



THE CROSSROADS
The Journal of the
The Crossroads Society

THE CROSSROADS

November
December



Issue X
2022

CONTENTS

01 IMMORTALITY

BY VISHWANATH CHAITANYA

04

It is a concept which none of quite understand yet. But seems like our ancestors understood this very concept and were able to achieve it too. Vishwanath gives us an insight into this topic.

02 THE MENTAL AMALGAMATION

BY RAJESHWRI KEJRIWAL

06

The human brain is the most complex organ capable of making the most complex decisions. A lump of little tissue, so perplexing that it has left millions scratching their heads. Here Rajeshwari tells us a little about this perplexing organ that runs on neurons.

03 EVOLUTION

BY RAAHI TEJAS SHAH

07

"The process by which different kinds of living organism are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth" is how 'Evolution' is defined in the dictionary. But is that all to it? Is there nothing more beyond just a process? Raahi tells us more about this in his article...

04 UNVEILED

10

TEDx, an influential platform for discovering new revolutionary ideas. On 4th of November, 2nd year IB organized "TEDxYouth@CIRS". 6 various speakers of spectacular interests were invited. The entire event brought in quite a success, didn't it?

BY MANASSA.V

05 AS WE THINK, SO WE BECOME

11

Krishna once said, "Your mind is your greatest friend and greatest enemy". Our thoughts define who we are. We have the ability to choose how to live and how to modify it. Although the real question is how these thoughts can affect us?

06

14

BY SHRIYA SHRUTHI MISRA

BHARAT

In this new world, India is rising but where is our Bharat? Where is our ingenious heritage that attracts the entire world? Can we preserve it today and stand by it and protect it? Or will we succumb to taunts of the world and forget what constitutes us?...

07

16

BY RITIKA DEORAH

FANTASY

Fantasy is usually regarded to be a genre or just something that doesn't exist but don't we all wish it could be turned into reality? But is fantasy really that desirable? Let's find out what Ritika has to say to us about this...

08

17

BY RISHABH PALANY & YASH BAISYA

END THE STIGMA.

A place where one imbibed the collective knowledge of our civilization. An environment that allowed one to develop not only as a learner but as a human being. Welcome to the Ancient Indian Education System.

09

19

BY AVIKA MUNDRA

DEATH OF DETAIL

A long day at work, you decide to visit a nearby park to finally take a break, and seat yourself on a bench. A few years ago, you'd be sitting on an elegantly carved bench, with ornate designs of urbane icons, but in the modern day, you'd be sitting on... well just an elevated metal slab.

10

20

CIRS CAPTURES

We present to you the past month through the lenses of our amazing photographers.

11

22

CREATIVE CORNER

"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.

Editorial ThanQ BenQ



A three-day break. After working day in and day out on our Anand Utsav projects, those were the best words any of us could hear. A whole lot of eating, sleeping, playing, running and God-knows-what-else got us all thoroughly energized, and we returned to school with bubbling enthusiasm. However, there was a newcomer waiting to welcome us back to the campus. Who do you think it was? A student? Admin staff? A teacher?

Well, as it turned out, all three of those guesses were wrong. This mysterious character was an unassuming, inanimate thing, hiding in every classroom waiting to surprise us. Its name? The BenQ Interactive Smart Panel.

The moment our principal made the announcement in the assembly, the student body went wild. The prospect of having a smartboard in the classroom was simply too exciting to contain. So exciting in fact, that IB 1st Year decided it was a good idea to showcase their artistic talents on the panel - and fiddled with it a day in advance.

Other classes however, stuck to school norms, and the smartboard became a great item of interest in the classroom. The same old formulas, maps and dates became so much more interesting when written with a fancy stylus on a huge screen. Who says technology can't work magic?

Now, a month after its inception, the smartboard is effectively another student of the class, with the students of 9th grade going as far as to name their smartboard "Pridam", giving it a more "personal" connect.

"It's a big step up from the old PCs we had. Teachers barely used the old computers, but now it's way easier to just switch it on and use it.", says Rishi Iyer of Class 10. Meanwhile, Sia Rajiv of Class 9 says, "It makes the learning atmosphere much brighter. In the middle of all the dull textbooks and workbooks, the panel makes learning more colourful."

Students weren't the only ones who had something to say about the smartboard. "Teaching is much more spontaneous now. There's no need to prepare in advance, put videos on a pen drive and then come to class. You can just get an idea in the middle of class, and immediately show it to students.", said Mrs. Suvarna Dasaradi, Faculty of Social Science Department. "The panels were a novel and engaging experience for all students.", says Mrs. Meera Nair, Faculty of English Department.

Everyday classes have become ever-more fun-filled, with PPTs, YouTube videos and fun games all just one click away. The smartboard has changed the way students learn in a matter of months, and it is only a stepping stone in CIRS' vision of making learning ever more fun, joyous and holistic.

01 IMMORTALITY

- Vishwanath Chaitanya

Immortality, the state of living an endless life. It lies far beyond the reach of Science, it is desired by everyone but achieved by only a few. Now, before we delve into this vastly confusing topic; let me tell you that this might just be pure belief. The very concept of immortality may have been created by our ancestors to make us strive to achieve it which is why everything you are going to know next is all in theory. Let us begin at the start of time with Indian Mythological theories. – The seven men of Indian myths known as the *Chiranjeevis*.

The first one being the mighty Ashwatthama. After losing the war at Kurukshetra, the son of Drona swore to end the Pandava lineage with the murder of Abhimanyu's son but was stopped by Lord Krishna who cursed him with an immortal life of suffering.

Next, Hanuman - the ardent devotee of Lord Ram. He gained the boon of immortality after the war, when all the characters of the Ramayana were being given moksha. He wished for immortality so that he may live for as long as the name of his lord is being chanted.

Moving on, according to the Kalki Purana Parashuram was made immortal to teach the Vedic arts like Astrashashtra to Kalki who is prophesied to descend to Earth at the end of the Kali Yug and end the world.



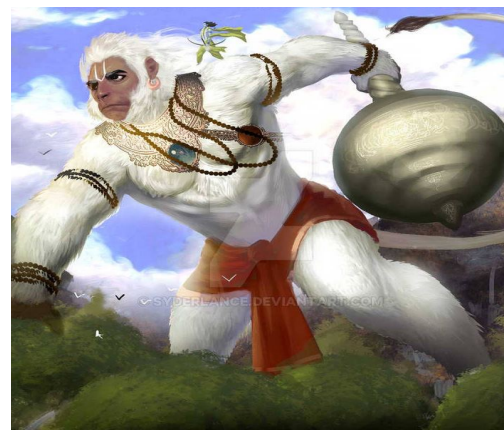
After the death of Ravana his noble brother Vibhishana ascended to the throne. He was granted immortality to guide the Lankans for the rest of time.

Vyasa –The compiler of the Vedas was born at the end of the Treta Yug. The avatar of Lord Vishnu, is said to still be living till now.

Finally, The Kul guru of the Chandra Vamsha – Kripacharya - was granted immortality by Krishna due to his qualities such as impartiality and unmatched dignity.

But how is immortality attained?

Through Amrut – the endless life giving elixir.



It is said that the Devas and the Asuras once decided to churn the milky ocean to extract Amrut. With the help of Shiva's snake Vasuki and a mountain supported by the Kurma avatar of Lord Vishnu. Along with the Amrut, many other things were received like Airavat the divine elephant and Halhal (the most toxic poison) which was consumed by Shiva.

Moreover, the gods knew that if the Asuras got the Amrut they would be up to no good. So, lord Vishnu took the avatar of Mohini, duped the asuras, and distributed the Amrut to the Devas to rejuvenate them.

It's time to now flip the coin and look at immortality through the lens of Science. The fundamental reason we pass away is because our cells die too rapidly and our body does not have the capacity to regenerate enough cells at that speed and at that moment to support the functions of our body. But if we humans, through biological means prevent the death of cells or quicken the regeneration of cells – we would live forever. In fact, there are many genetic companies that envision human immortality in the near future.

The stories of the immortal beings who have lived through the perils of time and - who knows? - may still be living amongst us; the possibility of it becoming reality through science I would like to leave you with a question. What will you do if you are granted immortality? Is immortality a boon or a curse?



Indeed an Indian

Back in the 20th century,
Enraged with the jury;
Forbidden to board a train,
an Indian I was- only cleaning drains.

The mindsets were what I wished to clean
Sadly, my utopia was contained.
A fiery rage would seek me out,
Being an Indian, I was always kept out.

From a dedicated man - to a mute I transitioned,
Hope was lost, like an animal I was tamed.
A spark of wisdom ignited my raging spree,
An Indian I was, roaring to be free.

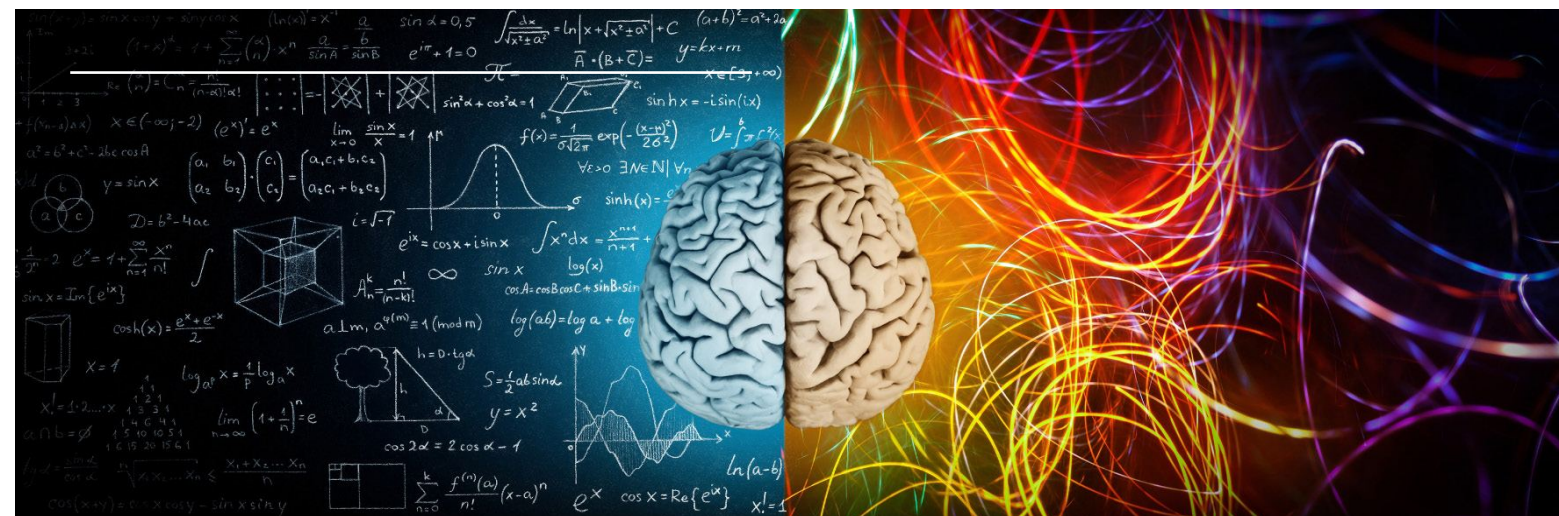
Success was my vision, triumph my goal-
Diverse cultures to reunite my soul,
Achieved at last - my sovereignty
An Indian I am, acquiring my liberty.

- Raghav Agarwala

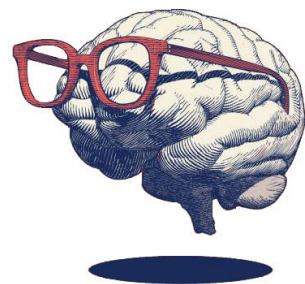


The most complex organ, capable of making the most influential decisions. A lump of little tissue, so perplexing that it has left millions scratching their heads. What? How? Why? These are just a few questions left unanswered when it comes to perhaps the most mysterious of our body's organs – the Human Brain. The brain is a collection of billions of neurons that transmit stimuli, chemicals, thoughts, and several other things to the rest of the body. However, its uses extend beyond just its biological functions. Just like how the river is incomplete without its flow, and a light bulb worthless without electricity, the brain would remain just a giant bulge on the top of our heads without its driving force – **The Mind**.

What's the difference you may ask? Let me answer that with an analogy. Suppose you were a computer. The computer springs to life with electricity, just like the breath in our lungs. The hardware used to convey the output would be the brain. Lastly, we have the software that fabricates our thoughts – **The Mind**.

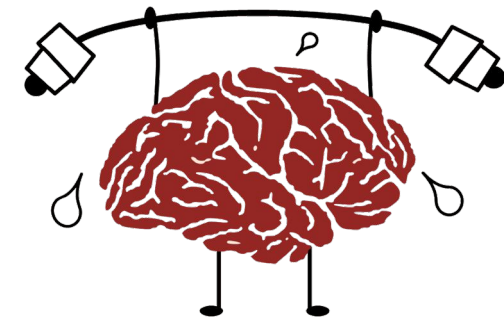


Did you know? Our heads play a vital significance in our culture. It represents our self-esteem or ego. That is why we bow down while greeting people, showing respect by surrendering our pride in front of them. Our brain also cannot be considered functional without our body, particularly the spinal cord. Without the body, our thoughts and desires would be left unchecked. The spine acts as a bridge for our body and brain to convey impulses to each other. It allows our brain to relay messages to our body parts so that these messages can be acted upon. Similarly, the body sends information that it picks up from our surroundings to the brain for processing. This shows the dependency as well as importance of this magical organ and how its work is fruitless without this symbiotic relationship.



Thoughts are like water; they take the shape of the vessel we put them in. Water in the river and the sewage flows the same way, but their contents and final destinations set them apart. Likewise, our minds contain different thoughts flowing in different ways. If our thoughts remain pure, they shall resemble the same serenity as any holy river. Contrastingly, if our thoughts are dirty, our mind would be in no less of a state than a gutter.

Another fun fact about the brain - almost 10 million messages are transmitted in it per minute!! Messages get transferred from one neuron to another at the speed of light! The efficiency of the brain is truly mystical. All of its abilities are unique to it alone.

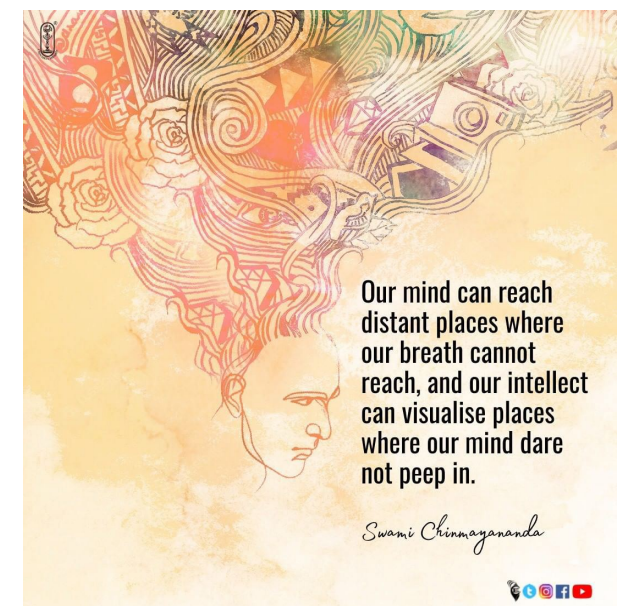
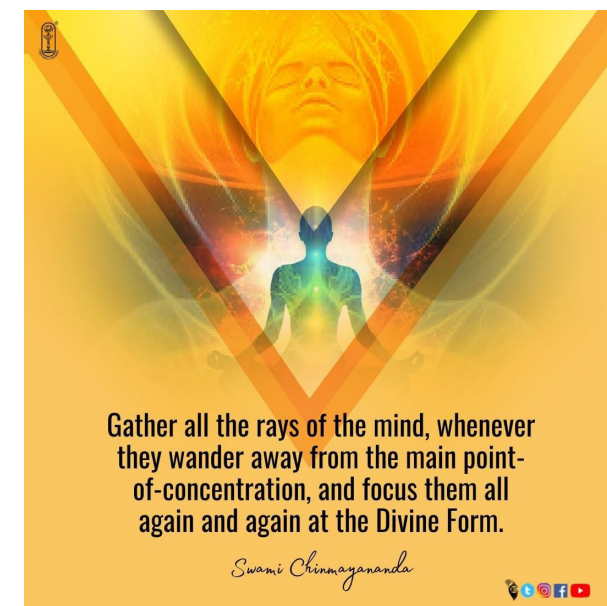


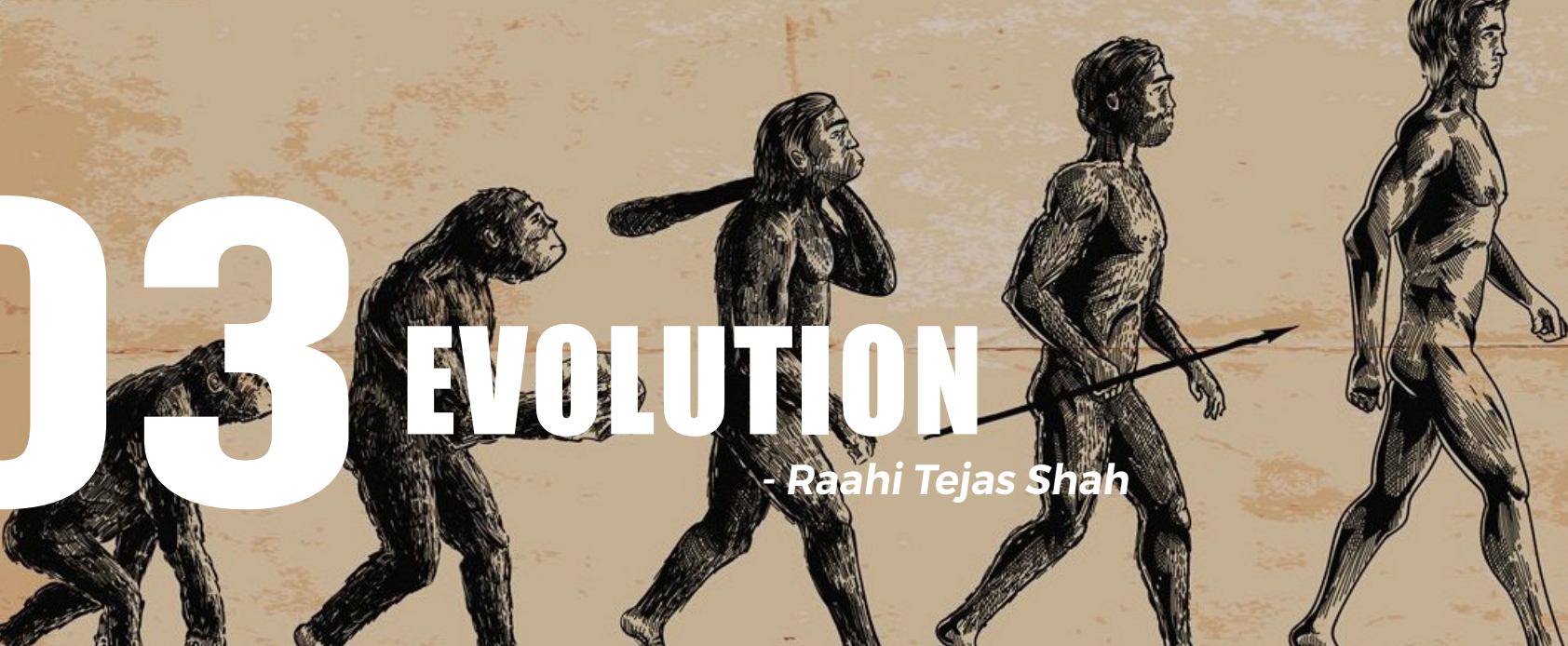
We all know about how singers require months and months of practice to perfect their skills. Daily riyaz and vocal exercises help a singer's vocal cords gain muscle memory. Now, envision what would happen if the singer practiced a song or rendition in the wrong style or pitch. They would gain wrong muscle memory, make the same mistakes again and again, and become habituated to singing the wrong way.

The brain, being a muscle, is capable of gaining selective repetition of certain thoughts. This is why harboring wrong thoughts becomes a habit very hard to lose, turning these habits into behavior and kick-starting the ladder of fall.

This is the secret to attain tranquility of thoughts - the elimination of unwanted and unnecessary ones. Keep a track of what you think, as it leads to what you do, which in turn determines who you are. The root of your identity lies in what you do, say and think.

Our brain is so much more than just blood vessels, neurons and impulses. To those willing to seek, it is the key to happiness, success and fulfillment. As Marcus Aurelius famously said, "Happiness in your life depends on the quality of your thoughts."





The world we live in today feels normal, ordinary. Life nowadays feels like it has always been this way, everlasting and never ending. This is just how humans have existed however it seems that people often forget that it is not so. Never before have humans lived in a society so sophisticated and engineered to our needs as we do today. We live at the peak of technological advancements but how did we get here?

The answer is quite simple But is it?

Evolution. Evolution which made its mark on this world long before we even existed, has most certainly created the realm around us into what it is today.

In simple terms evolution is the process through which species adapt over time, in response to their changing environment. Mankind is believed to be evolved from apes and till date the only reason humans are still alive is evolution. But will it continue to do so? Evolution occurs over a period of time, when a certain race is being challenged in their designated environment and till now evolution has done a good job keeping life simple.

Evolution leads to Human advancement hence, it has fast-tracked the unveiling of knowledge, it has even increased human efficiency by a large scale. Which undoubtedly has led to our lives becoming a lot more effortless, it has deprived us of almost all possible challenges and struggles at a physical level. The deprivation or lack of need of effort has only led to the expansion of our comfort zones. We humans have now turned to changing our environment as a response to evolutionary challenges.

According to the theory of evolution only the fittest are deemed to survive. However, that is no longer the case. Ever since the scientific revolution, the majority continues to survive depriving a struggle for bodily advancement.

Of course, we will continue to struggle but will this struggle only exist on a biological level? This phenomenon of evolution has carried humanity till here but will it do more? As our existence becomes more comfortable Individuals are no longer troubled, which is necessary to biologically urge for evolution. This means that evolution will continue



Ever since the start of the era of modern humans, this race has deteriorated. History has shown the existence of humans that were exceedingly tall and physically capable with mediocre facilities and extreme physical hardships however we evolved. But with an upgrade in lifestyle and comfort there was a consequential degradation in our physical capabilities.

Even though it makes us weaker, evolution will continue. Luckily, humanity will continue to advance at an intellectual level, to make new discoveries, to develop. This means that the survival of the fittest is not relevant any more. However there is another, more pressing characteristic, intellect. In a more simpler sense, there is a change in the meaning of the word "fittest" itself, now it means someone who has access to the numerous complex technologies, and may actually have a chance to avoid the inevitable, [Death](#).

This raises the question. What is intelligence? It is simply the ability to solve problems. Over the years our mental competence has grown exponentially. Society has learned to be more inclusive and rational, our minds can comprehend oceans of knowledge and urge to go within and better understand consciousness.

Considering that our civilization constantly moves forward in the same path, implying that our intellectual capacity consistently grows. Now take a look at comparative words, like: big, far, etc. It is just how it is to the current comprehension of the human mind. As our intellect expands so do our boundaries. Which means that big is no longer big, far is no longer far. Human potential is infinite implying there are no limitations to our progressions.

In the linear presentation of time all that takes birth is bound to end and so will the progression of humankind. The deepest philosophies of India contradict this and state that time is circular and expresses birthlessness. Humankind will evolve endlessly as all that is birthless is eternal.

Hard Truths

The Last Supper



The Better Last Supper





UNVEILED



AS WE THINK, SO WE BECOME

- Aryaman Bansal



On the 4th of November this year, red, white and black adorned the MPH as the students of 2nd Year IB donned their most immaculate formals and prepared to welcome a host of revolutionary thinkers for one of the biggest events in the CIRS calendar – TEDx Youth@CIRS.

TED – a platform built for the purpose of spreading new ideas. A TED or TEDx event (x = independently organized event) is bound to be a place for discussion and debate on revolutionary new ideas. To expose our students to the very ideas that will shape our future, TEDx Youth@CIRS was started in the year 2016, and hasn't looked back since. The sixth edition kicked off right after breakfast, and the audience was greeted by an amazing setting, decked in the signature colours of TED. The atmosphere was buzzing as the introductions were made, and Varun Kapoor, IPS took the stage to officially begin the event. What followed was a spectacle to behold, with diverse ideas shared by life coach Vaishali Shah, motivational speaker Priya Senthil, math professor Vinay Nair, former war veteran Rohith Choudhary, and finally freelance art historian Snehal Tambulwadikar-Khedkar.

The dazzling stage settings and perfect proceedings didn't happen overnight. The 3-hour event was the culmination of an enormous effort by the students of 2nd Year IB, who aimed to make this show truly world-class. From the tech team working day and night in the AV Room, to the speaker hunter team going through pages and pages of speakers, there wasn't a person who could be seen idling around. As the event drew closer and closer, and the workload grew exponentially, they rose up to the occasion and put up this fantastic show.

As the curtains are drawn on TEDx Youth@CIRS' sixth instalment, the standards have been set for the next batch of students, who have already begun working on their event. This year's event displayed varied ideas from numerous fields, while simultaneously surpassing previous editions in organization and quality. Quite a success, don't you think?

Our thoughts are more than just thoughts. They are what guide us through life and define us. They showcase our views to the world and to all the people around us.

If we believe, then we can be successful, on the other hand if we believe we won't be successful then we will fail! It doesn't matter that we are different from other people, it means that you should have a vision for your self.

If you have a mindset of growth, you will believe that you can improve upon yourself and you will see opportunities all around you. However, if you have a stagnant mindset, you would believe that you can't change your capability and that all your opportunities are limited.

The Great Buddha once said "The mind is everything. What you think, you become". There is absolute truth in this sentence! If you can control your mind then, you can determine the course of your life. You may either be held captive by your thoughts or be set free by them.

Everyone knows that our speech affects our lives. Similarly, our thoughts too affect the way we live.

My father once told me "Everything hangs on one's thoughts". One December night, a few minutes after I went to bed, I started having breathing problems. My parents rushed me to the hospital. I had no idea what had happened to me, but thankfully, the hospital confirmed that it was only a nose block. My mind kept playing tricks with me. Whenever I would get a slight nose block, a horrible anxiety would build up.

I convinced myself that something was wrong with me and not a day went by when I didn't think I had some kind of breathing problem. All the evidence kept pointing out to the fact that there was nothing wrong with me, but my thoughts kept drifting back to me being sick with a breathing problem. It was as if my mind had rewired itself due to the events of that one night.

After two days, my father noticed that I was sad and advised me to read one of his favourite books. I didn't quite understand his motive, but I read it anyway. As I read the book it made me recall the centrality that thoughts have on one's life.

Now you know that your mind is a powerful tool, it can either be your best friend or your worst enemy. What we think is what we become in the end; you may not have any mental health issues but your mind can still make you think otherwise.

Our thoughts can either broaden our boundaries or hold us back. Our thoughts are ours and ours alone. We have the ability to choose how we live our lives.

To conclude, I have a question to all the readers

"How long are you going to wait before you demand the best for yourself?"

06 BHARAT

- Shriya Shruti Misra



“A Nation is formed with brute force whereas a civilization is based on ideas”.

“The tree on a mountain is compelled to face whatever the weather brings. The only choice it has is putting down roots as deeply as possible.”

Bharat is not only the largest democracy in the world, but is also one of the fastest developing nations. Caught in the storm of rapid growth, we are, unfortunately, losing our indigenous identity as Bharat, one of the oldest civilizations in the golden pages of history. The reality is bitter. We, The Hindus, have lost faith in our own ideologies. Were our roots not strong enough to withstand the storms of colonial rule? When did we lose our indigenous roots?

It is now time to face this reality. The foundations were laid in the mid-19th century, when the brutal, cunning conversion began and sadly still continues. It was the mere start of “The Brainwash”. As a prime example, today, almost 40 employees at the Tirupati Temple are non-Hindus including the Chief Executive himself. But isn't it almost impossible to think of a Hindu employee in a church or a mosque? Converting employees triggers the snowball effect, penultimately leading to the extortion of the temple land and the spiritual edifice of the temple itself.



Adding to this, Islamic Mosques and Christian churches are not administered or taxed by the government, whereas Hindu temples very much are. In Tamil Nadu, taxes as high as 18% are levied by the government on the income of Hindu temples explicitly. The temple's money, decision-making, administration is all under the state. Governments change, their priorities and alignments change too, but their approach towards temples however, have not changed. This harms the funds directed towards the upkeep of the temple. Nevertheless, no taxes or laws are applied to churches and other institutions to regulate their foreign funding, allowing corruption and eventual profit-based functioning.



FREE HINDU TEMPLES

Hindus have always believed that everyone deserves respect. We deem that one is free to follow any form of worship he or she likes, contributing to the ultimate goal of mutual respect and equality between individuals. Exactly contrary to the teaching of Sanatan Dharma, the Islamic and Jeudo-Christian ideologies talk about one God, one path and only one direction.

Anyone who doesn't respect the commandments of the ruler is severely punished. Doesn't this sound very similar to a dictatorship? and aren't we after all a democracy? Even after we see these patterns, we don't seem to make a conscious effort to stand up for our people, our dharma. Once we understand this and realize our ideas, we would finally be prepared to face a thousand different storms which plague our immortal civilization.



Fantasy is something that makes us wonder if the objects which humans consider ‘magic’ actually exist.

Do unicorns and trolls truly exist? Or are we all just dreaming? Or maybe we’re a part of someone else’s dream? And as they wake up, everything is gone!

Fantasy helps us express our imagination and views. For example: Harry Potter. It makes us wonder about witches and wizards, who fly around on brooms, about animals like Hippogriffs and Thestrals, about doing unimaginable things with a flick of a wooden stick.

What about Marvel? The popular theory of how dreams are an outlook into our multiversal selves?

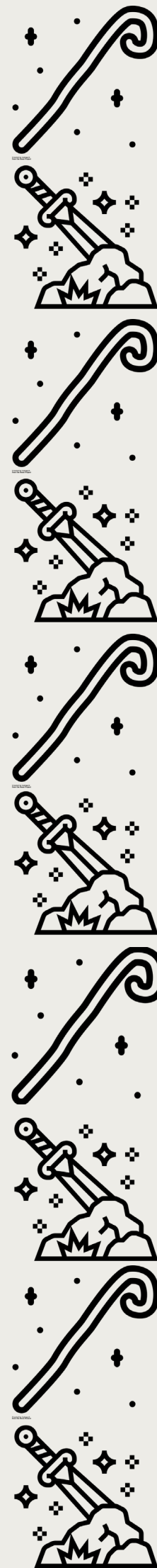
Similarly, the Percy Jackson series which makes us ponder upon the existence of the Greek gods and the various monsters.



Do any of these actually exist?
There are really endless examples like these.

Haven't you ever thought of something that you think might be true? It can be anything, ranging from the tooth fairy, to animals being able to talk, maybe even flying on a lion! All these things make us feel calm, happy and safe in the bubble we’ve made for ourselves, but at some point we have to pop our lovely bubble and push ourselves into the realm of reality. It doesn't sound fun at all.

Let me tell you. In our imagination we can conjure up anyone we want, anything we want, in any form we want. There are no restrictions. We do as we want, but in reality, we have rules, and they have to be followed.



So then, maybe reality is better, where there are no such things like ghosts and monsters. What if imagination also had rules that were more lenient but still rules? What if your imagination gets the best of you?

There can be some pretty bad side-effects. To cite some would be depression and the development of irrational tears.

Ultimately, it depends on how you look at it. You can be a dreamer or a realist. That's really up to you, but naturally the question arises-

Imagination or Reality?

Music

“Brahma first manifested himself as a sound and then as a form”
- Swami Vivekananda

Ever since I can remember, I have been fascinated by music. Music is a medium through which one laughs, cries, blends in, recalls, and escapes into their own world. It doesn’t matter if you can't sing. All that matters is that you're there to hold on to the memories and its magnificence. Music can transform people and invoke unimaginable feelings.

In modern times, music is considered the best tranquilliser of anxiety, tension and stress along with high blood pressure rates. The youth today use music as a closure to their problems. It helps them keep themselves calm and stress free. Simply said, music makes you happy.

We all know this. However, what most people don’t know is that music is quite literally a form of therapy.

Don Campbell, a 43-year-old music researcher and composer, learnt that he had a fatal blood clot in an artery below his brain. He was advised by a doctor to undergo an immediate surgery with no guarantee of a positive outcome. Shockingly, the doctor decided to pass on the surgery, and simply instructed Campbell to hum and meditate. He hummed quietly for 3 to 4 minutes up to 7 times a day. 3 weeks later, he went back for another brain scan. The results had his doctor dumbfounded. The blood clot had shrunk by around 2 inches! And Campbell was declared out of danger.

When asked about it, all he said was that it was the miracle of music which left millions of people astounded. The miracle of music therapy works in a way that is seemingly not possible. The vibrational tune of humming, touches a person on all the tiers of consciousness. These effects have been positively seen in the nervous system which in turn enhances the immune system.

Visualise entering a room where loud music is being played. Think about it. Why do our feet immediately start tapping the ground? Why do our heads start to bob and shake to the beat of the tune? Our bodies automatically adjust to the pace, rhythm and pulse of the music. When we hear rock or pop music, our heart beats faster than usual. Whereas, when we listen to soft melodious music, our pulse rate relaxes, in turn relaxing ourselves.

Such little details go unnoticed by most of us.

Music is not just lyrics, rhymes, singing, imagery, etc. It connects to people and all living beings in more ways than we know.

-Kavya Modi



18 END THE STIGMA.

- Rishabh Palany
&
Yash Baisya



We are sure you know this already,

Preserved food won't be spoilt by the mere gaze of a menstruating woman or the simple contact of a girl on her period cannot make you sick.

And yet as amusing as it may seem, these myths are daily practices for a vast majority. The simple use of the word "menstruation" is enough to make an entire crowd of people heave in awkwardness and unease. Such environment shatters our receptiveness, reducing us to a state where the use of sayings like "That Time of the Month" has become the norm. Every day, without fail, 800 million women around the world menstruate, yet periods are still highly stigmatized. Secrecy, shame, and stigma burden most menstruators. And the worst part is that men still feel discomfort when confronting this reality and refuse to accept menstruation as a part of daily routine.

You may be wondering why us, a bunch of boys, are writing an article on a topic they don't understand very well. Ironically, this presumption is exactly the reason why we chose to do so. In society, an impossible situation is created when girls think that we would never understand what they go through and boys don't have an interest in educating themselves about periods. This creates a sense of misunderstanding and erects a barrier between the two genders. This would eventually lead to the creation of an awkwardness on discussions about this topic which would lead to the birth of the stigma. Therefore, the only way to kill this stigma is to destroy this root. We know it is difficult, but women have to be more open about their problems and what they are going through and men have to be more open and accommodative to listen to women and support them in any way they can.

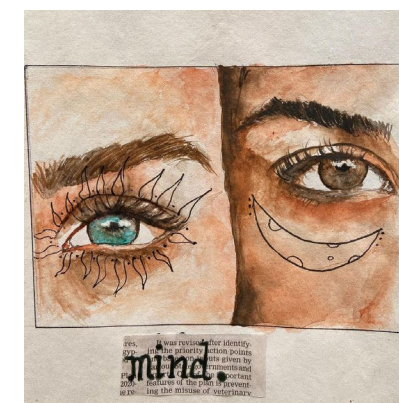
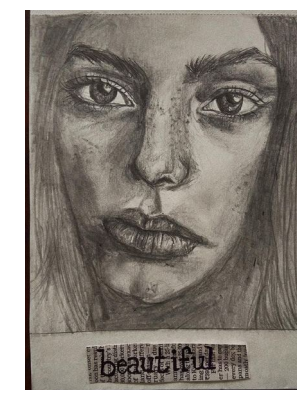
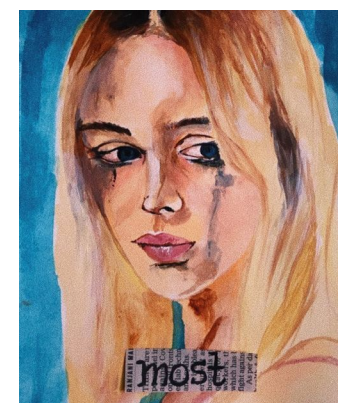
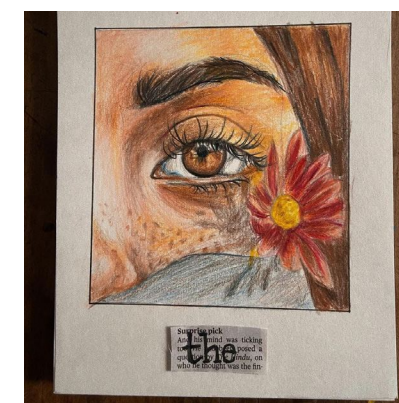
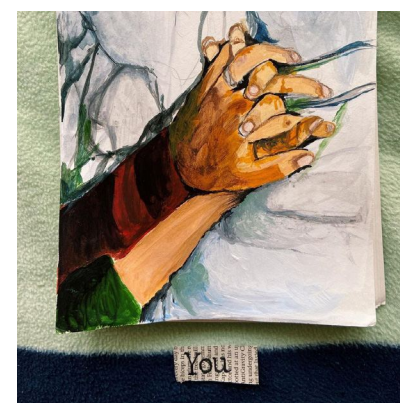
A period is a boon, which helps women cleanse their systems, but it is perceived to be a curse. This 'curse' is forged by aeons of unfiltered lies and superstitions that still remain to linger, unquestioned. And this is not limited to women alone. Men have played a critical role in sustaining taboos and stigma over centuries. Men have a responsibility to step up and help end the stigma, by speaking openly and respectfully about menstruation, by acting as allies and providing support to the women around us. To start with, talk to your trusted ones about the topic openly. With time, spread your reach to others who are important to you. Lastly, speak about it in groups and parties and help destroy the stigma.



While a large percentage of people in the world continue to remain oblivious when it comes to speaking out loud about menstruation, a temple that is well worn with time celebrates one of the most natural biological processes of mankind. The Kamakhya devi temple in Assam is the torch bearer for spreading awareness and our own Indian culture enlightens the path towards elimination of menstrual stigma. Curiously enough, every year during the month of Ashaad (June), the Brahmaputra River near Kamakhya turns red. It is believed that the goddess 'menstruates' during this period. Contrary to the shaming treatment that menstruation gets elsewhere on the planet, here it is revered as the ability of a woman to conceive. Thus, we can safely say that our culture advocates for the termination of stigma against menstruation. Innumerable invasions and foreign influences have tainted our ideology and is a major setback in the war against stigma around menstruation.

In order to tear the barrier down we must do our best to support women as much as we are can whilst denouncing the myths and taboos surrounding menstruation. We know that it is hard to open up to someone about such sensitive topics especially when its someone who has never experienced it first hand, but believe us when we say this, all it takes is one small step to open our minds up and realizing the vision of eliminating the stigma around menstruation.

Alumni Works



- Sakasra, V
(CIRS'17)

09 DEATH OF DETAIL

- Malhar Modi

A long day at work, and you're tired to the bone. You decide to visit the nearby park to finally take a break, and seat yourself on a bench.

A few years ago, you'd be sitting on an elegantly carved bench, with ornate designs of animals, birds, or other urbane icons, but in the modern day, you'd be sitting on... this.



This is just a small example of the wave of minimalism which is now taking over the world. This style has become the social default for seemingly every design choice, whether architectural, corporate or home décor. This is a troubling trend, because minimalism represents a very scary phenomenon – a distinct lack of detail.

But why does detail matter? Think of it as an identity. What gave older phone boxes their distinct character? It was the details: a bright red color, moldings around the doors, or ornamentation at the top. Now, the intricate detailing on phone boxes has vanished, and with it, their character.



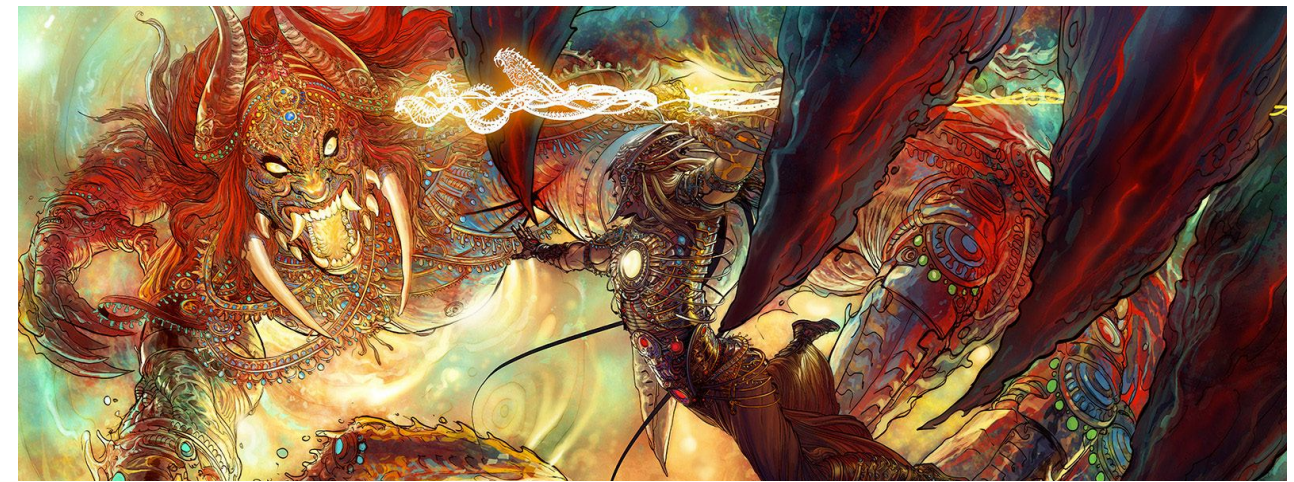
It is indeed true that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, but this is not just about the beauty. Rather, it is about things having discernible qualities & characteristics which give them a unique identity.



Take bollards, for example. Hardly anyone pays attention to them, but the older bollards had some character, even if they were hardly “beautiful”. Bollards nowadays? They just exist meaningless and mute.

Gone are the elaborate throne-like lions, tigers and dragons which once adorned our furniture. Even park benches today have taken a turn towards minimalism.

You'd need an expert to explain the significance behind our detailed temple architecture, and the symbolic meaning they convey. But modern skyscrapers? They don't really say anything. They are just there. Huge boxes – plain, simple and above all, completely “mute”.



As we move ahead, it's time for us to look to the past. Recently, futurist's Indic art and Indic-themed art have flourished, with people taking to it like fishes to water.

The most obvious feature of these futuristic Indic art pieces (such as Mukesh Singh's works from Grant Morrison's 18 Days) is the intrinsic detail which spreads beautifully across the entire canvas. This attention to detail can be found across all ancient civilizations.

The worst crime of minimalist design is how it has stripped color from everything. From the temples of ancient India to the marvels of ancient Greece, each civilization told stories through their detailed artistry.

The current social drift towards minimalism has stripped away all identity. Suddenly, everything looks the same - absolute neutrality.

No details, no identity.

The question is, what does this say about us as a people? Have we devolved from the glorious peaks of artistic evolution to being mute artists who have no life or light within our artistic expressions? Is minimalism leading to the death of detail, and the death of identity?

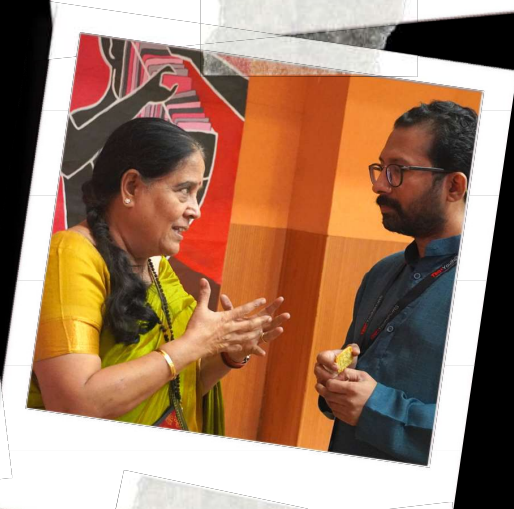
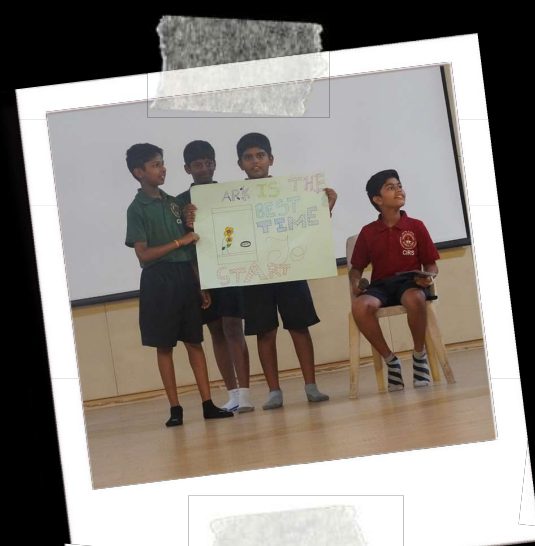
In my opinion, this goes beyond the ephemeral world which we perceive. Intricate art seems to provide some knowledge through its details. It tries to convey some idea, some message. In a way, detailed art imposes something on us.

Being fundamentally ego-driven beings, it has become a challenge for us to accept any form of imposition, which makes it easier for someone to appreciate minimalist, abstract designs having little to no substance of their own. Rather, they rely on the interpretation of the viewer, which boosts a person's ego.

This might also give us an insight into why Indian society as a whole always favored detailed art over highly individualistic, abstract and minimalist art forms.

One of the fundamental values of the Indic society is a sense of collectivism, where collective dharma is valued more than individualism. It is not far reaching to actually believe that the strong collective knowledge-based identity of Indians made them lean more towards detailed art, which takes one away from individualism.

Well, at least for the students of our school, minimalism is a reality very far away. From our various Masquerade art pieces to our incredibly expressive and detailed Wall Magazines, our students still seem to possess things to tell the world through their art.

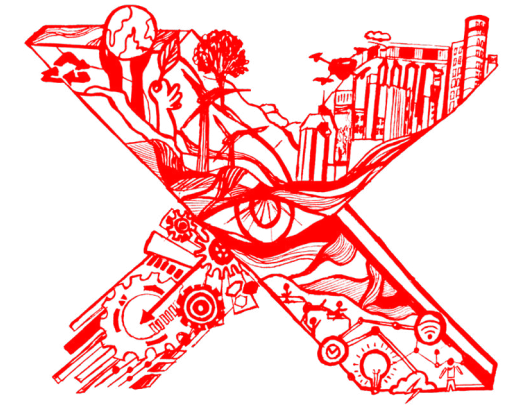


1

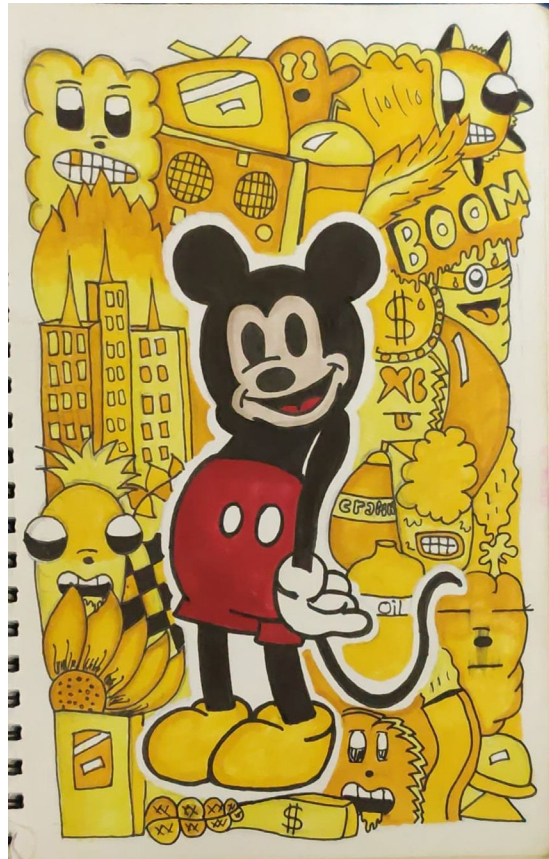
CREATIVE CORNER



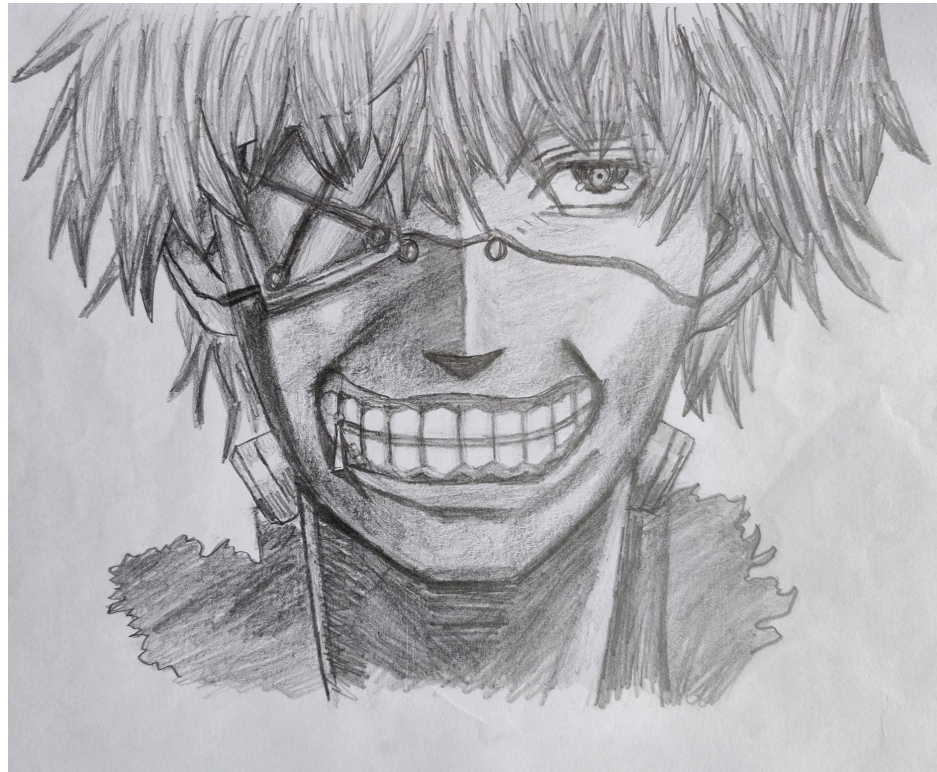
- Vivaan Jain



- Priyal Saraf



- Aman Amruth



- Pranjal Ranjan



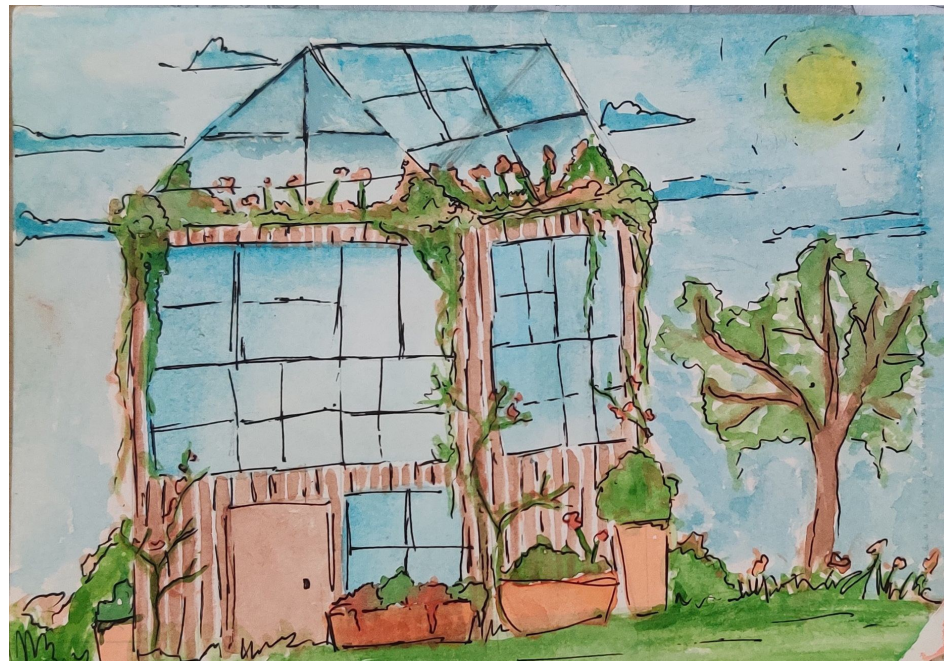
- Mridul Motwani



- Nihaarika Vegasena
(Receiving the First Price in Chrysalis for her artwork)



- Charuvi Agarwal



- Diya Patel



- Vanshika Mundada



- Naitik Agarwala



CLASSIFIEDS

- THE GRAND FINAL OF 2022 -

THE MASQUERADE ISSUE IS 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.



THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR PLANET IS

**THE BELIEF THAT SOMEONE
ELSE WILL SAVE IT.**

Robert Swan

#Indigenousculture



#Akbarlyengar #AurangzebSharma



Facilitator : Br. Sanatan Chaitanya
Editor-in-Chief : Malhar Modi
Assisting Editor : Adhavan Diwakar Vidya
Designer: Haardhik.M.Arani
Photo Researcher : Aneesh Mahesh
Sub-Editor(s) : Ziya Ghodasara, Niranjana Binu, Gouri Praveen, Ryka Bopiah
Special Correspondents: Kriti Srinivasababu, Gaurav Ranjan, Reshmika S.V
Social Media Manager : Himanshi Goyal

Our Gratitude to the CIRS Management for giving flight to our initiative

Chinmaya International Residential School

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

Phone - 91 422 2613303