

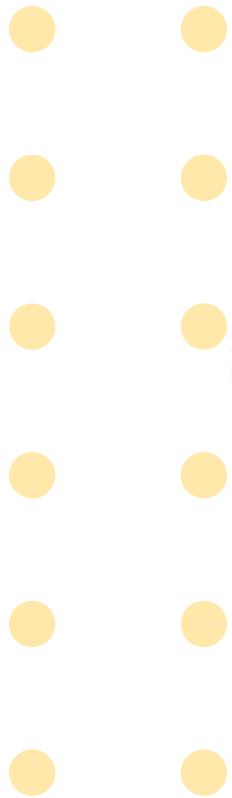
SINGHANIA IBDP CLASS OF 2022 PRESENTS



SMT. SULOCHANADEVI SINGHANIA SCHOOL (IBDP)

IRIS

MAY
2021



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EDITORS-IN-CHIEF'S NOTE



For roughly under a year, as columnists writing for the magazine, with our eccentric paradigms for IRIS's future latent at the back of our minds, we've witnessed IRIS grow and innovate. Slowly but surely. The past few months have however, been a turning point for the magazine and the IRIS Editorial group. It's emerged out of dormancy, yearning to spread its roots and set to flower. Together as a team and as individuals we've nourished IRIS's work with an impeccable coalescence of professionalism and passion, to make it what it is today.

As James Clear says "Goals are good for setting a direction but systems are best for making progress." Our vision for the magazine was to build a system that would support any kind of future projects IRIS would like to undertake. A system that consumed less in maintenance and gave us more space for innovation. We wanted to create a platform where all our batch mates felt empowered to express their outlook, to record the chronicles of school life of which they've been an integral part and to sow seeds of change in whatever way they can. Incidentally, the entire batch, from teachers to students was involved in the conception of this edition, with every corner of the magazine designed to complement contemporary times but also to radiate Singhania's conspicuous family culture.

It is a product of creativity, variety and long hours of work, that we want the world to read.

Our ambitious ideas were certainly overwhelming and if not for the support of the entire IRIS team we would not have been here. Special thanks to our designers, Zaine Cowan and Tvesa Medh who've juggled numerous items and still put up with all of the back and forth. A special thanks to Mrs. Evangeline Pereira, for having faith in us and giving us the liberty to innovate. Finally, gracias to the founders, who've made this opportunity available for us in the first place. Now readers, keep in mind, this is more than just a magazine. It's a psychologist and a pantomath, an activist and a fashionista, an explorer and a poet. So go ahead, turn those pages, you never know where you'll end up! **Finally, we present to you the very first edition of the IRIS Magazine, for the year 2021.**



GURJOT GILL
&
ANANDITA SALIL

SCHOOL EVENTS

MOOT COURT *by Advika Iyer*

MATHLETICS *by Gargi Bhave*

TOK CONFERENCE *by Varun Brahma and others*

VIRTUAL INVESTITURES :

-**Girl-Up Singhaniania** *by Riya Gadkari*

-**EPAC** *by Khush Thakker*

-**TedX Singhaniania** *by Prerit Verma*

SPANISH INTERACTION

by Sia Shete, Roshan Sinha & Sneha Singh



SCHOOL EVENTS

MOOT COURT:

THROUGH MY IRIS

by Advika Iyer

As the mysteries of the **criminal case** unfolded in front of our very irises, we witnessed a well-articulated moot court session. Of course, there were some minor hitches at the beginning, but all in all it was beautifully orchestrated by my very own peers of the **Singhania IBDP Year 1 Batch**.



*Speculations,
conspiracy
theories galore,
everyone was
eager to know the
judges' verdict.*

And of course, we did have our share of fun while working on it!

Speculations, conspiracy theories galore, everyone was eager to know the judges' verdict. Shreds of evidence, judges' and lawyers' files, official statements and the entire course of the case was created with utmost precision by our talented **planning committee**. In an attempt to recreate a court-like milieu, all the judges and the lawyers were to wear **formal** attire. All the participants were to use **judicial jargons** to maintain a court-like decorum and to best exhibit the proper functioning of our judicial system. Although this unspoken rule was **breached** at a few instances by some of the participants, it merely added an element of **humour** and eased the solemnity of the session. All the participants were students. None of them, witnesses to any full-fledged court hearing. Some may have taken a **keen interest** in some crime series or movie, considering themselves 'crime aficionados', and some like me, who had **no experience** or knowledge about court proceedings. But the prevailing desire to experience a real-life court proceeding and to learn something new was something that all of us shared.

The first hearing of the session was in a frenzy, to say the least. With the prosecuting attorneys delaying the commencement of the hearing in the name of 'internet issues', thus infuriating the judge (I got too much into character!), the weak and disorganised arguments, the witnesses' **self-contradicting** statements, and the infamous "I didn't threaten him. I just gave verbal warnings in an aggressive tone." and "No comment."

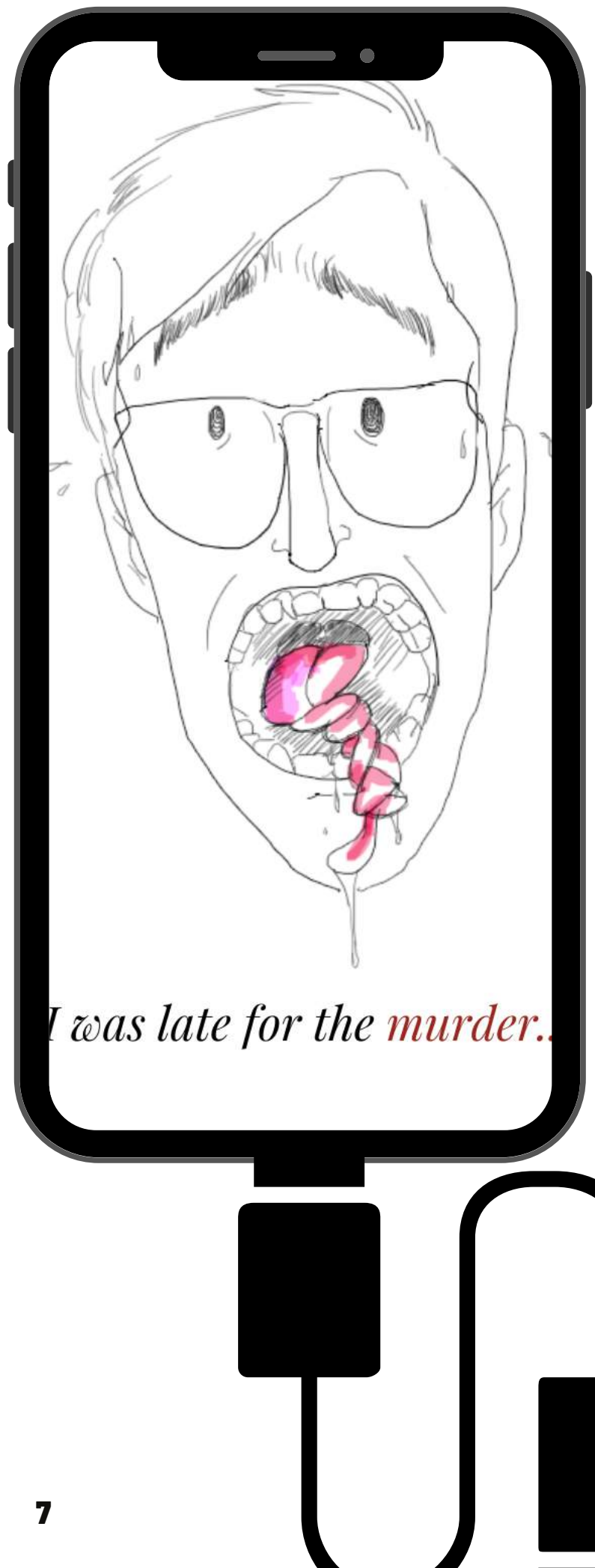
A few of our students who **portrayed the media**, captured the series of events with their wonderful artwork and articles thus adding a dimension of spice and authenticity to the programme.



The important thing is that we learnt from our mistakes- we i.e the judges, created a script for ourselves, briefed the lawyers on how the next hearing was to take place and familiarize ourselves with quintessential court dialogues, making the second session a complete success!

With all the evidence and official statements at their disposal, the judges needed time to discuss and come up with a righteous verdict. The role of the judges was an important one as they had to make sure the offender receives the most appropriate punishment. They had to look through each and every nook of the case in order to punish the people involved. A small wrong step on part of the judge could have ruined the life of an innocent or could have led to a criminal being acquitted of his/her crime. Thus, after prudent forethought and thorough consideration, the judges declared Binod Thakur (the brother of the victim) guilty during the school assembly. It was told to us later on, by the masterminds of this case that both Mrunalini Thakur (the victim's wife) and Binod Thakur were guilty, with Binod Thakur being the murderer.

The key takeaway from these sessions is to uphold and promote the idea of “innocent until proven guilty”. The light-heartedness of the process of making the moot court was on par with the sheer seriousness of the hearings. A CAS activity that indeed gave us an enriching insight into the real-world judicial system.



AN EXHILARATING RELAY OF MATHEMATICAL KNOWLEDGE!

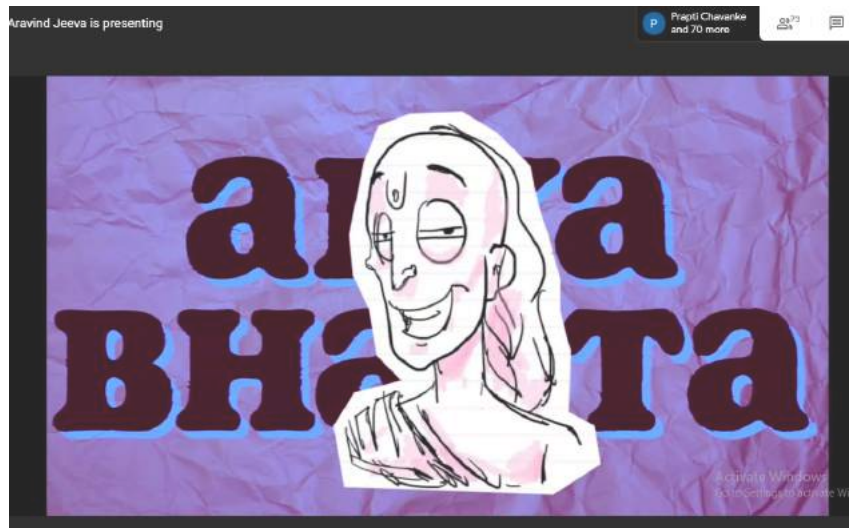


b y G a r g i B h a v e

Mathletics-a celebratory programme organised by the IB section was conducted on the 22nd of December, 2020. During the event, students participated in a plethora of activities, organised only after prudent planning and constructive forethought. Specifically designed, to acknowledge the importance of the use of mathematics in daily life, participants took part in events such as, **debates and quizzes**- which were based on learning and application of mathematical knowledge and concepts. Via the online platform, the event reinforced the significance of mathematics through enjoyable activities.

[see more >>](#)

The event's prelude was the debate, conducted in a rather unique way. All the participants, divided into groups, were to speak for or against the motion- "Intuition helps in making mathematical assumptions.". It was fascinating to witness how, many of the participants proffering the motion, included examples of Tenali Rama and Shakuntala Devi as evidence for their arguments. It was even more amusing to watch the rebuttal round, where one of the most judicious points, regarding the connection between "**Math and Intuition**" were put forth. Participants were finally awarded points based on the collective criteria of organization, clarity, use of



arguments, use of cross-examination and rebuttal and their cooperation skills.

A quiz is a mind sport. It's a test of how much factual knowledge one wields, and this was exactly the purpose of "Mathopedia". Often, while learning maths, we start mugging up patterns, instead of learning the essence of the concept. We become better at recognising patterns, more than reasoning, critically assessing and solving problems. This quiz put these skills of the quiz

players to the test.

The four teams- **Archimedes, Euclid, Diophantus and Hypatia**, put under immense pressure not only because of the time cap but also because of our



impeccable quizmaster, our very maths teacher- **Mr. Agnelo Olakkengil**. His voice modulation, his tone and his discernment of where and when to pause, virtually turned our homes into a KBC auditorium.

The quiz was followed by a very informational yet humorous **skit**, narrating vignettes of daily life where concepts of math are heavily availed. The splendid fifteen minute skit lightened the mood of the audience. It served as a comic relief that deflated the anxiousness of the participants, who were exhausted after the quiz. Personally, as a part of the cast of the skit myself, I

had witnessed the planning and hard work that the organisers had poured into the skit. It was truly a valuable experience both for me and the audience.

An amazing juxtaposition of formal and informal methods of attaining knowledge, it was indeed a splendid event. The event laid emphasis on the importance of realising the significance of mathematics in the modern world and I thoroughly enjoyed it. There was not a single moment of silence, as the participants, spectators and organisers indulged in an immaculate discourse on math and its application.



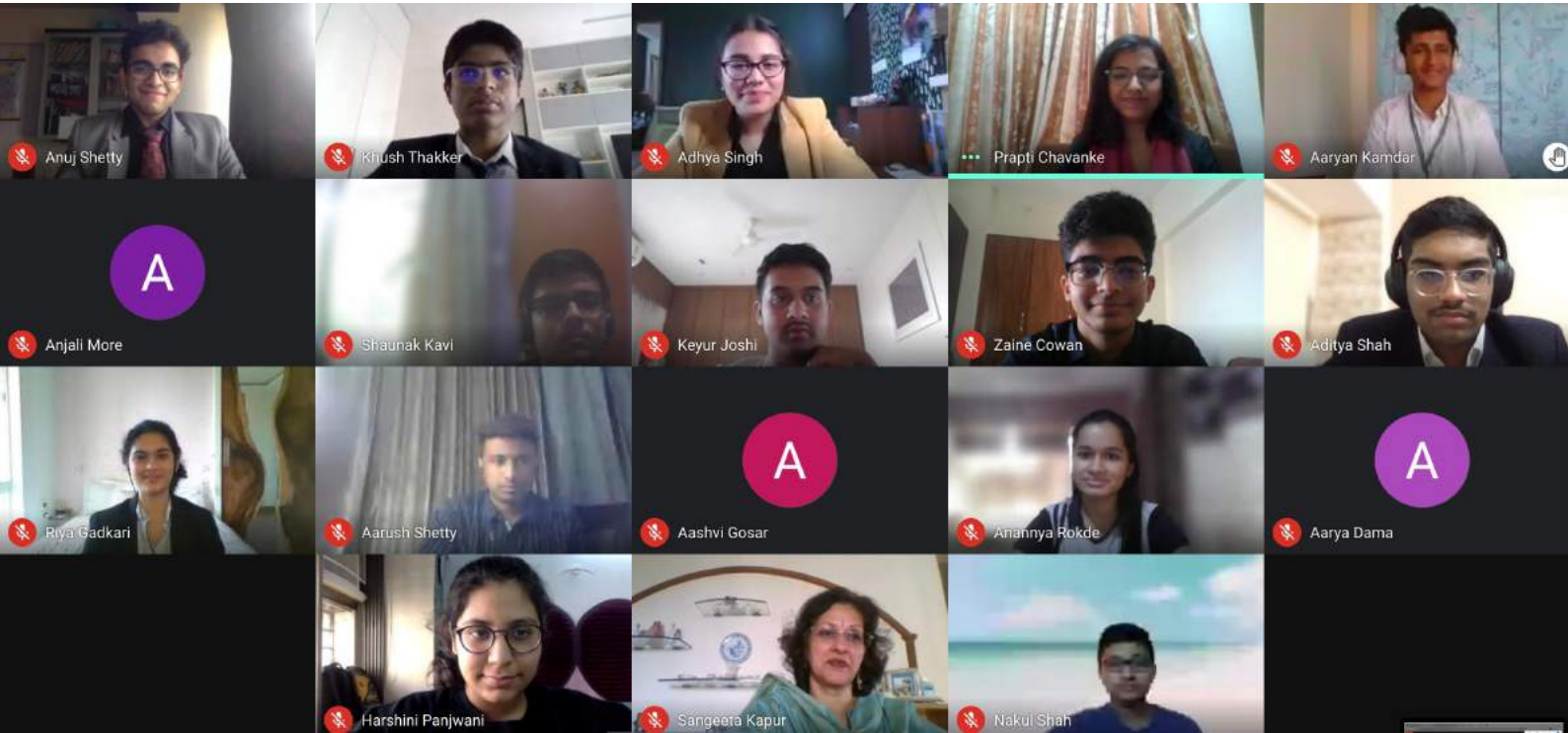
TOK CONFERENCE

Knowledge is described as familiarity, awareness, or comprehension of someone or things, such as information, abilities, or things. It is, as defined by Plato, a justified, sincere conviction. This is where TOK, or Theory of Knowledge, comes into play. The Theory of Knowledge, which is a central component of the IB curriculum, examines the origins and complexities of acquiring and disseminating knowledge and intelligence, and the TOK Conference 2021 was a meager effort to shed some light on the topics of quality of information and beliefs. It was to understand how knowledge and information get altered as they pass through many obstacles before reaching us.

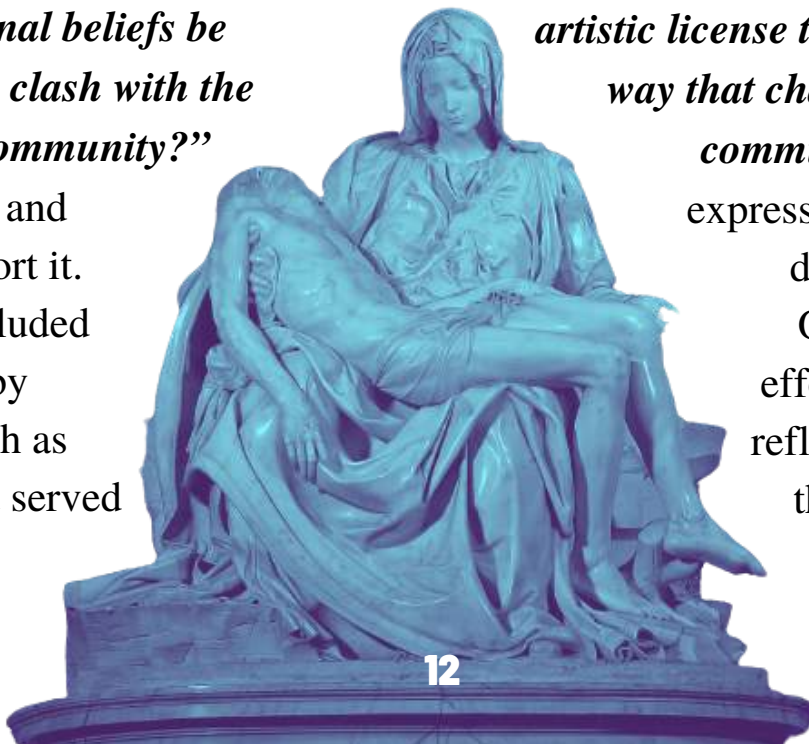
*by Varun Brahma, Pravalika Gumma, Tvesa Medh,
Anmol Jaiswal, Aravind Jeeva*

Students were divided mainly into 4 teams **Est Artifex**, **Bona Fide**, **Voce Magna** and **Infestra** who went about their proceedings as follows:

Est Artifex:



The increasingly interesting and deep discussion began by one of the two groups presenting their claim: ***“How far can artists’ personal beliefs be acceptable if they clash with the sentiments of a community?”*** and giving proofs and examples to support it. The examples included several artworks by famous artists such as M.F Hussain, that served perfectly for the topic and claims.



The second group argued this by stating their knowledge question: ***“To what extent is it ethical for artists to use their artistic license to portray divinity in a way that challenges the faith of a community?”*** The audience expressed their delight in the debates that took place. Overall, the presenters' efforts and research were reflected in an experience that left us all thinking.

Bona Fide:

This group of enthusiastic TOK learners inquired as *“To what extent is faith necessary for the production and acceptance of knowledge?”* One side argued that faith is a basic requirement for creating and accepting understanding, citing religious scriptures such as the Bhagavad Gita as well as claims from monks and priests to support their assertion. This claim was countered with the claim that religious faith lacks a coherent and fundamental implementation and has no logical justification.

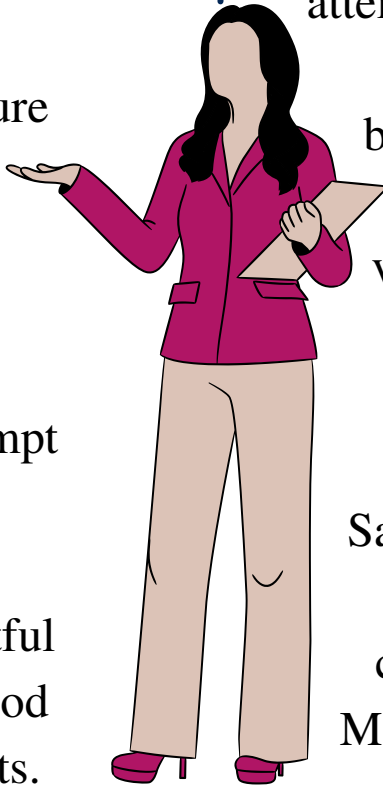
It was backed up by facts from the behaviourism hypothesis, which states that because behaviour is what we can see, it is what needs to be evaluated. Before concluding the discussion, the committee gave the crowd some food for contemplation with the following conclusion: If knowledge is a map, you might imply that religion is mapping a rather different territory than, say, natural sciences.



A Voce Magna:

was an enthralling group of students who debated whether the more influential voices can influence the truth we know and experience on a daily basis.

Each presentation was meticulously planned to ensure audience participation while still being educational. They cited Donald Trump, Adolf Hitler, and Elon Musk as examples to support the prompt in question. As a whole, the presentation was extremely stimulating, resulting in fruitful discussions and providing food for thought for all participants.



Infenestra:

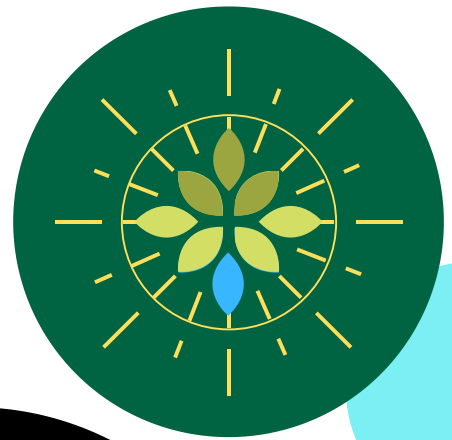
The question posed by the "In Fenestra" group was: "How can what we see be constrained by what we cannot see?" They attempted to respond in the same way by presenting some beautiful and factually correct examples. They presented a video which explored Human Sciences, the origins of the Hubble Space Telescope and Aurora lights on Earth and Saturn. The students were then guided to an imaginative and cartoonish video highlighting Magnes' discovery of Magnets, as well as a series of wonderful, infographic slides on Mathematics.

Eventually, they came across the subject that proved to be the turning point of the entire event: What qualifies as art? This question prompted many participants to express their thoughts/perspectives/points of view on the topic.

TOK is about examining all viewpoints and arriving at the least skewed conclusion. In this event, the student groups attempted to indulge in a discourse that took note of all the possible perspectives. Bias is unavoidable and is a part of human nature, but the students hope that considering diverse points of view has aided in eliminating or at least controlling bias from sneaking into our judgement.

SCHOOL EVENTS

VIRTUAL INVESTITURES





GIRL UP SINGHANIA

Girl Up Singhania, is our own little pack of people, each having amazing ideas to put forward and to grow together as a group, and each still learning to embrace their own individuality. When Riddhi initially declared the list of the new Executive Board members, it was a moment of utter disbelief. At Least for me it was. I would've never imagined, I would be elected as the one, to be in charge of this pristine legacy that Riddhi along with the other EB members left behind.

It's been a slow process, setting the tone of the Club, figuring out our plan of action, our goals, and figuring out how to steer the club. But it has been worthwhile. All of us have gained immensely from each other. We've connected on a personal and professional level and that allows me to perform my role to the best of my ability.

At the beginning of the term, we faced a bit of a turbulence, which was disheartening at the moment, however, our drive, our creative thought process and our desire to

spread awareness for change, kept us motivated to continue to work hard and strive for better every single time. With each post, we're all growing and learning as people. It encourages us to speak up more often and not to shy away from expressing ourselves. We still have a long way to go, to reach where we want to be. It's a slow process but at the end, when our team looks back at everything we've achieved, the hurdles that we had to overcome, everything else would seem trivial, and we would proudly look at it, as our collective hard work. Each issue that we put forward always has a small aspect of the people who've worked in it and they can always go back to see how their work has helped people and brought about change in small, yet significant steps.





Our planet is in danger. The environment is being threatened every single day, as more resources are being depleted on our mother earth. It is very evident that the impact of our invasive actions has effectively ruined the state of our home and other species that thrive within. We here at **Environment Protection and Awareness Club (EPAC)** firmly believe that it is our responsibility to save mother nature before it's too late. The three of us founding members are ESS students as well. We've realized that the time is ripe more than ever to bring about change or else most ecosystems will reach a tipping point, after which there will be no going back. We'll enter a new equilibrium state, which is most likely to not be suitable for the survival of humans. Hence, EPAC was born, with this very idea of trying to spread awareness about various aspects related to the natural environment and environmental degradation so that we could do our little part to help **save mother earth.**

The work of EPAC has currently been centered around spreading awareness through informative posts and videos but soon, we are going to organize various activities that will help increase our reach and contribute towards the larger cause of saving the environment in general. We believe that with more and more people joining this noble cause, we can bring about a significant change in the world as soon as possible and make it a more sustainable and suitable place for everyone to harmoniously live in.



TEDX SINGHANIA



From the creators of Vichaar, we present to you TEDx Youth@SinghaniaSchool ! TEDx Youth@SinghaniaSchool is our very own student organization as we kickstart with our first event that will take place on the 25th of July, 2021. Our speakers are drawn from varied backgrounds giving you a rich and diverse cultural, motivational and enlightening experience. These are official TED events. The content and design of each TEDx event is unique and developed independently which is worked upon by our very own team of young, dynamic individuals. Furthermore, as a result of current circumstances, the event will be streamed online. Throughout the event, we wish to provide our audience with an unforgettable experience that encapsulates TED's spirit. Each speaker will share insights from their own lives and what they believe is important for the world to learn.

If you are looking to speak at a TED event, feel free to get in touch with us and send in a mail to tedxyouth@singhani aschools.org.

SPANISH INTERACTION

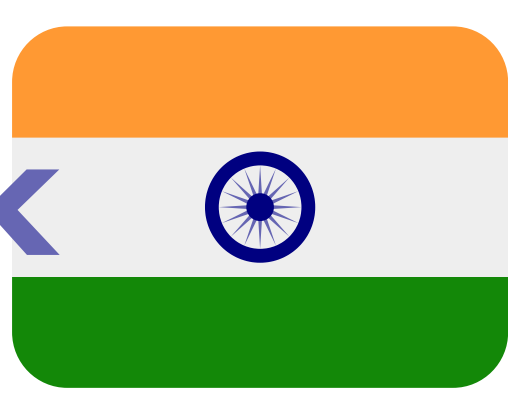
by *Sia Shete, Roshan Sinha & Sneha Singh*



The global pandemic has immensely affected our lives, especially our social lives. However, this one event completely turned things around. It's safe to say, and I speak for the entire grade that the interaction with the students of **Joan Brossa School, in Barcelona, Spain**, was a new experience altogether. More importantly, being the batch that did not get a whim of how it feels to step into school, interact with your friends physically, this offbeat experience was among the few highlights of the year. The session was imbued with laughter, humor, and keenness. As good as it could've been if we were in school as well, we can't deny this was a much needed stress relief.



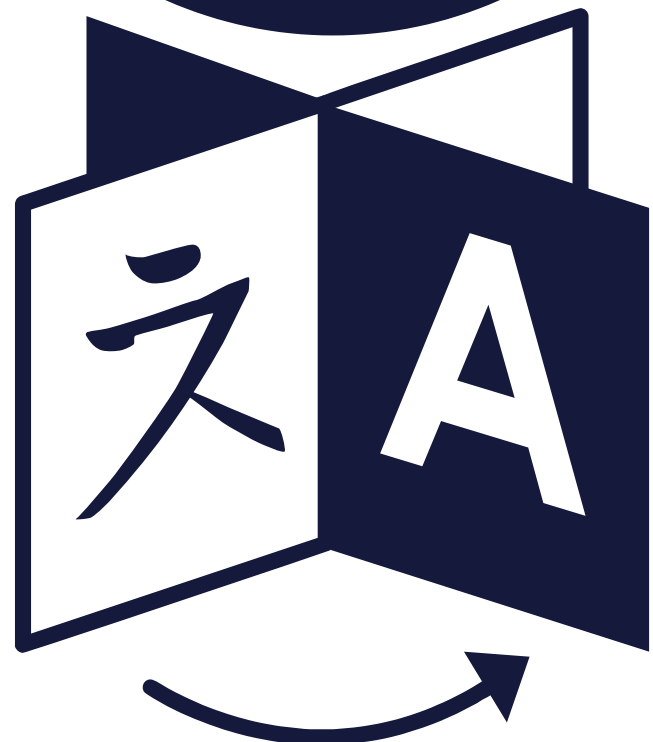
The discussion that took place was more than insightful and as IB students, they showcased their wide array of learner profile attributes like being **inquirers**, and most importantly good **communicators** and left no opportunity to gain a deeper **understanding** of the lives of each other. Even while we were countries apart we got accustomed to the lifestyles they led. The discussion ranged from “*What we ate for breakfast?*” to “*What role our traditions and culture play in our daily lives?*” During these unprecedented times, we felt the need to raise questions about how they made the free time productive for themselves. The various answers brought a few chuckles to the discussions due the absurdity and the other few opened doors for many to explore new hobbies. One common underlying sense in the answers was how the abundance of time at first felt



favourable but crept upon our spirits as time progressed. This seemed to have been the common ground between us and created an instant connection due to the relatability of the answers. This interaction with the students of Joan Brossa School made us feel a lot more **humane**. It provided us with a sense of certainty and I am sure this must've acted as a catalyst for their delight too. It also made us take a second to realise the true essence of exuberance that we experience while meeting **new people even when it's online and the person is halfway across the world**. This interaction was much needed not only because we got familiarised with new faces but also because we picked a few qualities which will now help us to keep our spirit upright and continue to grow as an individual while simultaneously learning how to take better care of ourselves.



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LIFESTYLE

THE NEW NORMAL



by *Aravind Jeeva*

Along with **life threatening diseases, safety measures** and **self-loathing isolations** in the name of “lockdowns”, the idea of online celebrations was spawned in this now-turned-**Zombieland!**”.

Starting from the range of “**Online Open houses**” to “**Zoom call Birthday Celebrations**” recent times have changed the course of social interaction with our friends or should I say, “our gangs?” Although every single day is imbued with **pending assignments**, these hard times have brought us a speed ramp to **connect with the people we love and adore, even if they’re thousands of miles away**. From event planning, scripting to even editing is possible through online interaction. Ah! The days of **Netflix movie parties**, and **kahoot quizzes**, which is supposed to be fun (to a limit!) Quite frankly, no amount of safety measures, socially distancing, mask-wearing, “safely conducted parties” can compete with these late nights, **if-i get-tired-i could-just-shut the laptop-and-sleep kind of fun meets**. The best part of these meets are that they can be attended as if you’re in Goa, sipping pina coladas, lying on the bed, talking to your friends about some random yet sudden event your teachers asked you to conduct.

One of the most recent online gimmick we experimented with, which astonishingly worked pretty well, was “The Trial of **Online Farewell**”. I know how it sounds but it kind of worked. Ultimately, I think everyone shut their laptops/phones with a smile on their faces. Somehow, this online-virtual-thing works, and like most of you guys, **I am still trying to its fullest potential!**



The fact that this CAN be an **alternative future** for many of us, makes me even more excited to know what the future holds for us and for all of us, who have had a difficult couple of years, who deserve something more, something greater, and I am sure the future will and SHOULD treat us nicely! Fingers Crossed! This doesn’t mean we need to “take things into hand” and start exploring during these puzzling times, but that also doesn’t mean we don’t get to have fun. In fact, rather vaguely, the fun meter has doubled, we now possess the ability to literally connect with a spanish school thousands of miles away within a single touch, (ok maybe not a single touch, but you guys get my point). These moments are the little things, the little things that we sometimes fail to enjoy, these memories are the **post-apocalyptic stories** we can narrate to our grandchildren or “annoying kids down the hall”. These are our origin stories, during these interesting times, so **enjoy the little things!** To sum up everything that has been stated so far, with a certain point of optimism and a chilled perspective, **Online meets kinda Rule!**

LIFESTYLE

Having a bad day?

Things not going your way today?

Want to set your mood right?

If you answered **yes** to any of these questions, then don't stop! **Read further!**

(Well, if you didn't answer a yes, please do read it nevertheless, I'm sure your time will be well spent in this, thank you)

by ANUSREE RAO

Not every day is a good one. Well if it was, then wouldn't it get monotonous? So, dealing with bad days sometimes is not entirely bad; it gives us challenges to fight with and come out of it. And the sooner we do that, the happier and better prepared we feel because **YOU HAVE JUST WON A BATTLE** against... well **yourself** but it is still a victory!

Just like we know how to enjoy our good days, we need to learn how to tackle the shortcomings our way because ignoring it is not an option.. Therefore, we need to come up with our own ideas to make our soul happy and satisfied. **Before you get brainstorming, let me give you a few ideas, that should help!**

Take a break!

Don't we all know this? If there is something bothering you, you can't escape it without getting a solution, for sure; maybe freezing it for sometime could help. There is a time to everything, and if you feel that this is not the time to think about it, then don't. Keep that train of thought for some other time. Now is the time to **refresh** and make yourself happy, so **DO THAT!** **Indulge** in whatever you like doing- you like eating? Eat your favourite food. You like sleeping? Take a nap. You like dancing? Turn your favourite playlist on and dance! Once you see yourself in a better position, think of the ways you can rise above the obstacle pulling you down. **A decision taken with a calm mind is far better than a decision taken with a depressed soul.**



Celebrate gratitude

Not many realise the sheer number of things everyday that they can be grateful for. We do not express gratitude towards the simple joys of life until we sit down and think about what we are actually thankful for. Like do we take a walk in a park and think about how grateful we are for the air we are breathing? Probably not. But if you're having a day that is not going your way, you really should try this. We can think of a number of reasons why we are unhappy or why it is a bad day today; when we do the pessimistic part with ease, why stay back for the optimistic ones? **Overpower your reasons for sadness with your reasons for happiness.** Once your gratitude list is bigger than your worry list, you will see yourself **happier.**



Find a good listener

Bottling up doesn't work, venting out usually does. For this to be of any avail, **we need someone to listen to us.** If you have someone so dear, who will be allowing you to be yourself, share everything, and feel validated then go for it! Such people are indeed a blessing, and they are the ones you need more than anyone at this point. Be it your parents, your best friend, your teacher or anyone whom you can place trust on with closed eyes- they are the ones who will be ready to listen to you about anything because they know that you have an opportunity to get better. Spend some quality time with them and just talk it out. **It might be difficult but if you know how fruitful the result will be, isn't it worth it?**



Listen to songs contrary to your mood

This is only for when your mood is bad! Listening to sad songs when you're sad, is that even a solution to come out of it? No. Just like we play and cheer a baby when they are crying to make them smile again, do the same with you. **Your mind will accept anything you give it, so give it something good.** Listen to some upbeat, uplifting, positive and happy songs to set your mood right, rather than worsening it. **Minimize your world to only you and the song playing in the background.** Give yourself some peace, which may be very much needed, because peace of mind is the first thing that gets snatched away from us on a bad day. So the next time you're sad, you know what to do.



Put a smile on your face

Does this sound weird? Yeah, it does! **But it works!** There are times when we don't feel like smiling; not even the happiest of things or moments succeed in making us smile, but forcing a smile upon us will definitely help. **Smile is the beginning of a journey to happiness.** Every laughter starts with a smile, so why stay behind? Everytime you're sad, just turn your face into a smiling one and stay there for 10 seconds. You could try this right now, do it alongside reading this amazing magazine: force your best smile on your face, and keep it there.

Now, read the rest of this paragraph, with your smile on your face. This smile that you're wearing now is the very smile that makes you beautiful, inside out. This smile is what is capable of proving to yourself that you are the best version of yourself. Yes, and this smile of yours that is still on your face is something that no one can take away from you, it is something that lives within you. All you have to do is bring it out and value its presence. **And that's it!** If this helped you in any way possible, then you have done a great job! :D



With a hope that you have gotten at least something out of it and you will make the full use of little ways like these to cheer yourself up because nothing can give you the happiness that you are capable of giving yourself, I will take your leave by wishing you all the happiness and positivity in this world, because you are an amazing human being and you deserve every bit of it! One last affirmation for the day:

Thank you and I hope that after a day of feeling down low, you feel as amazing as you deserve to.

Anusree Rao, signing off.

***“YOU ARE
ENOUGH,
YOU
REALLY
ARE.”***

LIFESTYLE

The *Calm* in the Wild

by Adhya Singh



The idea of travel, packing my bags and disappearing to someplace new, resides in my head all the time, especially travelling to the mountains. I've been a huge admirer of mountains since a very young age, the hills are my safe place; a sanctuary for composure. The treacherous windings of treks, the struggle for basics in life, the sheer pleasure of having Maggi and adrak waali chai on top of a mountain, the sweet symphony of wind, the chirping of the birds, the steep dives of valleys, the moodiness of clouds, the dew like freshness of air that purifies even the impure, everything has a message. In that emptiness, I completely lose myself trying to find a new me. Just a girl, visited by solitude, sitting in the lap of nature, resonates with the part of her that she cannot reach otherwise.



Often, during my travels, I come across spectacles that overwhelm my being. And in that moment, the world's beauty is enough; enough to make me stop rushing and stare in amazement; enough to remind me how beautiful it is to be alive.

Sunlight comes as woven strands, free and united, flowing into a day it reveals and solidifies, making the world of my nightly dreams something so beautiful.

Each tree is a masterpiece, each wand of grass something magical. For serenity that flows as cool river waters, there is something about the sparkle upon the blue, a melody without a rhythm, music without sound. Above wave the



great arms, clothed in the greens of every palate and none, the verdant hues of nature's free dreams.

The peak of the mountain calls out my name louder and clearer than the rest of my journey. I get my backpack ready and shoelaces tied to begin the relentless pursuit to the top. The top of the world. I hold my hands up to feel the cascading light, a brilliant white shaft illuminating the path amidst the green, that takes me onward and to the peak. I stand on the peak and as I feel the clouds just above my head, the wind close to my reach, a gentle breeze makes my cheeks redden and my smile grow. I feel whole. I feel complete. I feel

alive. I take in the largest breath and try to absorb it all in; serene tranquility. I stand there for hours at end, not wanting to leave. In solitude, I do discover parts of myself that bind me speechless. The greenery envelopes me in a comforting embrace, and the snowy mountains protect my trails.

“It’s not the mountain we conquer but ourselves.”

I see a river flowing by, the water authoritatively yet calmly ripping its way through the rocks. The only sound I hear is the music flowing with the tempo of my rushing emotions. What I notice is, no matter how many blows the rocks take and the partings the river has to go through, it still remains so utterly beautiful. When imbalance strikes some prefer solitude, some a shoulder to lean on. For me, mountains seem to provide that locus of control. They seem to stabilize my restless mind. Going to the mountains is going home, and on a day like this, I wish everyday could be the same.



THE REMNANTS OF THE PAST



b y V a r u n B r a h m a

Numerous Historical Monuments, for reasons including earthquakes, fires and wars, and much to the dismay of archaeologists, are in ruins. Today, however, after in-depth research, modern culture-lovers have been given a chance to visit the majestic ancient structures through a series of photo-realistic 3D renderings. With the help of technology, you can now travel through time to see some of the world's most impressive structures in their natural state. And as we find ourselves unable to travel, we might as well see how some historical structures look today and how they must have looked in their heyday.

[see more >>](#)

THE GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA, EGYPT

Nothing compares to the awe-inspiring experience of seeing the **Great Pyramid of Giza** for the first time. It is tough to imagine that this magnificent piece of architecture has been standing strong for more than **4500 years**. Every time, the standard of craftsmanship evident in even the smallest parts astounds me. The three belt stars are portrayed in the three pyramids on the Giza Plateau

and the air shafts within the pyramids point specifically at the constellation Orion. This gives the already enchanted architecture, a supernatural touch. Upon looking at the digital reconstruction of this marvellous structure, we can only begin to imagine what we are missing out on.



OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM AND ITS WALLS, ISRAEL

Jerusalem, one of the Holiest cities in the world, for all Abrahamic religions- Christianity, Islam and Judaism, has a rich history attached to it. In the heart of metropolitan Jerusalem, lies the **Old City of Jerusalem.**



Given its religious importance and History of Conflict, majestic walls were laid to demarcate and defend the Old City. These walls, as shown by the digital restoration, were particularly amazing.

PALMYRA, SYRIA

The **'Pearl of the Desert,'** as it is affectionately known, is deserving of its moniker. Palmyra, now in ruins, was once the pinnacle of architecture. It blends **Greco-Roman styles with Persian** and

Arabian influences to reflect numerous cultures and civilizations throughout history. The digital reconstruction depicts a genuinely magnificent building given its age.



TEMPLE B IN LARGO DI TORRE ARGENTINA ROME, ITALY

Temple B was **one of four temples** that stood in Rome's **Largo di Torre Argentina** square. What is the significance of Largo di Torre Argentina in Roman history? This is the location of Julius Caesar's assassination. Established by Quintus Lutacius Catulus, the temple is a magnificent structure, and the Roman architecture is noticeable in the digital restoration.





STATUE OF ZEUS GREECE

To outshine the Athenians, the Eleans erected this magnificent statue of Zeus, the **king of all Greek gods**. The 40-foot **gold-plated statue** of Zeus on his throne is, without a doubt, a one-of-a-kind landmark. It was indeed a wonder to behold. **Phidias**, the most talented and sought after sculptor of his day, managed to create it. The Statue was absolutely remarkable and a work of art in its own right. Sadly, there is no remnant of the incredible Statue of Zeus, as it was **completely destroyed**. We can see its remains and envision its grandeur thanks to the digital restoration.

PARTHENON, GREECE

The Parthenon is one of history's most well-known architectural landmarks. Even today, the sculptures are well lauded. It was an **emblem of Athens' strength, prosperity, and high culture.** The Doric and Ionic orders are combined in the Parthenon. The Parthenon is infamous for having

virtually no straight lines in its design. Yes, the entablature and core platform all curve upward in the middle, the metopes lean outward, and the columns swell slightly. It was truly an astounding structure. The digital reconstruction gives us significant insight into lost architectural history.



THROTTLE 97

Republic day car rally

by Pranjal Katare

One week before Republic day, **Gautam Singhania** in collaboration with **Throttle97 club**, posted on social media about a car rally that was going to take place. Petrolheads from all over Mumbai were in shock when they saw this post and I genuinely could not believe my eyes when the route was posted. The rally was taking place in my very own city. I woke up at 6 in the morning, called up two of my friends and left for what is expected to be one of the best car rallies in Mumbai.



[see more >>](#)

When you are around people who have the same passion for automobiles as you, the entire environment changes. It became so much more engaging. You can literally feel the energy and the enthusiasm resonating. All of us were waiting by the gate, for the cars to roll out and before we knew it, along came a beautiful yet intimidating lineup of cars. All the cars were revving at high RPMs. That sound was like music to my ears. Even though it was incredibly loud, no one seemed to be bothered by it. Everyone kept on perpetually chanting, "REV IT, REV", and the owners did not hold back. Among the cars were **Ferrari's, Lamborghinis, BMW's, Mercedes AMG's, Aston Martin's, Porsche's, many American and German muscle cars, many Japanese cars**, one of which was the grand Toyota supra. The cars were also accompanied by a huge group of superbikes who were revving their bikes. The whole rally was carried out immaculately and it was a sight to see.

As the cars started to leave, we followed them in our car. We saw the cars racing past each other as



the crowd went bonkers, cheering their favourite cars. Everyone was lost in deafening cheers and jeers. As the rally came to an end, all cars returned to **Raymond's ground** where they were showcased to the people with exclusive passes to see and click pictures with. Luckily one of my friends helped me out with the passes and got us in. After an hour, we went to the parking lot where the last part of the event was taking place. As we entered the premises, we could smell the burnt tires and saw that a drifting event was taking place. Gautam Singhania showed us his beautiful drifting skills in his car which left everyone flabbergasted.



The event finally came to an end.

The people had huge smiles on their faces, few knew each other but the love for cars was what united all of us and eased us into talking with each other. Even though everyone was standing in the scorching sun, they didn't seem to mind it, as their passion made everything else seem trivial

TV SHOWS

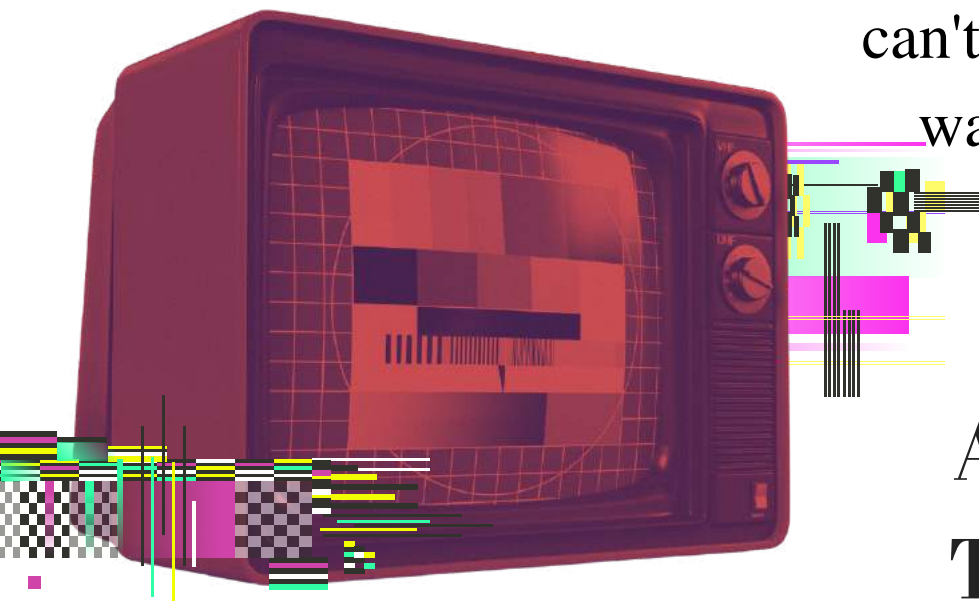
THE GOLDEN ERA OF ENTERTAINMENT

Amidst the global pandemic, people around the world resorted to watching streaming services and tv shows to keep themselves entertained.

BY KHUSH THAKKER



TV shows, even in the era before streaming services, have been considered to be a more relatable form of entertainment, as you are there, right beside the character at all times until the very end of their journey.



Tv shows get more room to explore, understand and develop characters due to their longer runtime.

Primetime TV show characters are quoted so often in memes and jokes, that they have literally become a part of our daily lives and the impact tv shows as a form of entertainment has had on everyone's life is stupendous, most of us can't end our day without watching an episode or two.

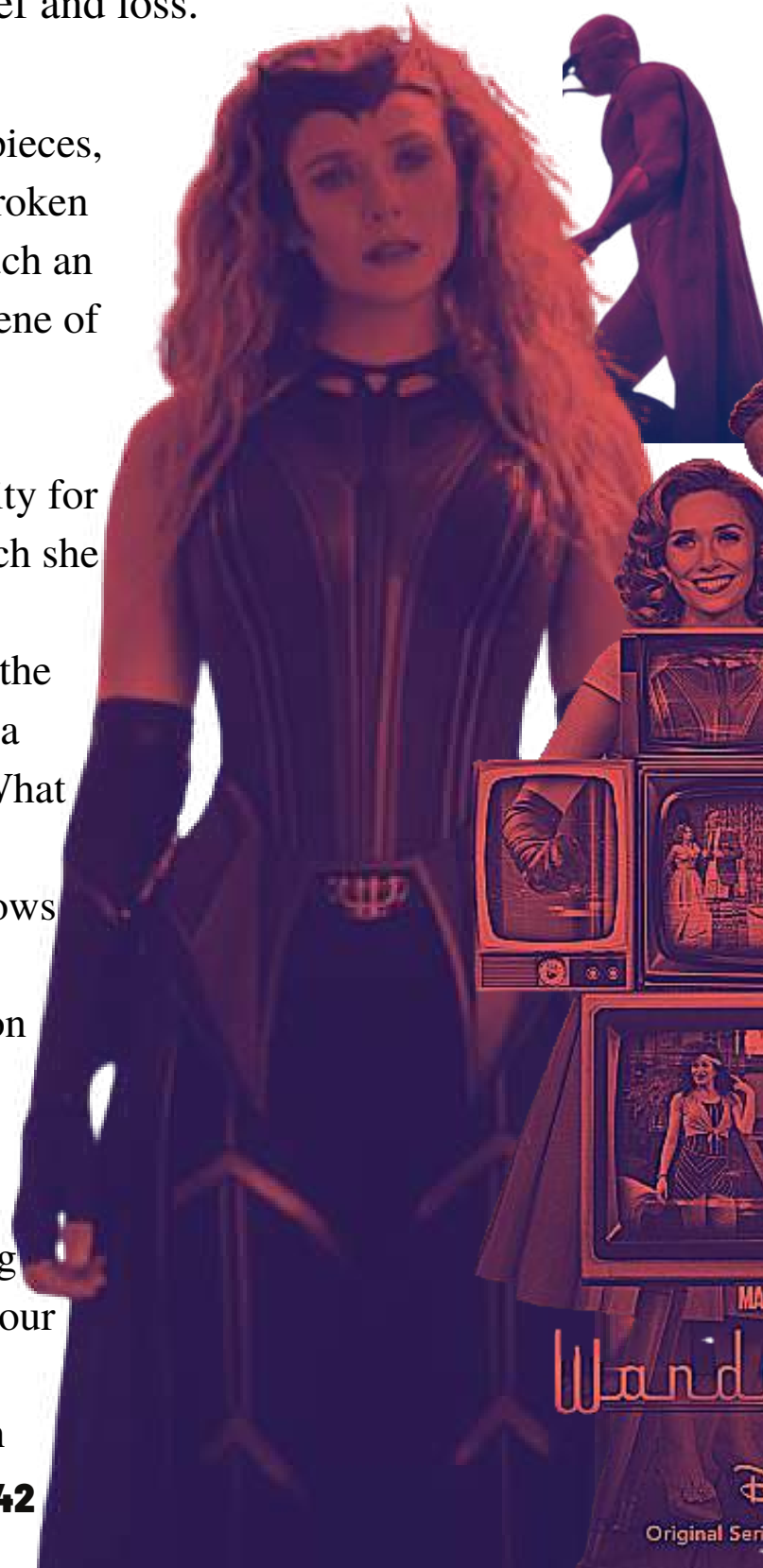
**AND THUS,
TV SERIES
RECOMMEND
ATIONS FOR
THIS TIME
ARE -**

1. WANDAVISION

Wandavision was the much-awaited marvel tv show, which won millions of hearts worldwide in its short 9 episode run. Unlike most marvel content, all of us are familiar with, which is filled with action-packed sequences, witty humor and ship-worthy bromances, Wandavision takes a completely different route. It follows a deeply emotional journey of one of our favorite avengers Wanda Maximoff, as she tries to cope with grief and loss.

Apart from the extravagant CGI, the situational humour, and phenomenal set pieces, this show, at its heart is a show about a broken person. It talks about everyday grief in such an easy-to-understand manner, that every scene of every episode becomes relatable for the viewers. The storyline follows Wanda Maximoff's creation of a whole new reality for herself to hide from the harsh reality which she very much has to face someday.

To quote one of my favorite scenes from the show, where Vision is talking with Wanda about this very grief and loss, he says, "What is grief, if not love persevering?", you understand all of the show. The series shows how, when we lose someone, we'll move heaven and earth to get that last interaction we were hoping to have, to feel that one last touch, one last hug, one last goodbye and feel loved by them for just one last time. Loss of our loved ones is something which all of us deal with at some point in our lives, and it is never easy. WandaVision highlights this very tough to cope up with loss, to perfection.



Yes, the action sequences, the **on-point humor other features of a superhero series** do somewhat make up for the foreboding theme, but the moments of loss, so brimming with emotion, along with the fact that one never saw coming, are the ones that make it memorable. **WandaVision is a story about accepting loss** more than anything and that's why it stays with you, reminding you of perspectives and how our outlook towards things as deeply moving as death affect us.

Apart from the heavy themes, WandaVision does shine in the standard glory of superhero shows. Most remarkably, it gives us that one , song which is stuck in our heads even now, “Agatha all along,” and whether you Marvel for it, or curse them, the song does remain on-loop in our minds.

Elisabeth Olsen and Paul Bettany have never been better in their roles, the way they pull off each scene with perfection is unbelievable. Not just the protagonists, but **Katherine Hahn** also gives a fabulous performance as **Agatha Harkness**, her brilliant comedic timing not only helps in adding more layers to her already very well-written character but also makes her stand out in whatever scene she is in. All in all, **WandaVision surpasses all your expectations** and just makes you crave more marvel content. It also did waste a few very interesting opportunities which it could have dealt with better, but apart from that WandaVision is a treat, from start to end. Even the supporting characters such as Monica Rambeau, Jimmy Woo, Darcy Lewis, and “Quicksilver”, all get their moments to shine.



2. COBRA KAI

“Strike First, Strike Hard, No Mercy”, as you hear these words echo throughout the first season, it takes you right back to the nostalgia of the first Karate Kid movie released back in 1984. With the original cast of The Karate Kid returning for Cobra Kai, every fan was naturally excited for it and it does manage to surpass every expectation you had. Cobra Kai, instead of focusing the story mainly on **Daniel Larusso** as the original trilogy did, focuses it on both Daniel-San and **Johnny Lawrence**.



This gives the viewer an **unbiased perspective** on both of these (very well-written) characters and leaves it upon them, to choose who is right or wrong.

Of course, we do get some brilliant action sequences in all of its 3 seasons (**some jaw-dropping stunts even by 60 year-old Ralph Macchio**) Interwoven into the typical action-centred storyline one would expect, the series presents the human side to all its characters, providing a wonderful layering and an insightful depth into the characters of the original trilogy. The longitudinal character development is such that **Johnny Lawrence** (yes the bully from the original Karate Kid movie), becomes your favorite character. Cobra Kai is a show about how difficult it is to leave your past behind.

By presenting all characters as grey rather than your typical black and white characters, Cobra Kai becomes a game-changer in teen shows of today. .



THE CROWN

The winner of the Best Drama Series in the Golden Globes, with acting performances lauded by critics and public alike, **The Crown needs no introduction.** Following the life of Queen Elizabeth II from her accession, through her reign into the modern era. A narration of all prominent problems in Buckingham Palace, both national and personal, the show gives the world a peek into the **untouchable Queen** and her family.

The show, more than anything else, shows how the Palace is not just fanciness and grandeur, but more so, it is sacrifice. e ‘highly glorified soap opera,’ shows a frequent clash between duty and desire, between the will of its members, and the stability of the monarchy. It talks most about how the Queen has given up her entire person, foregone **‘Elizabeth Alexandra Mary,’** who has been lost, as the person in that body is now, only and forever, ‘The Crown,’ more than she is a daughter, a wife, a mother or a sister.



With the latest season's introduction of Lady Diana, Prince Charles and the Camilla affair, the show has peaked in popularity. What this same interest is amplified by, is the brilliant acting of Gillian Anderson as **Prime Minister Thatcher**, Emma Corrin as **Princess Diana** and Josh O'Connor as **Prince Charles**, all of whom enact their characters flawlessly, overshadowing even the Queen in prominence. And honestly, nothing really beats a show with a touch of reality, a ton of drama, an array of castles, and a bucketful of British Accents, right?



Now that the spotlight is off the Queen and onto this love triangle, along with the heavily controversial tenure of Margaret Thatcher, the makers ensure diversity in storyline and steady viewer interest.



THE HAUNTING — OF BLY MANOR —

Haunting of Bly Manor was the talk of the town, back when it was released in October 2020. Being written and partly directed by the horror mastermind of this generation, Mike Flanagan, who also previously worked on “**Haunting of Hill House**”, the best horror show of the decade and the sequel to the horror classic “The Shining”. Due to this, every one's expectation for this show was of course pretty high and despite all this pressure, the show still manages to marvellously deliver.



Exploring newer and more **complex dynamics** this time, as the setting of the show changes drastically from the last time. Now, while the title might suggest that the show is supposed to be a horror story, with meaningless jump scares and eerie voice effects, **it truly isn't just that.**

Victoria Pedretti, Henry Thomas, Kate Siegel, Carla Gugino, and the ever-charming Oliver Jackson Cohen, who were also the ensemble for Hill House, return for Bly Manor.

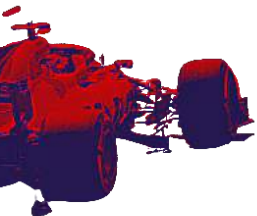
**KEEP
READING**



The haunting of Bly Manor is as much a **love story** as a horror story. The romantic aspect of it, makes the stakes much larger and the final pay-off is executed to perfection only because of this. As the story proceeds, we find out about how everyone has to deal with the ghosts of their past every day, which prevents them from moving ahead.



It brilliantly highlights how sometimes acceptance is the only key to finally attaining some amount of solace in the people around us. Despite its slow pace, *The Haunting of Bly Manor*, still manages to scare you, through its clever use of developmental horror.



FORMULA 1

DRIVE TO SURVIVE

As a formula one fan myself, this documentary series based on the recent formula one seasons is very close to my heart. It's the perfect starting point for anyone looking to get into formula one, as it covers a lot of ground by having many episodes dedicated towards particular rivalries and teams. Drive to survive not only focuses on the racing aspect which is the most important in motorsports like Formula one but it also manages to cover a lot of **team politics** and strategic planning, which gives an insight into what happens **behind the scenes** of the races. The show does ride high on emotions too, with certain episodes dedicated to the rise, fall, and the re-emergence back to the top of brilliant mid-field drivers such as Pierre Gasly.

It even retrospectively explores the stories of older drivers in formula one such as **Sebastian Vettel, Kimi Raikkonen**, and of course the 7-time world **champion Lewis Hamilton**. It's the ideal pastime before the actual racing season begins and it brings you closer to the actual life of these drivers, which is not always glitter and gold as all of us often view it. It shows the stresses of a sport - where the tiniest of mistakes can lead to expulsion, managing to subtly highlight the dark side of motorsports broadening your perspective of not only Formula One, but the sports industry at large. **In a manner of saying,**

Drive to Survive makes you fall in love with the racers, the sport, and every aspect of it, again and again with every rewatch.



Learn from around, Look within and Act out!

The pandemic has readjusted the pace of life and living of most people. It has brought along with itself different life lessons for different people.

Leaving aside this year of ordeal and challenges, life before the pandemic was 'busy' with no time to stand and stare and "to have no time for thought" was the norm (excuse). Oh and the number of "I must have this's!" Uncountable!. The forced confinement has, however, facilitated introspection. It has imposed a **kind of minimalism** (It is okay to not have all of it) on many, that has apparently made a lot of people steadier and stable.

by
**Dr. Ketki
Gadre**

see more >>



Renowned psychologist Albert Ellis believed that thoughts and beliefs about a situation cause a response (not necessarily to the circumstance itself).

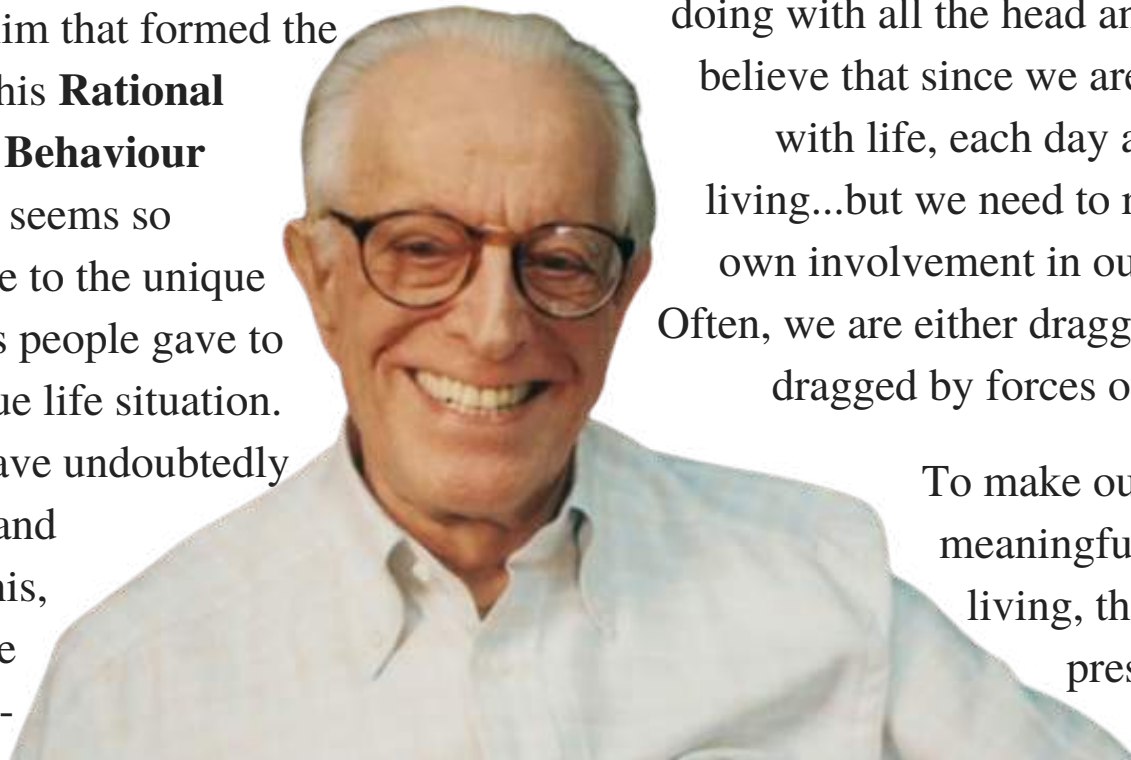
This maxim that formed the basis of his **Rational Emotive Behaviour**

Therapy seems so applicable to the unique responses people gave to this unique life situation.

People have undoubtedly suffered and despite this, most have emerged-

evolved and transformed in terms of their perspectives, attitudes, thoughts and beliefs about life and their own position in the cosmos and their own life, really!

The greatest life lessons, relatable for those who did engage in looking inward in their mind space were those emphasizing on **'slowing down, staying steady and wanting less.'** But to attain this- to stay and sustain in this thought space is not easy since there still will continue to exist, people around us who will unrealistically rush, compete, achieve, and consider that "living". There is a difference in how "mindful" and "mind-full" ways people lead their lives!



With any life position and situation that life puts us into, it is possible to be mindful. It simply means to be consciously present in what one is doing with all the head and heart. We believe that since we are moving on with life, each day alive, we are living...but we need to reassess our own involvement in our own lives. Often, we are either dragging or being dragged by forces outside of us.

To make our own lives meaningful and worth living, this conscious presence of one in one's own life is necessary..but this is only an insight that comes to a few who engage into a balancing act of meditative states of being and carrying on with worldly life and living. **Meditation is bliss but stereotypes depict it as something that is only for a few 'divine' and 'saintly' people- almost unattainable, which is so not true.** When we simplify the definition of the term, meditation is an action of experiencing steadiness and silence, it seems attainable. The sweetness of sugar can be attempted to be explained by those who have tasted it.

One could write pages, trying to explain exactly how sugar tastes, and it still would not be nuanced enough; only with a spoonful of sugar does one understand the sweetness of it. Being in a meditative state is similar. **You actually need to do it, to understand the impact it can have on your life.**

So grab a time in the day, sit still and in silence, **let the thoughts create a mess**, try and pay attention to a single chant (or anything that will help you focus with your eyes closed). Tall and strong trees take time to grow, so be patient and continue to experience yourself and your own life and living. With engaging in meditative states consciously, it is just so likely that this state of being will percolate in our worldly life and living, making you more involved and mindful of your existence and living.



WORLD AFFAIRS

The Duke of Edinburgh: A look back at the life of an officer, a father and a husband

by Anmol Jaiswal



On Friday, April 9th, 2021, Buckingham Palace announced the passing of **His Royal Highness The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh** at the age of 99. He served as the Queen's consort since 1952 and her husband for 73 years.

The Duke was a **very important** character in the House of Windsor and played a **pivotal** role in shaping the Royal Family in the way we see them today. He was a man who had a **pragmatic approach** to life which can be connected back to his early years.

Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark was born on the 10th of June, 1921 in Corfu, Greece to Princess Alice of Battenburg and Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark. He was technically a great-great grandchild of Queen Victoria just like his future wife. After a coup in Greece forced him to flee Greece in an orange crate. People believe that because Phillip was a Royal, arguably more Royal blooded than the Queen, he lived a life of privilege when in reality, **it was far from that**. His father fled to the South of France and his mother was admitted to a sanatorium. His sisters married into German royalty and were wives of prominent Nazis and a young Phillip lived a hard childhood, hopping around Europe, in **pursuit of his education**. He had little contact with his mother

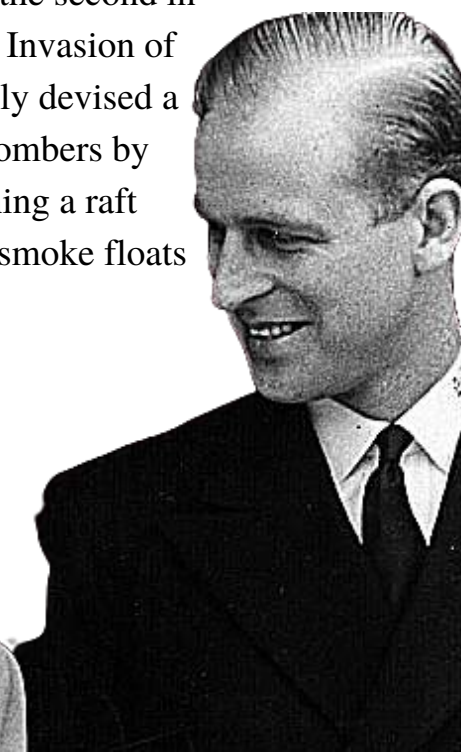


during these years and he lost his sister, **Cecile** in a plane crash in Belgium when he was 16. Philip ended up at Gordonstoun School in Scotland where he adopted his values of hard-work, discipline and achievement. Phillip's **naval**

career began at Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth and he served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War and served on various battleships including **HMS Ramillies, HMS Kent and HMS Shropshire**. During the

Battle of **Cape Matapan**, he was mentioned in the dispatches while serving on HMS Valiant as a searchlight operator. He was also awarded the **Greek War Cross**. In 1942, he was promoted to Lieutenant and was the First Lieutenant of HMS Wallace at the age of 21,

one of the youngest in the Royal Navy. In 1943, he saved HMS Wallace from a night bomber attack as the second in command during the Invasion of Sicily. He successfully devised a plan to distract the bombers by launching a raft with smoke floats



which allowed the vessel to escape unnoticed. He also captained HMS Magpie in 1950, the only vessel he would captain before leaving the Royal Navy.

In 1952, King George VI passed away which meant that he would take up the role of the Consort of the Monarch upon the ascension of Elizabeth as the Sovereign. This would effectively end his career in the navy and he would dedicate his life to serving the Monarch.

The Duke of Edinburgh was a modernist and brought a new wave of change in the Royal household. As the Chairman of the Coronation Commission, in order to make the ceremony more egalitarian, he put forward the idea of televising it. He was involved in over 700 charitable organisations. One of his greatest charitable works was the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme which provided millions of kids a chance to develop valuable skills, irrespective of their backgrounds in numerous countries around the world. The Duke was an environmentalist and was the first President of the World Wildlife Fund. He was also a keen sportsman and was the President of the Marylebone Cricket Club, International Equestrian Federation and the National Playing Fields Association to name a few.

In his personal life, the Duke was a father, a grandfather and a great-grandfather.

His eldest son, Prince Charles said upon his death “My dear Papa, was a very special person...” and his youngest son Prince Edward once said that



1965: King Constantine II of Greece, left, and Prince Philip of Britain review an honour guard of the Greek Royal Evzones Guard as the prince arrives at the Athens Airport for a brief visit as the guest of the Greek royal family.

whenever one had the privilege of listening to him, his humour always shone through. The late Diana, Princess of Wales addressed him as “Dearest Pa” and he walked with his grandsons, Prince William and Prince Harry behind her coffin during the funeral.

Prince Phillip was a man who had no filter and a man who always spoke his mind, even behind the scenes. His no-nonsense, pragmatic attitude towards life was something which shaped the way he carried himself and something which also got him into a bit of trouble through his gaffes. The

Duke was a man who devoted his life in serving Britain and the Commonwealth. He sacrificed his distinguished career in the

Prince Philip was a man who had no filter and a man who always spoke his mind, even behind the scenes

navy to walk two steps behind his wife, to raise a family and to serve the Sovereign and her subjects. He retired from Royal duties in 2017 after conducting 22,191 engagements and giving 5,493 speeches.

He leaves behind a deep void in the lives of not only the Royal Family and the British

but for millions across the Commonwealth and the world, whose lives he touched in his decades of service and charitable work. Her Majesty has lost her “Strength and Stay” of more than seven decades, someone who remained her steadfast companion through thick and thin.

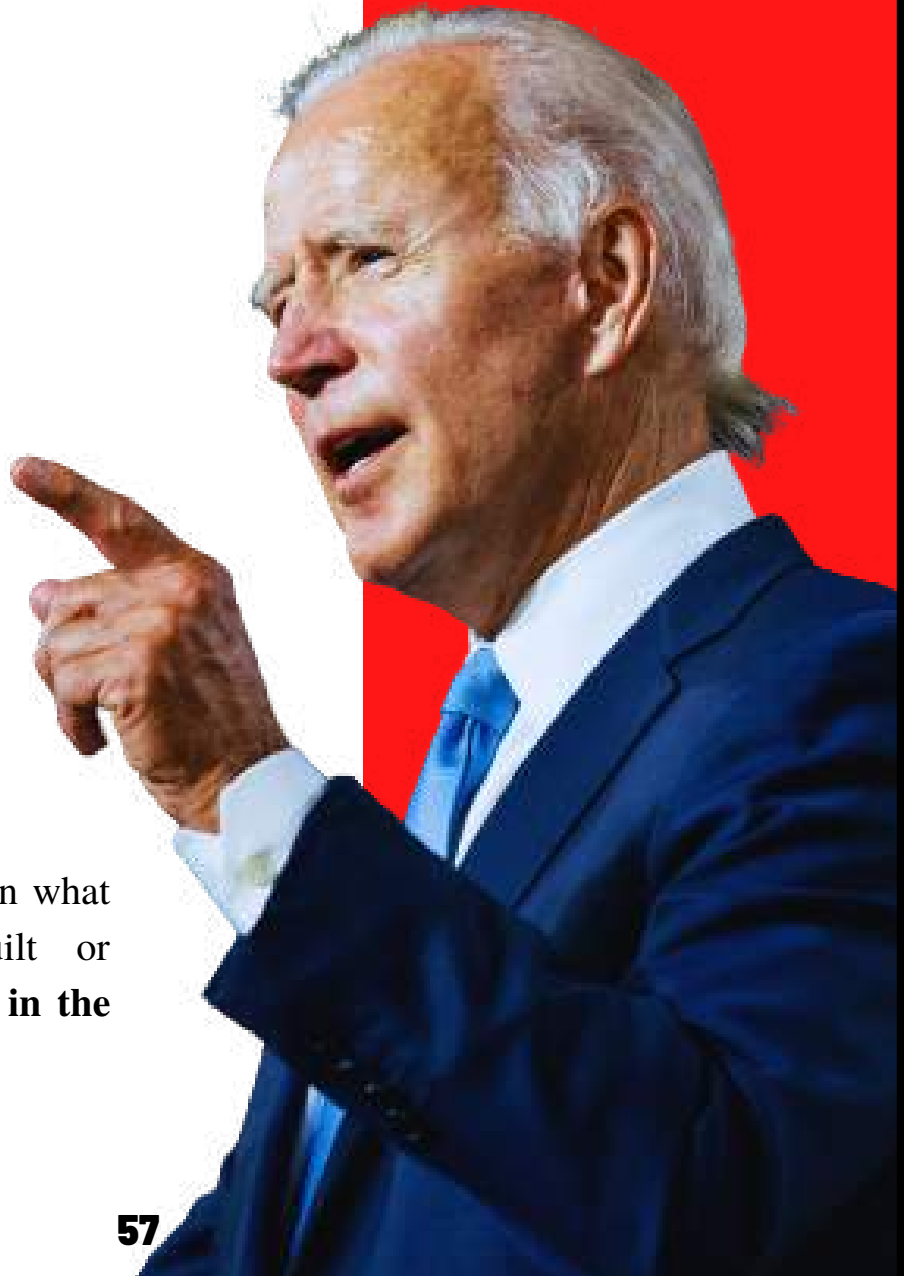


Prince Phillip, The Duke of Edinburgh was a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, an officer and husband whose life was a celebration of hard work, dedication, service and devotion.

Biden's First 100 Days

by Chandrika Panse

Joseph Robinette Biden took oath of the office of the **President of the United States** on January the 20th, 2021. He inherited the most coveted office in the world from Donald Trump. During his campaign, Biden's slogan, "**Build Back Better**", let us have a look on what his administration has built or broken in **his first 100 days in the West Wing.**



The Coronavirus Pandemic has been the priority of every government in the world in the past year and Biden promised **100 million vaccines in 100 days** and so far he has exceeded that promise as the US has delivered a total of **235 million doses**.



Immigration was one of the prime taking points of the previous administration and especially with regards to the Southern border with Mexico. Biden claimed that most of the undocumented people in the US came into the country legally but have **overstayed the visas** but he has faced criticism over the recent surge in illegal immigration from Mexico. He justified this by claiming that there are periodic fluctuations in migration over the border and the recent increase is commonplace in the winter months of January, February and March.



When it comes to **economic** recovery , Biden signed a **\$1.9 trillion** American rescue plan aimed to bring relief to 85% of Americans by providing them with a stimulus check. This was targeted to aid small businesses and funding to reopen schools. The Congress also approved another one of Biden's promises, the **American Rescue Plan**. This plan entails some key changes such as increasing the federal minimum wage to 15 dollars and trimming the federal boost to unemployment benefits. The President has also used his executive powers to expand food assistance and the suspension of federal student loan payments and interest charges.

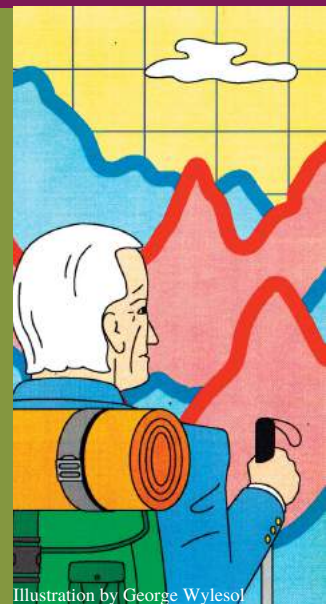
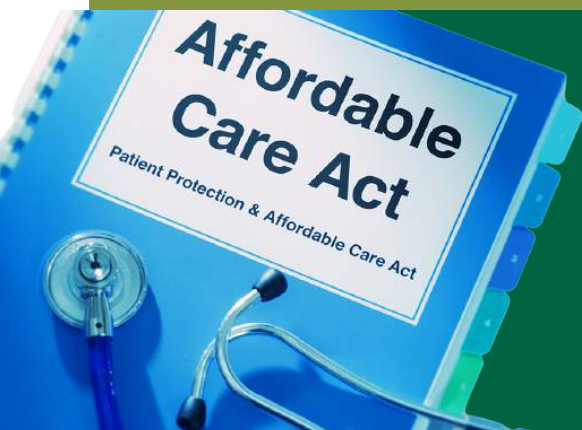


Illustration by George Wylesol

In these dire times of the pandemic, Biden has strengthened the **Affordable Care Act** which provided uninsured time till mid-August 2021 to sign up for coverage along with increasing subsidies for existing enrollees to shop for better plans.





Joseph R Biden, then vice-president, meets Chinese prime-minister Xi Jinping in 2013

The 46th President inherited the Oval Office with some rather tricky **diplomatic** situations in hand. The relationship with **China** has been one of the focal points of foreign policy affairs for the United States and Biden has surprisingly continued the strong stance from the Trump administration. He also announced that the United States will **withdraw its troops from Afghanistan** before the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

Finally, Biden hosted one of his promised global climate change summits where he committed the US to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by **50% below its 2005**

emissions by 2030, though he has not revealed the plans to execute this goal. On his first day in the office, he reversed Donald Trump's 2017 decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accords through an executive order and the US finally rejoined the deal in February after a 30 day review.



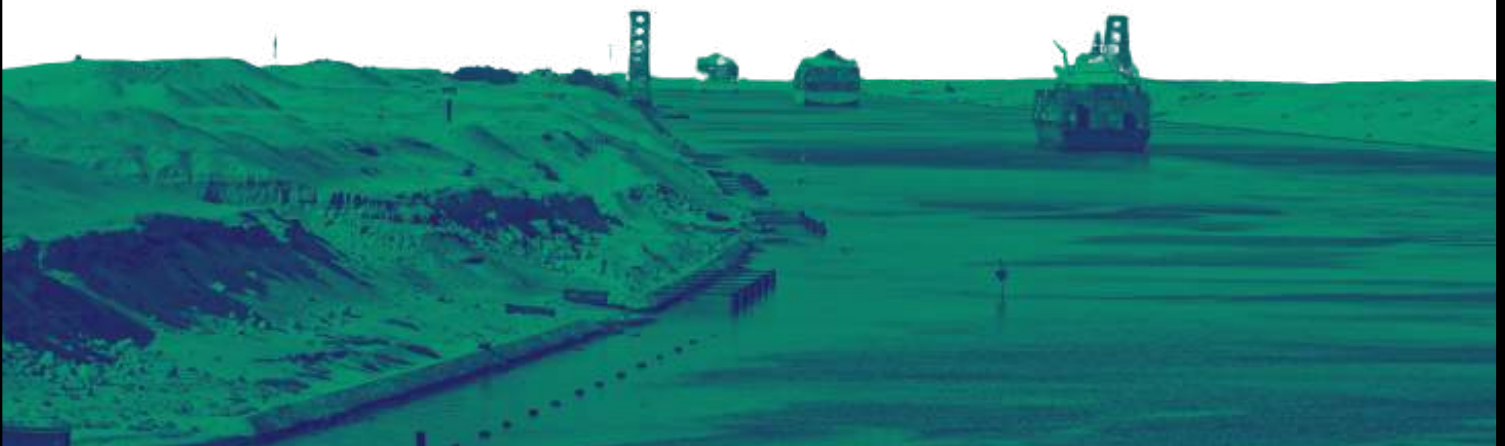
It has been some rather eventful 100 days in the West Wing with actions taken in an array of fields but **only time will tell how well they are executed and the fruits they bear.**

WORLD AFFAIRS

THE SUEZ CANAL

The Suez Canal, a waterway financed by both French and Egyptian governments, that enabled travel between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean by the means of the Red Sea, has been a source of grave conflict between the superpowers since its inauguration.

BY JOANNA JOYSON



World trade is the labyrinth that commands and connects countries. By coaxing competition, global prices plummet, creating an **inverse relationship** that maintains balance and is mutually beneficial to the parties involved. It also utilizes each nation's unique economic specialisation, thus sustaining the '**free market system.**' Egypt, the land of the Nile, was the first country to dig a canal across its land to commence commerce and globe-trotting.

The canal was launched in 1869 and was made accessible to maritime vessels from all nations, without prejudice, in peace and in war, under the provisions of an international treaty negotiated in 1888, **The Convention of Constantinople.** Even so, Britain considered the canal to be critical to the country's **naval dominance** and **imperial interests** since it eased governance over their colonies.

Thus in a few decades, Britain was successful in their pursuit of establishing a defensive force along the Canal, thanks to the clauses of the **Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936.** The Suez Canal's monopoly of trade and travel persisted in the World Wars, acting as a geo-strategic intersection for the allied forces, a conduit of combat and chaos.



Post-war, due to a myriad of economical reasons, Egypt developed an anti-western attitude, opposed to the British garrison of 80,000 at Suez, one of the largest military installations in the world

Predictably, Britain was given the boot. Next, the nationalisation of the Canal by Leader **Abdel Nasser** was not well-received by Israel, Britain and France. This triggered an allied attack, dubbed the '**Suez Crisis.**' The Soviet Union intervened in support of Egypt, threatening to **launch nukes** at Western Europe if the coalition didn't leave.

Yet, the retraction of the coalition occurred only after the United States stepped in with the threat to impose economic penalties on all three nations unless the hostility ceased. Significantly, the **Suez Crisis was the first instance where the UN peacekeeping force was deployed to oversee the cessation of conflict and the expulsion of the three powers.**



Additionally, in the aftermath of the Suez Crisis, Britain and France, once the kingpins of imperialism, witnessed their dominance as superpowers diminish, the United States and the Soviet Union taking their place. Even today the Suez Canal endures as one of the world's **busiest** trade routes, averaging a traffic of around **fifty** ships a day

. The Suez Canal Expansion Project aimed to **widen and deepen the canal**, allowing for two-way transit and thus expedited travel, expected to become the fastest shipping route between Europe and Asia. This project was imperative because currently, the canal is too narrow to allow traffic to flow in both directions simultaneously. The gravity of the matter was demonstrated on the morning of **23rd March 2021** when the container ship 'Ever Given' incidentally wedged itself across the waterway, blocking the canal for six adverse days. During these days, **369 ships** were obstructed, queued to traverse the canal. This delay cost an estimate of \$9.6 billion in trade. Maritime historian **Sal Mercogliano** said, **“Every day the canal is closed, container ships and tankers are not delivering food, fuel and manufactured goods to Europe and goods are not being exported from Europe to the Far East.”**

Around \$400 million worth of goods were cut off each hour and Egypt lost about \$12-14 million each day. Even now that it's unblocked, economists predict a domino effect to ripple through the supply chain for several months.

When the obstructed container ships rerouted to travel around Africa's Cape of Good Hope to reach their destination instead of the Suez, they were delayed two weeks.

Opportunist Russia took advantage of this to advertise Arctic shipping routes as a shorter alternative to Africa. This suggested Arctic route is banking on the fact that future projections promise the complete depletion of Arctic ice due to global warming by the end of the century. The devious result of this climate crisis would be the relaunching of the Transpolar Sea Route, no longer unsafe and now traversable without requiring an icebreaker vessel. In maritime trade the ships are the arrows, the sea is the bow and the world is the target. Trade is more than just an exchange of goods, it is a medium of purveying power in a multinational game of monopoly.

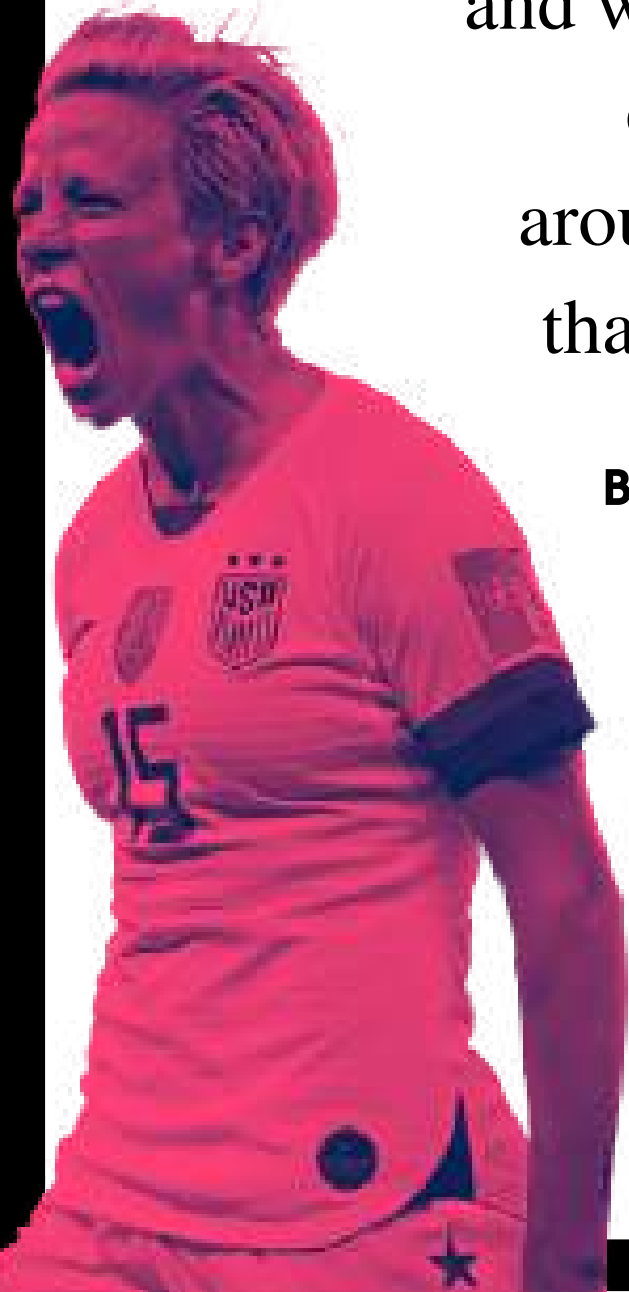


Whether it's the trade of food & fuel or gold & gadgets, everything is explained by the primal nature to compete over resources, seen in animals and humans alike. We are certainly not precluded from this primitive phenomenon just because our competitiveness is curbed by civility. The Suez Canal of the Egyptian civilization is the oldest geological symbol for our economic evolution, considering how modern trade originated from the sweet & simple barter system and commercial travel found its humble beginnings in the domestication of horses. How one little strait, stretching across a mere 200 kilometres, going out of commission could shake the entire global economy is a sign of fatal fragility, like a house of cards that falls apart in a single blow of the softest breeze.

EQUAL PAY IS FAIR PLAY

The gender pay gap or the gender wage gap, is the average difference between the remuneration for working men and working women. Now, it's customary that women all around the world be paid less than their male counterparts.

BY PARTH GHOTEKAR



As a matter of fact, it is persistent in many developed countries around the globe, hence there is a **significant gap in pay**, between the two genders, as is articulated in the image below.

The Gender Pay Gap By Country

	"UNADJUSTED" BASE GENDER PAY GAP		"ADJUSTED" BASE GENDER PAY GAP	
	Average Cents/Pence Earned by Women Per Dollar/Pound/Euro of Male Earnings	Percentage Male Pay Advantage	Average Cents/Pence Earned by Women Per Dollar/Pound/Euro of Male Earnings	Percentage Male Pay Advantage
Australia	0.85	15.1%	0.97	3.1%
France	0.88	11.6%	0.96	3.7%
Canada	0.84	16.1%	0.96	4.0%
United States	0.79	21.4%	0.95	4.9%
United Kingdom	0.82	17.9%	0.95	5.0%
Singapore	0.87	12.8%	0.95	5.2%
Germany	0.78	22.3%	0.94	6.4%
Netherlands	0.81	18.9%	0.93	6.6%

Source: Glassdoor Economic Research (Glassdoor.com/research).

Although progress has been made in ameliorating **women's health and their access to education**, the economic gender gap has been much slower in narrowing the gap, with an estimated 250+ years until the world reaches economic gender parity.

One faction which made waves in the world regarding this topic, and who has definitely catalyzed the narrowing of the gender pay gap is the **United States Women's National soccer team**.

Infamously known making headlines for filing a gender discrimination lawsuit against the

U.S Soccer

One faction which made waves in Federation on **March 8th 2019**.

US Soccer pays its female players fixed salaries unlike their male counterparts whose compensation is based heavily on bonuses (training camp call-ups, game appearances performance bonuses).

Thus, the majority of The United States women's national soccer team players are paid \$100,000 in salaries, plus an additional **\$62,500 to \$67,500** for playing in the US Soccer-backed National Women's Soccer League.

The women's bonuses have also increased over the years, however the USWNT have made

the legal case that total compensation for the men is higher, even with the salaries the women earn, because the **men's bonuses are so much larger.**

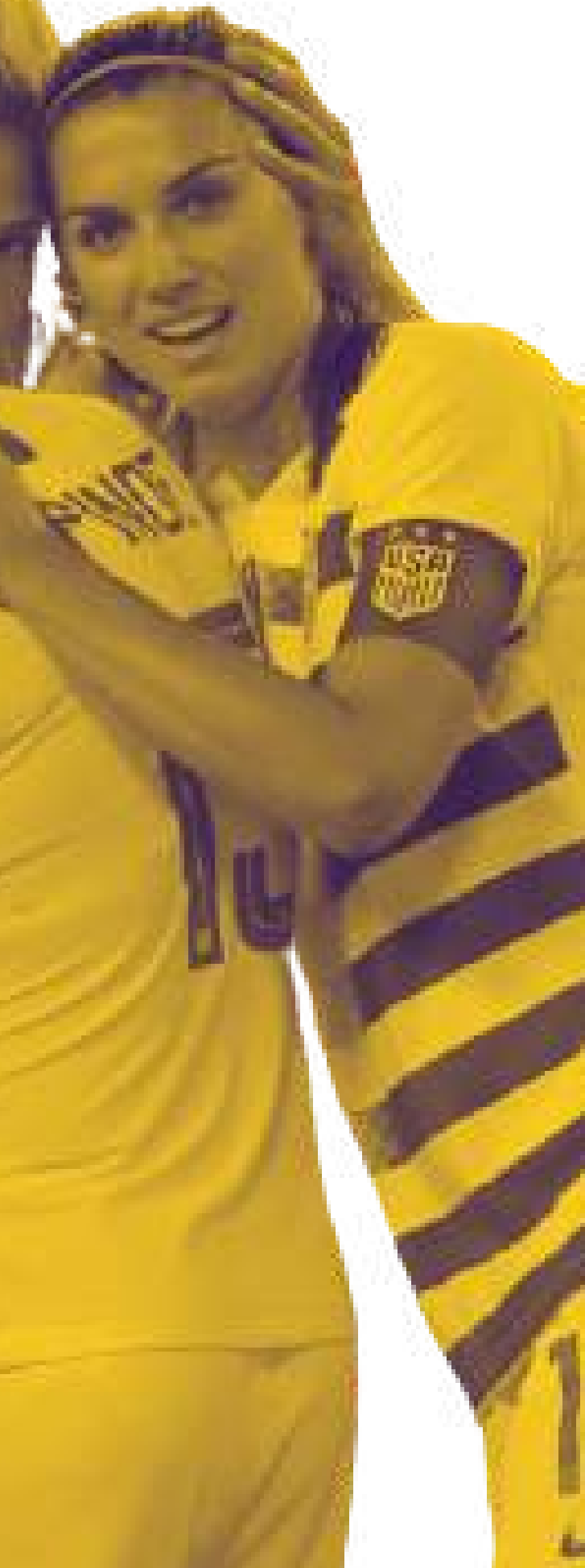
For example, players on both teams receive win bonuses if the team manages to win an individual qualifying game.

The USWNT win bonus is **\$3,000** while the win bonus for the USMNT is **\$12,500 for achieving the same feat.**

Moreover, if the USMNT had won the men's World Cup in 2018, US Soccer would have paid the top male players nearly \$1 million each. In comparison, when the USWNT won the women's World Cup in 2019, **US soccer paid \$260,870** at most to each player which is roughly only a quarter of what their male counterparts would earn for doing the same thing. An explanation that has been commonly used to justify the prevalence of this difference in pay, is the disparity in the total revenue earned in Mens and womens' football.



To put it simply, men's football generates more revenue than the women's game and hence they are paid more. However, in the case of the USA, the women's soccer games have generated more revenue than U.S. men's games over the past few years.



That's according to audited financial statements from the **U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF)** obtained by **The Wall Street Journal**. From 2016 to 2018, women's games generated approximately **\$50.8 million** in revenue, compared with **\$49.9 million** for men's games. The Journal report notes that the "ability of the women's team to generate gate revenues that equals or exceeds the men's team is an important battleground," and central to an ongoing lawsuit filed against the USSF by 28 members of the U.S. women's national soccer team. If the women's team can generate similar amounts of revenue as the men's team, why can't they be paid the same? In December 2020, the USWNT and U.S. Soccer reached a settlement over one portion of the team's lawsuit, involving unequal working conditions. The settlement allowed the USWNT to move forward with their appeal over a federal judge's **May 2020 ruling** in U.S. Soccer's favor over the team's pay discrimination claim.

This gender inequality is also prominent in assortment of other sports, a prime example being basketball. This gender disparity was highlighted during the **NCAA March Madness Tournament in the USA**. When college Women basketball players began to post photos and videos of how they were provided with insufficient food, less accurate COVID 19 testing and less exercise equipment in the **NCAA March Madness Tournament Bubbles** than their **male counterparts**, a sense of collective outrage ensued. The most forceful image showed an entire auditorium converted into a weight room for male basketball players filled with numerous gym equipment. In comparison, their female counterparts got nothing more than a set of dumbbells and a few yoga mats.



Malorie Henderlong @14malorie · Mar 18, 2021



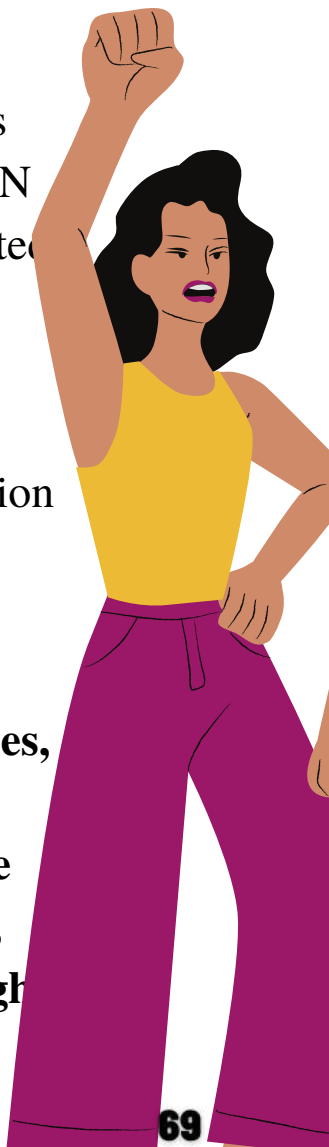
WBB NCAA tournament weight room vs.
MBB NCAA tournament weight room

A lot is wrong here.



This is not a new issue by any stretch of the imagination. When then **American President Richard Nixon signed Title IX into law in 1972**, the door seemed to open for women's sports as women's athletics programs began to form at colleges and universities. However, institutions were slow to implement changes and schools continually gave women athletic departments much less than the amount given to male athletic departments. Funding disparities have remained into the modern era which lead to the stark contrast in qualities of facilities provided. Earlier this year, ESPN reported that the NCAA budgeted nearly twice as much for the 2019 men's basketball tournament as it did for the women's—a \$13.5 million discrepancy.

In June 2020, major changes arrived in the **WNBA as salaries, prize pools and bonuses and while this is nowhere near the average NBA player's salary, it is definitely a step in the right decision.**



From professional players to politicians all joined in the conversation about gender discrimination in the world of sports, dubbing the videos and photos as ‘outrageous’ and demanding better facilities and respect for female athletes.

At the end of the day, sports are an entertainment industry just like the showbiz industry and athletes are like movie stars, they both aim to entertain. In my opinion, just like in any showbiz, those athletes that generate the most revenue should be paid the most (just like **Leonardo DiCaprio** is paid more than an extra). However no matter the amount of money that is brought in by the athlete, they all should be provided the same opportunities and facilities no matter what gender.

SHORT STORY

twin regrets

a short story

by *Gargi Bhave*



The gangs that hide in dust, huh?

A good name for criminals, a good place for them too.

Ever held a gun?

The weight, the texture, the size, the color, most of all, the feeling; the feeling of being on the top of the world.

The trigger urges to be touched by those cold, fidgety fingers; the noise, the piercing breath of the bullet.

A moment, a single moment, a single breath, **a single life.**

Those two fought like there was no tomorrow, man to man, they said.

With every shot that missed, the anxiety and the pressure. The overwhelming presence of something inevitable, of what's to come.

They went in rounds. A single bullet, a perfect shot, countered by a perfect dodge.

Personalities define existence, time says.

Broken patrons and incomplete pages.

'Pull the trigger.' They say. They know.

They know what's to happen will happen. Running away, will be just **simple**.

Yet, they fire each bullet, with careful aim and compassion, waiting for each other really, begging for stories.

The patron says, with great longing, with simple words, his story;

"I was a warrior," He begins, pointing the gun at the other, "For I wandered alone, like a trembling ghost, in the distant dusty deserts; a warrior indeed I was, searching for my oasis." His words came apart like his soul from his being, "I lurked, in shadow, on burning seas, in forests and in villages, perhaps, hoping to break my luck." He continued,

"I was a warrior, perhaps a martyr, I learned of you, I came to you, forgive me, this is most likely your last mission." He said, pointing a gun at the other.

The other was an assassin, who particularly liked children, he was **fond** of them, dare I say, "I was never a warrior, nor a patron, nothing significant, perhaps my memory has been fondled with, I have but one wish, to finish writing my words, which make me." The other began, pointing the gun at the warrior, "My words make me, and I am my words. I remember meeting a woman, her face I regret not remember. She asked of me, why I existed, why I lived. To my surprise, I found myself wondering, what is it that I want. She told me to complete a book." The other adjusted the gun and continued, "To write is to feel, I thought. She said nothing more, as I sat myself on a table, asking her of her name, she said, Mira, the same person, who'd been dead, by my very own hands later that day."

The other took a step closer, his hand steady,

"I was no warrior, I wandered too, wanting to find words, to prove of my existence, though in a twisted world, I did something inevitable that day; my purpose, I had



suddenly acquired of it.”

“What was it?” The patron carefully asked.

“To finish those words that I started, to let my thoughts linger. I arrive to you, with my mission, I thought, I could never write words if I killed, but that is my profession, after all. I bring to you, my incomplete words, with which I shall perish, carrying my regret, pain and sorrow of my last conversation.” The other pulled the trigger, so did the patron.

Distant shots were heard, following which both fell. To the pits of hell perhaps, right at the gateway.

I ask to you now, patron, what is it that you shall regret the most?

“Perhaps, the feeling of despair, perhaps the flair of the oasis, I wonder...”

The other opened his eyes, and whispered,

“I shall forever regret those incomplete words, the forbidden book, dare I say, what even is existence, anyway?”



WITHIN

they ask me why my art isn't bound
why my poetry isn't in a book
why my thoughts aren't in order
why my mind isn't on a hook.

tell me,
have you looked up at the sky
and questioned the stars?
have you watched your hand bleed
and looked down at the broken glass?
have you looked at someone you love
and questioned their messy hair?
have you looked at words on a page
and wondered why they aren't the
same?

chaos is everywhere,
in your head and in mine.

If I were to bound
my poetry and art alike
If I were to show you
something organised
you'd see not art, but lies
so I show you my mess
like paint spilled on skies

BY TVESA MEDH



SPONTANEITY

by Gargi Bhave

Could I live through such
Contagious spontaneity?
I'm scared of losing to it.
It's alluring;

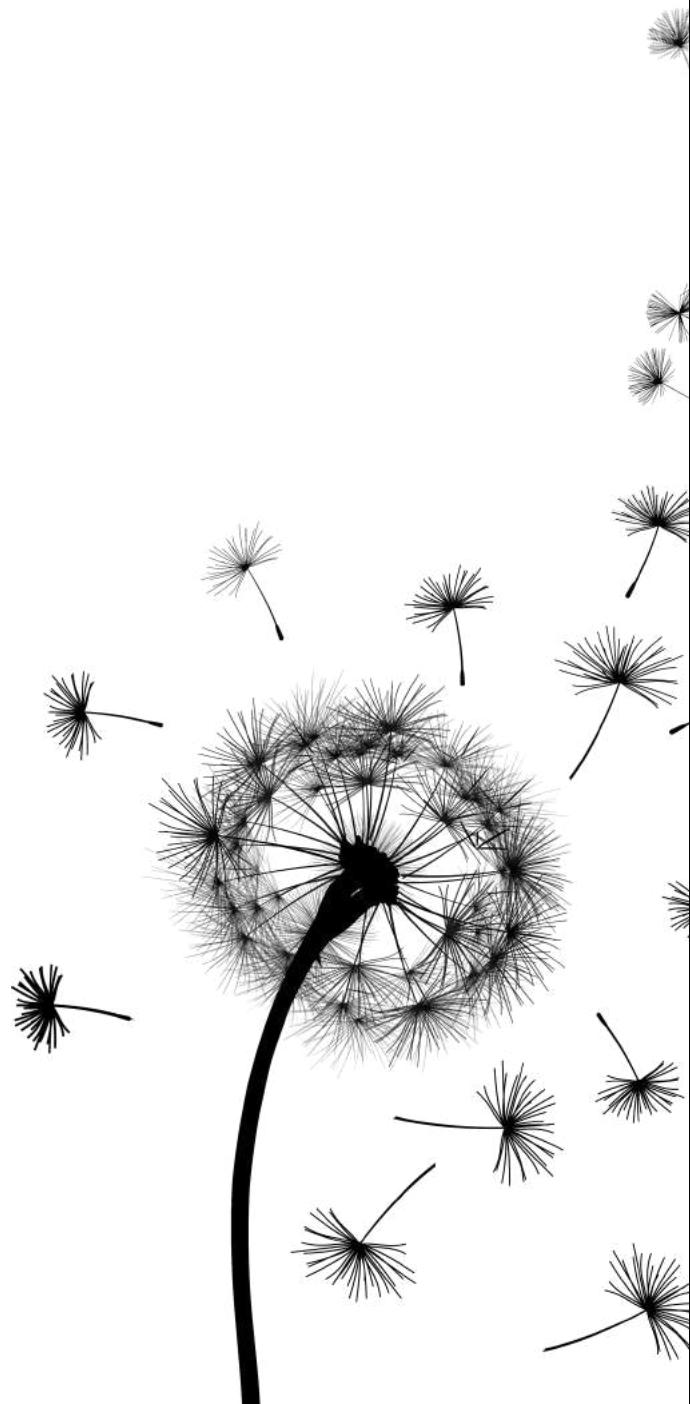
The circumstantial happiness,
Is it worth the
After-pain?

Such spontaneity,
It's addictive;
Could I just pack my bag,
Roll my keys and
Just sun away?
All of my pain,
Could I throw it away?

My poison filled desires
my unmatched dilemma,
could it blow me away?

I'm scared of the excitement,
The escapism,
The divineness of the
Rushed adrenaline,
I'm scared of the consequences,
The "everything" that comes
With it.

-l.w.



MRIGVIEWS

Blog

Movies and shows have always intrigued me. When I watch these movies and shows, I feel the desire to express my views and opinions about the subject with others in the media community, and the audience of people who like the same things as me. A blog is a very apt and powerful medium for anyone who wants to put forth their views regarding any particular subject, and hence I decided to start my own blog where I would review movies and TV shows. Your blog must always be about something that drives you and you're passionate about. Although it's been less than 2 weeks since I started my blog, I am very eager to write more articles and share them with everyone.

MRIGANK SHARMA

BLOG:

<https://mrigank374328342.wordpress.com/>



ART BY TVESA

Instagram account

Instagram account:

[https://instagram.com/art
by.tvesa?
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Art for me is an escape from monotony and a way to express my love for colours, paints and brushes. I've been drawing and painting all my life, in some way or the other. making an Instagram account to spread my love for art and share my art with everyone has brought me endless joy and support. I also occasionally post video edits that I make about movies and shows that I enjoy. It doesn't matter to me how many people see my work, only how much it affects them, because art affects me very deeply and my goal is solely to show everyone that art is beyond what you can see. Artists are always learning, as am I, constantly improving with the support encouragement and criticism around me. I couldn't ask for a better way to be inspired and to inspire.

TVESA MEDH

ASPIRING WITH ANUSREE

Youtube Channel

AspiringWithAnusree is home to many interesting videos, including an ongoing series of Mysteries of India, study videos that are filled with ideas of being productive, stepping yourself up in organising your stuff, avoiding procrastination, preparing well for exams and a lot more! I have also tried my hand out at vlogging, so I have travel vlogs up there, and more will be coming up! With YouTube being a platform loved by people of all countries and ages, I am just trying to make a space for myself and the people watching, to learn and spread knowledge, positivity, and happiness!

If I have managed to interest you in any way possible, then please do hop onto YouTube, search up 'AspiringWithAnusree', and click on the red button that says aloud "Subscribe"! I am sure that there is a lot to take away from there and many more videos with new content will keep coming up on my channel!

ANUSREE RAO

Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbf9Naftkz3Ud1qkoDkw5gg>

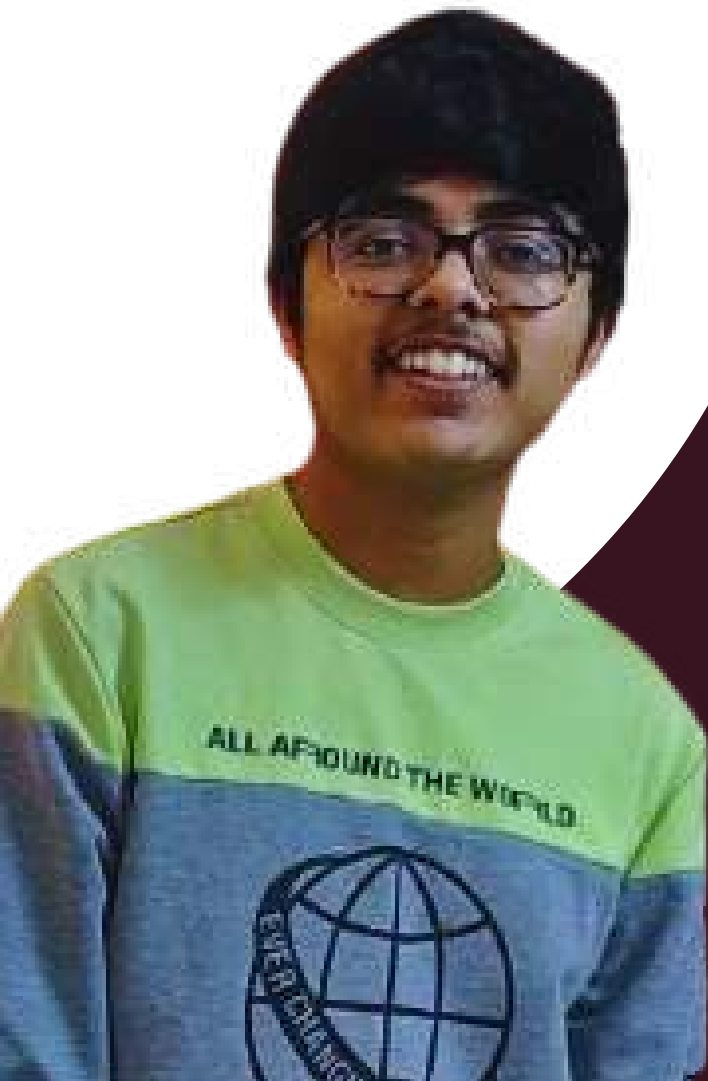


ROSHAN SINHA

Instagram Account

Instagram account:

<https://www.instagram.com/theloanradar/>



The Loan Radar is an Instagram page which deals with all news about players rumoured or joining new clubs in the transfer windows on loan. The page is a collection of data from all the sources and just tries to convey the information we receive via various sources to let people know which club is getting or going after which player. To differentiate this page from the rest, we focus on players who are on loan or are rumoured to leave their club on loan, a concept I personally believe to not have been used by anyone making this page a one of its kind.

ZARTOON

Instagram account

We all draw when we are kids. But I never stopped. With a lot of inspiration and encouragement from the people around me, I kept creating as a product of my imagination. And after careful consideration, I even began my own Instagram page to share my creativity with more people. I have always believed that art, in itself, has the ability to change minds, touch hearts and stir souls. Due to this very reason, my goal is to improve and thus, inspire.

Moreover, for my art to touch even one person is just enough to instill my undying passion for art and the creative exploration. My art defines me and I like to think everyone has that young artist in them; curious about the world around them, only to bring it down on paper and marvel at their creations, no matter how small or big.

ZAINE COWAN

Instagram account:

<https://www.instagram.com/zartoon/>



Nerd World

Blog and Instagram page

INSTAGRAM

HANDLE:

https://www.instagram.com/nerd_world_/

BLOG:

<https://nerdworldreviews.blogspot.com/>

I firmly believe that cinema above all is an experience unlike any other, the varied perspectives shown through cinema just showcase how this medium allows absolute freedom of expression at most times. Due to my obvious love for cinema, I decided to start writing about various movies, games, tv shows, since I not only get to talk about them but also recommend these to others via my blog and even my Instagram page, I can finally help in spreading the love and magic which cinema gives me every day.

KHUSH THAKKER



RESOURCES:

<https://www.remove.bg/upload>

PRINCE PHILIP

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Biden

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FOOTBALL - PARTH

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