will test 4 things: strengths, weaknesses, faith, and, most important, courage. To be on the right path, we must overcome these obstacles. However, keeping these aspects in mind sometimes these obstacles are blessings in disguise, we don't necessarily understand that at the time.

The secret of life is best known to those who are not deeply attached to anything. They are people who measure their lives in terms of materialistic possessions. Lastly, I will conclude that we should make life worthwhile. Things like the love of our family and friends can make life beautiful. Life can be even more beautiful and purposeful by discharging our duties in our family, at work, in society, and the world at large.

- Aryaman Bansali

Time

Have you ever felt that time seems to speed up when you are with your peers? Does time seem too slow when you are completing schoolwork? Has it felt like this boring lecture won't end? And the Aarti finishes before it even starts?

This is the value of time. Elon musk has the same 24 hours a day as any of us, what makes him so successful? How is he achieving so much, while some of us are struggling to stay awake during class? Think of any successful person, anyone. What makes them, them? What do they do that you don't? Nobody was born a genius or a sportsperson or whatever field they excel in. This is what makes Elon Musk so rich, this is what makes Lebron James so great, and this is what makes Usain Bolt the fastest man on the planet. They are determined to make the most of the 24 hours in a day. JUST IMAGINE THIS! You use your time wisely, don't while it away doing senseless, pointless things. Spend your time with those whom you want to be with and you never know when you will see them again! Imagine how much more productive you could be. Like fire, time is a good servant but a bad master.

ENJOY LIFE!

- Vishwa Prem Nangia

04

TEACHER PROFILE

Mr. Dasaradhi
Faculty, Department of Management

This year we've seen a lot of new faces around school. Not only of students but of teachers too. One such face is of Dasaradhi Sir. Dasaradhi Sir was the vice-principal of the school he had previously worked in. For this reason, and many others, we thought an interview with him would prove inspirational and helpful for the students.



What were the cultural differences you perceived across all the institutions you have worked at?

I previously worked in organizations that aimed at training for competitive examinations and needless to say, we know the kind of atmosphere that prevails there. They are rather focused on making money. The change I have noticed here was immense. One of the sayings I most believe in is that your thoughts manifest your actions. The thought with which this institution was started was something truly divine. It is a completely altruistic approach and that makes all the difference.

What is your teaching philosophy?

Students must get ready for a class by themselves, without any sort of push. There must be an inherent interest driving them to learn and discover new things. That's the philosophy I believe in. If a teacher helps a student discover their core strengths and competencies and unleash their inner potential, then and only then, are they successful, because teaching is something that is beyond a classroom, topic, or subject. It is closely tied to life.

What do you think about the grading system and how most education today is built around marks?

I am most definitely against this system. Grades are insufficient and mere and absolutely cannot define a person. If grades wrote one's future, we would not have seen Ambanis or Adanis. They are not graduates from Harvard and Oxford. They possess skills and the passion that drives them towards success. But now, we are faced with a question as to how one identifies or determines the academic culture of a student. This question reminds me of a story where one asks a giraffe, tortoise, an elephant, and a bird to pass a flying test. An elephant is mighty and doesn't need to pass a flying test to prove its worth. An elephant deserves a test on strength and endurance while a fish has to be assessed on its swimming skills. So, tests must be rather skill-based in my opinion, like it was in the ancient Indian system of education.

Could you share your experiences as a vice-principal?

For me, being vice-principal was all about finding the balance between being task-oriented and people-oriented. Being task-oriented instills fear and being people-oriented doesn't always produce results. People need to be invested with confidence and given enough space to bloom. At the same time, they need to develop a sense of accountability and responsibility. Once we strike this balance, wonders occur. And every single day is a one of learning. I learn so much from children. Teachers are well-versed in particular subjects, but children, needless to say, have ideas about everything. I am very happy to share that in every single batch, I have had students from whom I have learned wonderful things.

What propelled you to choose the pedagogy of Business Management as a career option?

I love auditing and accountancy and so, was naturally inclined towards Business Management. As for teaching, it runs in the family I should say...it's just something I love doing.

What is one thing that students don't know about you?

I love trekking and the best places to trek are the Western Ghats and the Himalayas. There are two things in trekking – leading and sweeping. The leader has to move on steadily in front of the group whereas the sweeper has to stay at the back, motivate people to keep going, and help those in need. I always follow the sweeper approach. During one particular trek, a student of mine fell ill and I had to carry both our luggage and drag him forward to make it past. He still pings me and talks about that trek. Because in trekking, there is no going back. Trekking has taught me this priceless life lesson. Even if your progress is slow, just keep moving forward.

05 ANGER MANAGEMENT

by Chaitanya Ganatra



Anger. A five-letter word that causes more harm than the most destructive of weapons. Entire lifetimes of friendship, brotherhood, and sisterhood can all come crashing down in a fit of anger. We shout, throw things, fight, and walk away – but all for what? What does anyone gain from this? Getting angry only harms both parties in the confrontation. It's time we practiced something a little bit more rejuvenating – calmness.

Calmness helps a lot. For instance, if someone does something which makes us angry, we usually say things that could really hurt or act physically, but never think about the consequences we might face. So, these are the things you might do to help keep calm and increase your tolerance level

Drawing

I have a low tolerance level, but when I drew frequently, my tolerance level became way better. Doing any form of art without distraction can help as it takes a lot of patience. My favorite type of art is mandala art as they take a lot of time and thought, putting you on a similar stage as meditation and making you calmer. Take this up, and make yourself doodle a small portion of a page every day. The results depend, if you do it with lots of distraction or in an area with lots of commotion, the results won't be as evident.



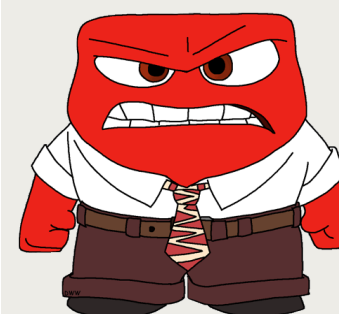
Writing

It is scientifically proven that writing does make you calm, writing poems, articles, paragraphs, and stories makes your mind creative, and just like thinking, the brain constantly thinks of new words, words that rhyme, etc. which makes us very calm



Reading books

Reading books also help a lot. Reading in a quiet place, without distractions, carefully imagining every single sentence. It makes your imagination better including your decision-making skills. Books like Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, Sudha Murty, and biographies and autobiographies have a good effect on life. Read this book called 'The Gita' by Roopa Pai, sounds quite odd but it's specially written for children. Reading this made me understand the way of life through school life examples. You'll enjoy reading it.



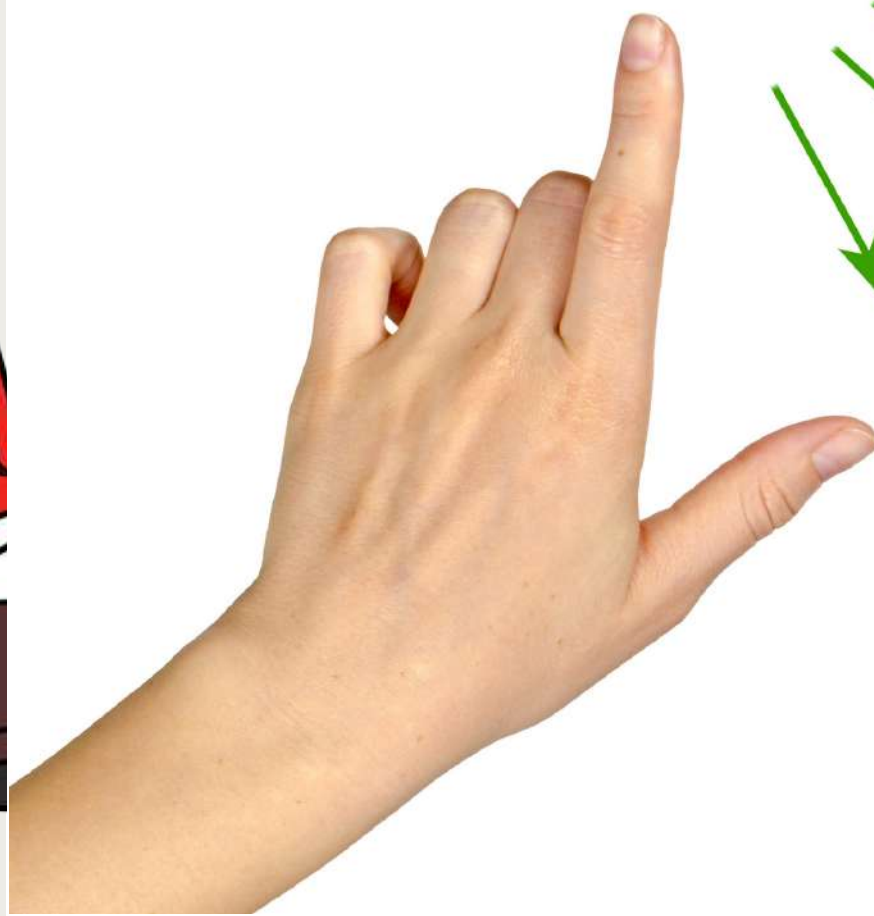
And finally, if nothing works, this will

Meditation

Maintaining time is important for doing meditation. Meditation is the thing we think allows us to levitate. Yes, it does but not physically, or mentally. We can excel in numerous things by doing meditation. But we never should do meditation without a timetable

Concentration is gained. Adrenaline is the hormone released from getting excited. Which leads us to become hyperactive, aggressive, and angry. Meditation makes our mind calm; anger kills brain cells.

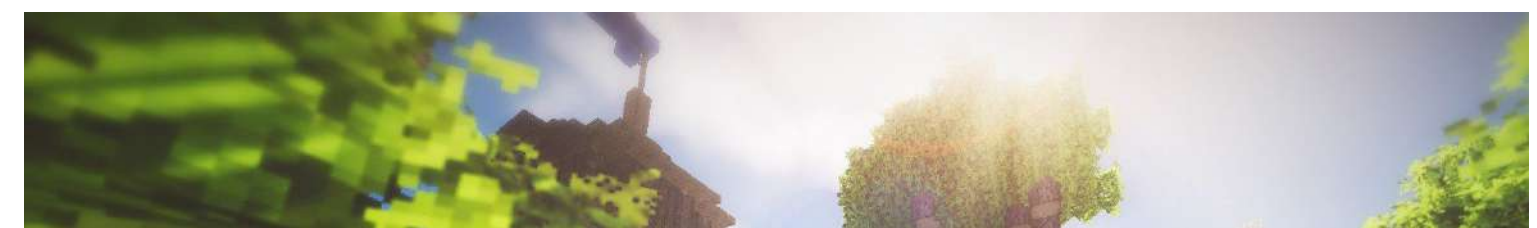
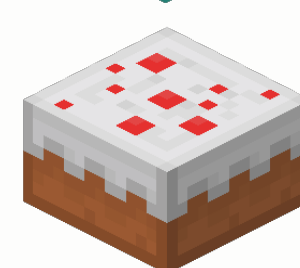
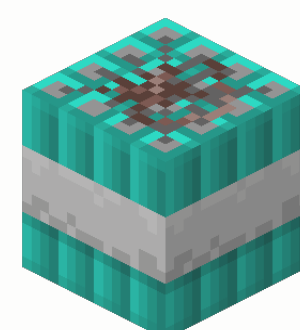
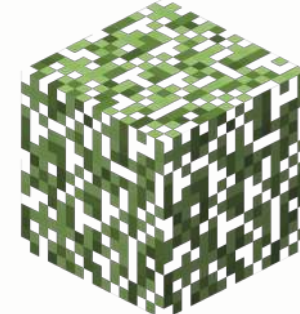
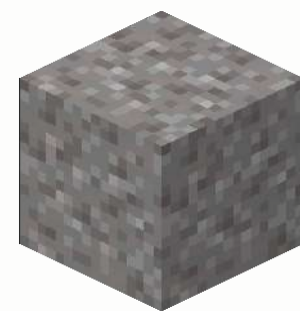
So, while reading if you got angry that an angry person is writing this, article on anger control, you just lost millions of brain cells. Meditation is the key to success. In CIRS, and not only in CIRS, wherever Pujya Gurudev has followed, mediation's importance is taught, and this skill is also mastered and cherished.



6 MINECRAFT

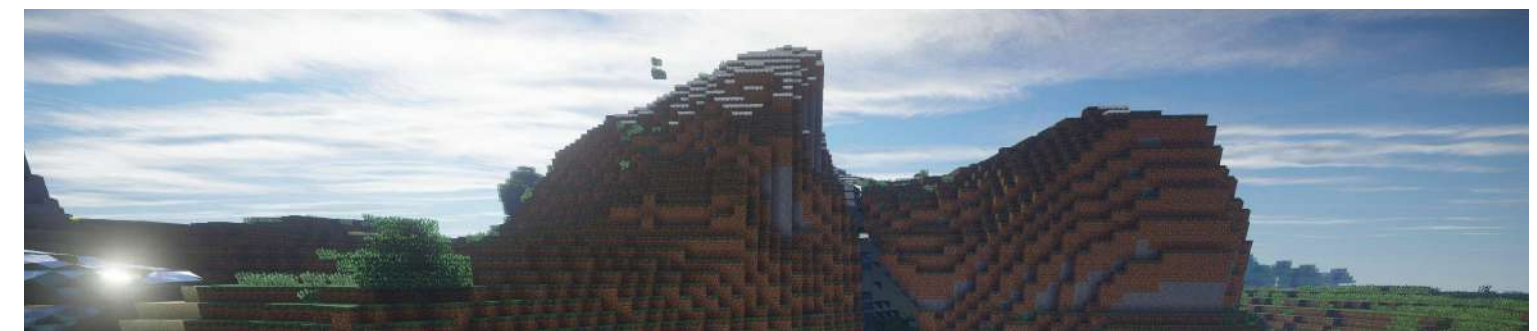
by Rampraneel Reddy

*In this new age of technology,
every second person is playing this
unknowingly popular game
'MINECRAFT'.*



No adjective can describe Minecraft accurately. It's not just a combination of Os and 1s, it's way more than that, it allows your creativity to flourish and allows you to do something that just makes you happy. The word Minecraft can be split into two words "mine" and "craft" and that's exactly what you do in this game! You get loaded into a completely random world and spawn with absolutely nothing. This makes survival very hard in the initial stages and the players all dread that first night when they are surrounded by hostile creatures lurking all around their avatars.

The beauty of this game is that you can make this world as you deem fit. There will be thousands of different blocks and mechanics and a million different ways you can use them. Minecraft will make you want to lay your fingers into those W, A, S, and D keys right away.



The thing is, Minecraft makes you think you need to comprehend every aspect before you do anything. From how you are going to survive your first night, to creating weapons, smithing armor, and finally killing the menacing Ender Dragon and the integral part of this process is that you can do all these things (especially mining) with enthralling music in Minecraft.

But it doesn't end there rather it's just the beginning of a surreal and exciting journey, there is no set way of playing this sandbox game and this variety is what makes Minecraft such a unique game.

Moreover, the player is not restricted to anything once he spawns into the world. All that happens from then on is in his or her hands. The player can climb the tallest mountains, and explore the deep dark areas where the monsters and creepers lurk around the best part, is he can even invite his friends from real life to join him on this virtual journey.



Most video games have always had a bad image in society, as they are usually associated with violence or something else negative. But what people overlook are the benefits you can get from them, Minecraft is no exception. It decreases stress and anxiety and promotes the release of happy hormones like dopamine.

The Minecraft community is one of the most vibrant and dynamic communities thriving with gaming spirit and enthusiasm which forms the essence of Minecraft. Although it's a viciously addictive game, simultaneously when played with control, it becomes so enjoyable.

07 INDIC FEMINISM

by Atul Prasanth



The call for women empowerment has resonated within India for a long time. Our civilization has witnessed extraordinary women who have emerged in all fields of life .Today, it is not rare to find women accomplishing great feats in the service of society. We are approaching our 75th year of independence and yet, the reality remains that many women remain oppressed in our country.

India has witnessed the advent of globalisation and modernity and with that came the idea of modern feminism . Today, we often find notable personalities who proclaim themselves to be ‘feminists’ . While some genuinely stand for the upliftment of women, some use it as an excuse to conveniently express their prejudices against ancient cultural practices.

In today’s world, the lack of meaningful education has resulted in the creation of two extreme groups of people.On one side, there are religious extremists who derive fallacious interpretations of ancient scriptures to willingly oppress women . On the other side , there are these ‘secular’ extremists whose sole intention is to portray ancient culture as chauvinistic without having an iota of knowledge about its contents. Therefore, there is a need to think beyond the narrative and truly focus on finding ways that help to uplift women in our society.

In our Indic culture,we strongly believe that women are born empowered .Our ancient seers have asserted that women are born as an embodiment of ‘shakti’ or ‘feminine strength’. We are a civilization that proudly proclaims:

‘Yaa devi sarva bhuteshu’(o goddess who is within all beings’)

It is our belief that devi with her feminine ideals resides in all objects and beings from animals to trees and even in men. She resides in all of us in different forms.



Even today, an incredibly strong woman who displays extraordinary courage is often referred to as a Maa Durga incarnate and an intellectually talented woman, we may refer to her as a Maa Lakshmi or Maa Saraswathi incarnate. We can find embodiments of our goddesses in every single girl child in India. It is our duty to recognise the ‘shakti’ within them and respect them.

In our culture, there is no difference of status between a god and goddess. This is exhibited by the fact that in Vedic Sanskrit both gods and goddesses are referred to as ‘tvam’.Some of our greatest scriptures such as the Upanishads and Rig veda contain hymns written by rishikas like Maharishika Lopamudra ,Gargi and Maitreyee who used to write in par with male rishis.Moreover, in the Adbhut Ramayana written by sage Valmiki, Maa Sita is portrayed as a warrior who killed Ravana after taking the form of Maa Kali. In fact, we are one of the only civilizations that worships our own country in the form of a mother.

Another shining example of a strong and gifted woman in our culture would be that of Ubhaya Bharati. In the evenly matched debate with Adi Shankaracharya and Mandana Mishra on the advaita and dvaita philosophy, Ubhaya Bharati was appointed as the one person who could officiate the debate. Despite being the wife of Mandana Mishra, she conducted the debate impartially and with impeccable knowledge. Such is the respect for women in our culture.

India’s experience of cultural decay and violence due to a long history of foreign rule is perhaps the reason why some late medieval interpretations of our epics tend to be patriarchal. Furthermore, the severe indoctrination of our traditional rituals blinded our society’s inherent respect and appreciation for women. We need to study versions of our epics from the ancient era and we would find very strong female characters whose status remained equal to that of men.

The beauty of Vedic thought remains that it celebrates the unique feminine beauty and strength as opposed to the Western notion of feminism that attempts to pursue an egalitarian order where women attempt to emulate the traits of men. Our culture recognises the unique role of women in upholding the ideals that sustain society.

यत्र नार्यास्तु पूज्यन्ते रमन्ते तत्र देवताः
यत्रैतास्तु न पूज्यन्ते सर्वास्तत्रफलाः

yatra nāryāstu pūjyante ramante tatra devatāḥ
yatraitāstu na pūjyante sarvāstatrāphalāḥ

(Divinity flourishes where the woman is revered,but where the woman is abused, all action fails)
- Manusmriti

Our scriptures clearly explain that even the gods would abandon a land which does not respect women. Having mentioned that women are born empowered, it is arduous to imagine the killing of a girl child in the womb. Blasphemous crimes like female foeticide still exist in our society. It is our civilizational duty to ensure that no women faces any crime in our vicinity or any form of oppression.

Such heinous crimes can be stopped in the long term if our education system practically teaches our students mutual respect and our inherent cultural affinity for oneness that transcends gender while celebrating the unique feminine and masculine identity. There remains little doubt that the concept of Indic Feminism unlocks the door to indiscriminate prosperity.

However, the vision of an Indian Renaissance can gather steam only when the women of this country can walk alone at night without any fear. That to me, is an Incredible India that is restored to its ancient glory.



08 SINISTER SUPERSTITION

by Shubh Holani

A family leading a prosperous life. No run-ins with the law, and no other major problems, they seem completely content on the outside. So, when all 11 members of the family are found dead one day, people are shocked and disturbed. How could a family which seemed fine on the outside, suddenly end up dead? Let's see what actually happened.

Bhopal Singh, the head of the Chundawat family was an old man. Soon, death came knocking at his door. However, he would not be the only one who followed death outside. Soon after Bhopal's death, Lalit, his second son, took over as the head of the family. One day, Lalit was working in his shop, until it suddenly caught fire. Luckily, he was saved in time, but he did not escape unscathed.

The entire fiasco had cost Lalit his voice. He remained dumb for a fair amount of time, until an extraordinary happening. Along with the family, he was chanting the Hanuman Chalisa, a common ritual for the Chundawats. During the chanting, as if by magic, he regained his voice.

To this day, no one knows how it happened, but the family believed it was Bhopal's doing – "Baba ka Ka-maal", or Father's Magic. However, after this incident, things would start spiralling for Lalit. Everything he had to endure – the death of his father, getting burnt, as well as the pressure of being the family head, was taking a heavy toll on him. Eventually, he developed a mental disorder known as schizophrenia. This disorder made Lalit feel as though his thoughts weren't his anymore.

He started having hallucinations, and his mental health deteriorated rapidly. Unfortunately, this marks a dark turn in the story of the Chundawats. He started feeling his father possessing his body in the night and leaving him before sleep. This ordeal went on for nearly 11 years. He started maintaining a diary about the things his dad told him and the family, which would be read the next day.

The diaries brought the family huge profits, and they began to lead a comfortable life. This continued until Priyanka, Lalit's niece got engaged. Here, a disturbing revelation surfaced. After the engagement, the family was supposed to hang themselves like the roots of a banyan tree.

They were to keep a bowl of water in the middle of the room, and when the colour of the water changed, Bhopal himself would come to save the family from all their troubles, and enlighten them. The family followed the instructions, and on the 1st of July 2018, they were found dead, exactly as was described. The family excluded any mention of suicide, but CCTV footage shows the family preparing for the suicide. Exactly 11 members, 11 diaries, and 11 pipes for ventilation were found. Coincidence or not, no one knows.

So, why am I telling you this? It's because of how often these disorders go unnoticed or brushed off as insignificant. Mental disorders are real, and mental health is important. People and society need to wake up to this. Deaths like these, because of superstitious practices, are so preventable. If just one member in the family, or in society had noticed the abnormal behaviour and identified the disorder, 11 innocent lives would've been saved. The faster we accept and acclimatize ourselves to these topics, the better off society will be.

09 NEWS

School News



September 2022

- The under-19 girls' basketball team emerged victorious in their Karunya Christian School Tournament.
- The under-16 boys' team won the Sahodaya Tournament.
- The under-19 boys' team overcame every opponent and came first in the Karunya Christian School Tournament.



National

World's largest museum of Harappan culture to be established in Haryana's Rakhigari Village.

Efforts to preserve archaeological sites marked a moment as the world's largest museum of Harappan culture is expected to come up in Haryana's Rakhigari village.

The village is in the Hisar district of Haryana, situated some 150 km from Delhi and it was part of the Indus Valley Civilization from 2600-1900 BC. It is also home to an archaeological site from the Indus Valley civilization period. In this museum, visitors will find some 8000-year-old Indus Valley artifacts.

All news is old news happening to new people.

Malcom Muggeridge

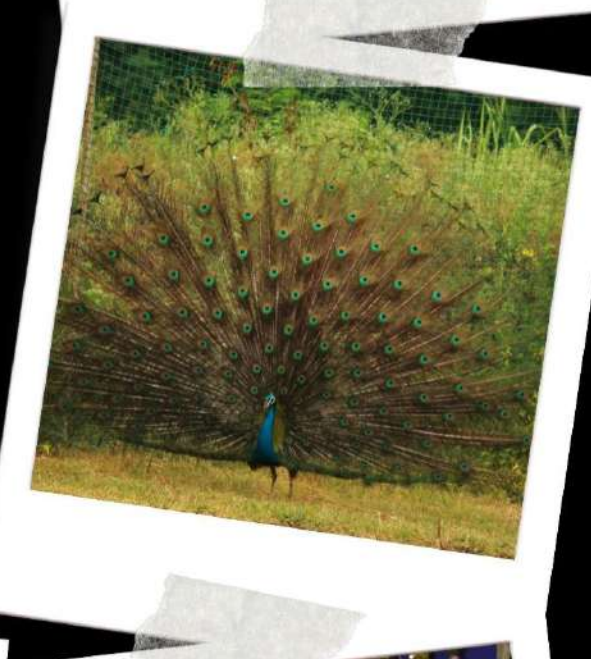


Gujarat launches its first cinematic tourism policy, signs pacts worth 1020 crore rupees

India's 1st High Throughput Satellite Broadband Service Launched using ISRO Infrastructure



CIRS CAPTURES



1 CREATIVITY CORNER



by J Thanvi



by Dhriti Savani



by Vanshika.M



by Vishwas



TWO LITTLE SOULS

by Parul Sancheti

*Two little souls,
Looking out for their goals,
Through the grids of the windows,
Standing on their tippy-toes.*

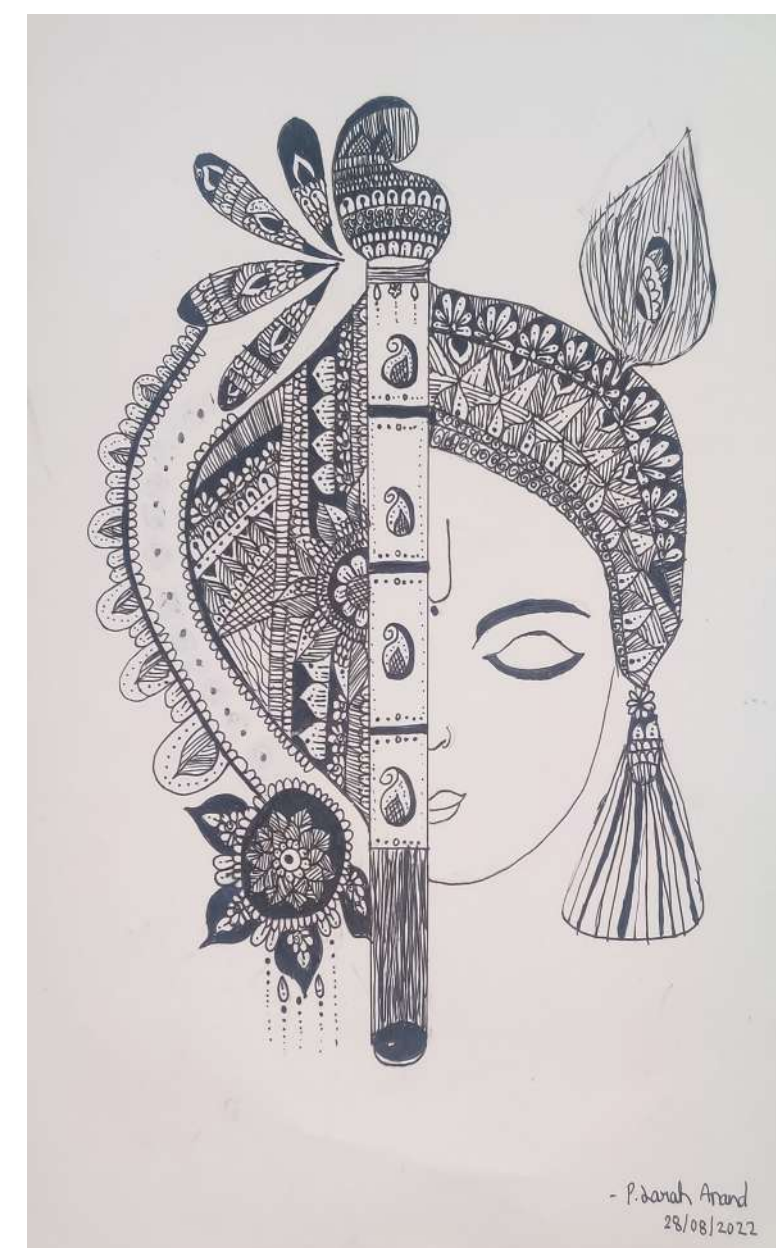
*With mesmerising eyes,
And cheerful smiles,
Happiness is spread across miles,
A hundred million times.*

*Inquisitiveness and Innocence,
Anticipation and glee,
This joyful sight to see,
Reminds me of the child I used to be!*

*Waiting to take flight,
On wings like a soaring kite,
Looking into the world on a starry night,
To conquer it with all their might.*



by Charuvi Agarwal



by P.Larah Anand



CLASSIFIEDS

- WERE YOU WAITING? THEN YOUR WAIT IS FINALLY OVER -

THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE CROSSROADS MONTHLY IS FINALLY OUT!

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.



#Tweetsthatmatter

Facilitator: Br. Sanatan Chaitanya
Editor-in-Chief: Malhar Modi
Assistant Editor: Adhavan Diwakar Vidya
Sub-Editor(s): Ziya Ghodasara, Niranjana Binu, Gouri Praveen, Ryka Bopiah, Haardhik.M.Arani
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Designer : Haardhik.M.Arani, Himanshi Goyal
Template Credit: Aaditya Ganesh

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Chinmaya International Residential School

Swami Chinmayananda Lane, Nallur Vayal Post, Siruvani Road
Coimbatore, 641114, Tamil Nadu, India

Phone - 91 422 2613303