

VASANT VALLEY TODAY

Excellence In Deed | श्रेष्ठतमाय कर्मणे

Coronavirus- a blessing or a curse?

COVID-19, coronavirus; these strange names that were alien to us before have suddenly become terms we've familiarised ourselves with. Life in quarantine is now the 'new normal'. Economists, scientists, and politicians say that the world shall never be the same again. 2020 stands as a testament to a time never seen before. The world is at a standstill, waiting with bated breath as COVID-19 ravages our cities and economies and scientists scramble to find a cure.



Dr. Barnard rightly said, "The business of living is the celebration of being alive". While we fight daily to celebrate, our existence is fraught with challenges of remaining positive, staying alive and celebrating this life. Some people have managed to deal with the lockdown positively. They have used this time to connect with their loved ones through apps like Zoom and have kept themselves occupied by reading, cooking, exercising and focusing on other leisure activities. Yet, these are luxuries available only to the privileged.

The lockdown has hit the poor- who are intimately familiar with the struggle for survival- the worst. Daily wage earners now have no means of income and stories of migrant labourers committing suicide are becoming all too familiar in the news. The sun we bask in is the same sun beating down upon their backs as they walk to a home that offers no hope to them. The profit-hungry industrialists are quick to downsize, laying them off like they're numbers on a spreadsheet. But they're not. They're real people with real struggles, and saying 'We're all in this together' means nothing unless we do something to help them.

The developed countries controlling the world's economy are in shambles today. Countries like America and Britain are home to leaders who refused to believe in the severity of the virus until it was too late. Some even resorted to xenophobic attitudes when referring to it. These leaders are unable to decide if they should focus on the economy, or on the health of their people. The answer is not as easy as it seems. We don't want another economic recession, but we also don't want the virus to spread since it would cause production activity to be put off for an even longer period of time.

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As compared to the West, India was quick to react to the threat posed by COVID-19. The city of New York has more cases than our country alone because of Trump's refusal to treat the virus as a real threat. What India needs to keep in mind is that the lockdown is only a prevention. We still need to be able to test the population, lest the disease flares up when the lockdown ends. We need to improve our testing facilities so that we can effectively contain the virus, and restart the already slowing economy.

However, we can still find beauty in the middle of this pandemic. The human race has come together in acts of bravery and selflessness. Healthcare workers and police across the world are working tirelessly to help the needy. The environment is recovering from years of abuse. They say 'every cloud has a silver lining' and 'at the end of every tunnel there is light'. I say let's illuminate this dark tunnel with thoughts of positivity and pray for our Earth and the human race.

-Siddhant Nagrath, 10 and Anabita Kukhreja, 11

INTER-HOUSE MARK D'SOUZA WESTERN MUSIC COMPETITION

Since school has been shut due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, Inter-House Mark D'Souza Western Music Competition has been postponed. This, however, does not mean that we can't keep the House spirit and overall morale up! A new online round of the Western Music Competition is being conducted, where students of each house are required to make an original composition along with a music video for the same. These songs will be judged and their scores will be added to the final scoresheet for the Western Music Competition. The live rounds will be conducted after school reopens. This year's theme for the online round is **BACK TO LIFE** and the guidelines have been provided on the school website. All students are strongly encouraged to reach out to their House captains to display their talents in writing lyrics, singing, drawing, and composing!

Best of luck to all the Houses!



Illustrations by Sarajaya Kumar, 9

RESULTS FOR THE MEME MAKING COMPETITION ARE OUT!

MICROFICTION

"Pictures are worth a thousand words". Here are some images that prompted us to create small pieces of fiction!



Class 6

"This book leads you to 16 dimensions. You open it and it's going to be the last thing you do- you'll arrive in the land of fiction."

-Shivkaran Singh

Class 7

"She sat there, waiting for a miracle. Maybe someone would see her hollow cheeks and skinny body and help. But, at the same time, her sadness and hunger were drowned out by the feelings of silence and calmness."

-Naina Goculdas



Class 8

"The darkness slowly swallowed her in. It crept up inside of her, and there was nothing she could do to stop it. Only the light from the window at the corner of the basement gave her hope. It was too risky but she couldn't spend her time sitting in the old, grimy rocking chair anymore. It was her only way out."

-Sabima Mittal



Class 9

"She used to go there everyday to see the life in the trees. She tried going there again that day, but there was nothing except toxic breeze"

-Sara Jayakumar



Class 10

"The sparrow had come out of her den. She chirped around the empty courtyard, desperately looking for the usual sounds of life. She longed for the presence of those smiling faces."

-Advaita Sehgal



Class 11

"Joyfully they danced the night away, hand in hand, smiling. Little did they know that soon these times, would just end up becoming memories and they would long to twirl around again."

-Prarthna Batra



"They put on gloves and patterned masks, to dance in the masquerade. To take their place and to cure the gloom, doctors and nurses waltzed with grace."

-Katyayani Jha

Class 12

"The happiness on student's faces while getting pins, the feeling of joy on being chosen as prefects and the echo of House cheers that drives people to do more. The feeling of completion, looking back at every moment well spent, while taking the last walk down these steps. All feelings we now miss."

-Prisha Nagpal



"Gazing intently at the pictures of the empty brown building, she sat, alone and quiet, humming the school song to herself with a heavy heart, waiting for the day she would finally go back to the place that felt most like home."

-Nandani Aggarwal

त्यौहार की बौछार



त्यौहार हैं भारत की शान,
उनके आने पर खुशियों से भर जाता है आसमान।
तेरह और चौदह अप्रैल के दिन आए थे कई त्यौहार,
लाए थे वे अपने साथ तरह-तरह की मस्ती और आनंद की बौछार!

उत्तर में बैसाखी, तामिल नाडु और कोलकाता में नया साल,
पूरे देश में ईस्टर व अम्बेडकर जयंती ने किया था सब को खुशहाल।
त्यौहार हैं हमारी संस्कृति का एक आईना,
मगर कोरोनावाइरस की वजह से हम घर से बहार निकल पाए ना!



बैसाखी पर किसान फसल के लिए होते हैं कृतज्ञ,
आगे भी कृपा बनी रहे इसके लिए करते हैं यज्ञ।
ईस्टर पर यीशु पुनर्जीवित हुए थे,
इसे मानने के लिए हमने नाच, गा कर खूब पकवान खाए थे!

अम्बेडकर जयंती पर हम डॉक्टर अम्बेडकर को करते हैं याद,
ध्यान देते हैं उनकी प्रेरणा पर की भेद भाव को करना चाहिए त्याग।
इस मुश्किल घड़ी में भी हम भूलते नहीं हैं त्यौहार,
घर में ही खुशियाँ मानकर, हमनें उन्हीं को मान लिया अपना संसार!

एकजुट होकर हम इस वायरस को खत्म करेंगे,
बहादुर बनकर सबको हम सुरक्षित रखेंगे।
याद रखेंगे कि हम जी रहे हैं इतिहास-
दूर रहने में इलाज है- इसमें रखेंगे हम विश्वास।



-त्विशा जैरथ, 9

Pandemics over the Years

The Antonine Plague (165–190 AD): One of the earliest recorded pandemics in history, this spread over the entirety of the Roman Empire, as well as Asia Minor, Greece, and even parts of Africa. It was said to have caused boils, pharyngitis, diarrhoea and fever. It resulted in about 5 million deaths.

The Black Death (14th century): This deadly disease wiped out half of Europe. It is thought to have been caused by bacteria which was carried by fleas on infected rats. This plague eventually led to extensive technological and social changes in Europe.

Cholera Pandemic (1817–1824): The pandemic originated in India and spread throughout Asia, even reaching some parts of Europe. It spread through food and water. Though the pandemic died down, Cholera is still present in unsanitary regions around the world.

Spanish Flu (the 1920s): The most well-known of all pandemics in history, the Spanish Flu infected about one-third of the world's population in the 1920s. Victims died within hours of developing symptoms, their skin turning blue and lungs filling with fluid.

Asian Flu (1950's): This caused about 1 million deaths worldwide out of which 100,000 were in the United States. The disease is thought to have spread from China via birds.

I hope this list helps you understand how COVID-19 is not just an isolated occurrence. Pandemics have been experienced by almost every civilization in history. Stay safe and stay healthy!

Sources:

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-Jehan Bhandal, 10, Sumaya Beri, 9

THE PENDULUM OF POWER

Power is like a pendulum: it goes left and right, East and West. The COVID-19 pandemic is now accelerating the shift of economic power from the West to the East that has been taking place for the last few years.

The US has around 927,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Several European countries like Spain have also been majorly affected. The US has suffered more deaths due to COVID-19 than it did in the infamous 9/11 attack, and the manner with which they are dealing with the virus is haphazard at best.



China, the epicenter of the virus, had taken draconian measures to contain the disease and is now reinforcing its identity as a global leader and a 'Good Samaritan' by lending a helping hand to affected countries. South Korea and Italy offer two different methods of tackling this virus. South Korea, without imposing a nationwide lockdown, kept its borders open and used high-tech devices to track down infected citizens. Italy, on the other hand, followed the guidelines of social distancing by quarantining the whole nation and only screened people who displayed symptoms. India, which has emerged as a key player in the fight against COVID-19, continues to help others by exporting the anti-malarial drug Hydroxychloroquine.

World economic reports predict that China and India will take the lead in reviving their economies despite this setback. The notion of the West being better equipped to deal with a crisis like COVID-19 is wide-spread. However, the evidence tells another story: the power is shifting from the West to the East.

-Daksyayani Chandra and Advaita Sehgal, 10

A Message of Solidarity



On April 14th, Mr. Yuval Noah Harari, reputed historian and bestselling author of 'Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind', was interviewed during the second session of India Today's E-Conclave. Mr. Harari provided an insightful take on the coronavirus pandemic and brought a glimmer of hope when he reminded us that our technological advancement will aid us in surviving these uncertain times. He highlighted that the economy is not our biggest problem right now.

Unity and understanding are the only weapons that we can use to fight this pandemic. However, these values have been underestimated time and again. Italy's devastating and unprecedented situation has received very poor support from the EU. The Italians are protesting to leave the EU, which would only create more divisions during a time when harmony is the only antidote available. Besides that, the US has placed a halt on funds to the WHO as it claims this international organization is 'China-centric'. Countries in Africa and Asia, that depend on the WHO for resources, will have to bear the brunt of these political consequences. Even in India, lots of people have more interest in playing the 'blame-game' instead of focussing on their social responsibility towards the people of this planet.

We all sometimes forget that during these times of hardship and loss, our religion, race, class, nationality and gender should not be barriers to our unity. Instead, they should unlock the bigger identity that unites us all – our humanity. In Mr. Harari's words, "The problem is not the virus, it's the inner demon within humans. We now see hatred for each other. If we allow this kind of hatred to spread, it will prevent us from dealing with the current crisis and poison internal relations for years to come." This is not a battle against coronavirus, this is a battle between us. Either all of us can fall to the ground in a shameful defeat, or we can walk the path towards victory. Together.

-Shyla Upadhyay, 10



How to impress...

Mrs. Sood!

"Pens down, eyes on the board!"

Sit straight with your back against the chair, your textbooks closed, and your focus on the blackboard. If ma'am is explaining something, stop writing and listen intently.



"God save you in the one markers!"

Mathematics is not only about problem solving. It is about internalising and applying the concepts. Make sure you read each and every word of the textbook carefully in order to become ma'am's favourite.

"Freeze the first function, derivative of the second."

Talk to yourself while solving the problem, especially when using the product rule.



"I'm asking the class for the last time, are there any doubts?"

Make sure you've understood the concepts in totality. Don't enter without your doubts from yesterday's homework (even if you got everything correct) because you cannot do maths without having any doubts!



"I'm coming to staple your reviews!"

Always remember to number your review sheets and attach the question paper at the back.

"Children, be the boss of your tutors!"

Don't let the parallel school make you think mechanically, or you will be in a soup!

We miss you Mrs. Sood!

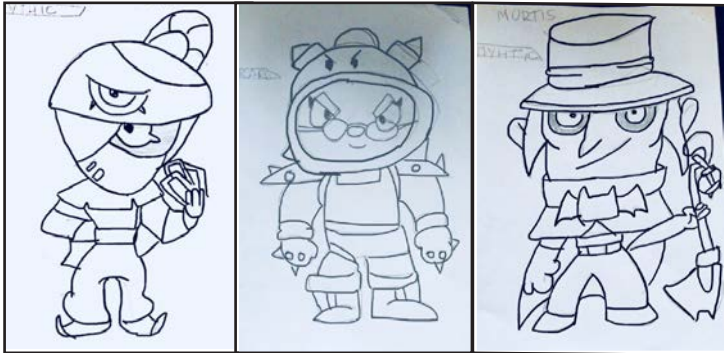
-Jai Kapoor, 12

Types of stress



Created by Advaita Sehgal, 10

'COVID Warriors' Brawlstars To Kill Corona



Sketches by: Krishiv Gulati III-B

The Times of COVID 19... Currently there is a deadly virus called COVID 19 which is highly infectious. It has spread across 183 countries and 7 continents. It doesn't care whether you are black or white, rich or poor, young or old, it can infect anyone. All schools are closed and everyone is at home. Everyone is doing their best to help each other out. I like that I can spend as much time as I want with my family. I am learning many new skills like baking, playing the piano and playing indoor badminton. I am also happy that I get to catch up on my reading. I loved reading the gory story of 'Genghis Khan' and 'The Diary of a Young Girl' by Anne Frank. I can even wake up late these days and not at the crack of dawn. I love that I get to stare at the stars and hear the birds chirping, which I didn't have time for. I miss that I can't go for cricket camp in the scorching hot sun at school. I miss playing in the jhoola bari with my friends. I even miss the speed math tests given by Mrs. Iyer. I also miss stepping out of my house whenever I want to. Everyone around me is wearing masks and I can't tell if they are happy or sad. Everyone seems so expressionless. The whole world is trying to make a vaccine to fight the virus but it will take a year...at least, that's what I've heard. In the meantime, people should wear masks, maintain social distancing and practise hygiene. We should spend time with our families and learn something new and before you know it, this pandemic will be over forever. **Veer Ramchandani IV - C**

Due to the Lockdown, I find time to do many things at home. I am working on a project on "Food" and tried making a dessert called "Fruit Cream". I thoroughly enjoyed making the "Bird Feeder". I made it using an old shoe box and stuck brown paper on it. I also put a few fallen dried leaves and twigs. In my free time, I enjoy doing gardening, playing squash, reading, drawing and painting. I have started doing meditation with my father and we play calming music on Alexa. I keep myself busy, do not feel bored at all, and love being home too.



Tushita Johar III - C

I didn't realise that cooking would be so much fun until I prepared a special dish from Kerala. It was one of the tasks given to us as part of our Passion Project. We had to cook a popular dish from our chosen state and I decided to make the famous dessert 'Payasam'. My sister Donna helped me arrange the ingredients. I was pretty nervous in the beginning but my mom motivated me throughout the preparation of the dish. It was such a great experience and I hope I will cook even better next time. The dessert was so tasty that my family members now call me Chef Norra! Later, I also assisted Donna in making 'thepla' - her passion project dish from Gujarat.



Norra Chhatwal IV - A

Lock Down Diaries...

I woke up with a start. My brother, Veer played a prank on me by splashing water on my face. I had to find a way to get back at him soon. Walking out, I felt dismayed listening to the news on television. I desperately wanted to go outside the house even though we were having a lot of fun playing video games and watching movies every night. My mother has never been this nice to us and is making desserts every night. I have started enjoying digging the mud and watering the plants each evening ever since Shatrughan Bhaiya stopped coming. Even though I can't go out, I hear more birds chirping than cars honking nowadays and that's nice. I'm also getting better at chess. These days I am reading "The Throne of Fire". I miss my friends. I hope everyone is safe and sound in their own houses. My mother told us about the migrant workers walking back to their villages hundreds of kilometers away and we sent out a prayer for them. Mama says we have to collect money to donate to Oxfam.

Angad Sikka V-C

The amazing dream I was having was rudely interrupted when I fell on the floor and woke up with a thud. Looking out, I saw the sky was blue and the weather radiant and pleasant. My tummy rumbled and I went off to eat my delicious and healthy Ragi pancakes with a generous helping of Nutella. Afterwards I ventured into Percy Jackson Adventures and continued "The Titan's Curse". I then played a game of chess after finishing the meeting with Mrs. Seth and my group. We played football, watered the plants, and played video games in the "Boys Club" which includes Papa, Angad and me. I want the pandemic to end soon. The news channels talk about little else, and there are no sports being played professionally across the world. I hope everyone who is sick recovers and all my friends are safe in their homes. We're making care packets for the needy and donating them to an NGO. My mother wants me to give some of my pocket money and I am thinking about it. Our house is near a red zone in Delhi. So even though I have a corn on my foot I cannot go to Dr. Kanwar. My mother says the doctors are like the soldiers of my video game except they use their mind and not guns to save the world.

Veer Sikka V-B



Missing My School

Vasant Valley School is cool, But it has some rules. You can't go late, Or they'll close the gates. We greet our teachers every time we meet, Because our school's motto is 'Excellence In Deed' We have a pool called Splash Taal in school, And in our Playroom we have many toy tools. Jhoola Bari, Soccer Field and Library are my favourite places to be, Going to school makes me very happy.

Yuvan Prasad III-A

In my days of lockdown, I miss my music camp. My teacher, Mr. Mishra, had taught us a song with sargam. I deciphered its notes and sang and played it on my Casio. I felt very happy and sent it to my teachers. They praised my effort and I hope I do this every time.



Akrit Wadhwa IV -B

नया युद्ध

30 जनवरी। इस दिन कोरोनावायरस का पहला मरीज भारत में पाया गया था। इस भयानक बीमारी ने मनुष्य को ऐसी परिस्थिति में रहने पर विवश कर दिया है कि वह किसी के लिए तो क्या अपने लिए भी कुछ न कर पाने के लिए विवश है। अदृश्य शत्रु से इस युद्ध को जीतना एक वैश्विक चुनौती बन गई है।

कोरोनावायरस ने आज तक न जाने कितने लोगों को संक्रमित किया है और आने वाले दिनों में न जाने और कितनों को करेगा। इस महामारी ने चीन और पश्चिमी देशों को हिला दिया है। भारत के यह सबसे बड़ा चुनौती भरा कदम था क्योंकि विश्व की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी जनसंख्या वाला देश है। इस पर नियंत्रण पाने के लिए भारतीयों ने किसी भी परिस्थिति में लॉक डाउन के नियम का काफी हद तक सफलतापूर्वक लागू किया। आशा है कोरोनावायरस के खिलाफ इस जंग में भी सफल भी होंगे। मुझे भारत की अखंडता पर गर्व हो रहा है क्योंकि इसकी की एकता के सामने हर दुश्मन परास्त हो जाता है।

विश्व के सत्ताधारी देश भी इस महामारी का सामना अपने विज्ञान, पैसों व स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के बल पर कर रहे हैं परंतु इनकी तुलना में १.3 अरब जनता के सामने हमारी स्थिती बेहतर नजर आती है। सरकार ने इस महामारी को हराने के लिए लॉकडाउन जैसे बहुत से कठोर कदम उठाए हैं और अधिकतर भारतीय जनता ने सरकार को पूर्णतः सहयोग दिया है। अपना उत्साह दिखाते हुए लोगों ने नौ अप्रैल की रात को हमारे प्रधानमंत्री के कहने पर दीपक जलाए थे ताकि इस अंधकार का नाश हो सके। यह लॉकडाउन भारतवासियों की संकल्प शक्ति और दृढ़ता का एक सच्चा प्रतीक है। हमारी इसी दृढ़ता की वजह से कोरोनावायरस भारत में अपने पैर पूरी तरह जमा नहीं पाया है। लोग अन्य परेशानियों का सामना करते हुए भी एक-दूसरे की मदद करने के लिए आगे आ रहे हैं। सरकार बड़े पैमाने पर लोगों में जागरूकता फैलाने का और सामाजिक दूरी को बढ़ाने का, प्रयास कर रही है।

समय ने वास्तव में हमें एक कसौटी पर लाकर खड़ा कर दिया है। लग रहा है जैसे जान की कोई कद्र ही नहीं है। लेकिन एक-एक जीवन के लिए किया गया यह संघर्ष मानवता की रक्षा का प्रतीक है। मैं आशा की इस डोर को कसकर पकड़े रखूंगा।

-रितविक सपरा, 9

Rest of the world judging India for lighting diyas, clapping and banging pots and pans
India:



Created by Mebek Anand, 10

Student: I forgot my homework at home

Teacher:



Created by Dev Karan Singh, 12



Created by Sabima Mittal, 8

VVS BINGO

How many boxes did you tick?

WALKED IN THE 600M LAP IN STANDARD TEST	GONE TO THE JHOOLA BARI DURING LIGHTS REHEARSAL	SNEAKED TUCK IN ADVENTURE CAMP	DONE BUZZFEED QUIZZES ON THE MACBOOKS	BEEN SCOLDED FOR AN UNTUCKED SHIRT/ NO BELT
TAKEN PART IN THE ART MARATHON	WON A MEDAL IN TRACK AND FIELD/ CROSS COUNTRY	GOT SCOLDED FOR NOT EATING LUNCH	GOT DIGENE FROM SISTER FOR ANY ILLNESS	PAINTED YOUR FACE FOR AN INTERHOUSE COMPETITION
GONE TO THE SERVER ROOM FOR THE AC	CUT THE FOOD LINE FOR RAJMA CHAWAL	BEGGED A TEACHER TO INCREASE YOUR GRADES	PAINTED THE SOLES OF YOUR SHOES BLACK	BEEN IN THE LATE LINE
HAD A DESIGNATED HANGOUT SPOT	CALLED YOUR PARENTS FROM THE OFFICE FOR SENDING HOMEWORK	GONE STRAIGHT TO SISTER'S AFTER STANDARD TEST	FIXED YOUR UNIFORM WHILE PASSING MS. KRISHNAN'S OFFICE	PRETENDED TO BE IN AN INTERSCHOOL COMPETITION FOR THE FOOD

0-5: You are new to this institution and are still finding your ground. With several avenues left to explore, I'm sure you're geared up for the next few eventful years to come.

6-10: You are selective and careful in your choices, and like to enjoy while staying in your comfort zone. However, you try to make the most of your encounters with the novel experiences of school life.

11-15: You have a taste for fun and firsts. You have consistently opened yourself up to new experiences in the past and are ready to do so in the future too.

16-20: You have explored almost every aspect of the school and have tried your hand at all tricks; adding fervently to your list of both enriching and comical experiences.

-Katayani Jha, 11

What type of student are you on 'Zoom'?

Q1. What are you like in online classes?

- (A) The one who is struggling to keep up with what's going on.
 (B) The one who is enthusiastic about answering each question.
 (C) The one with the virtual background.
 (D) The one who is multi-tasking on the side.

Q2. The worst part about 'Zoom' classes is-

- (A) Keeping track of which lesson is next.
 (B) That you are unable to answer questions.
 (C) When you're told to switch off your cool virtual background.
 (D) The fact that you have to attend school, when you could be watching Netflix instead.

Q3. In the break time you-

- (A) Take a power nap.
 (B) Take out the books and prepare for the next lesson.
 (C) Think of the next cool thing to put on your virtual background.
 (D) Chat with your friends and scroll through social media.

Q4. The best part about 'Zoom' is-

- (A) Nothing. I'm always reprimanded either by my parents or by my teacher.
 (B) That I can attend school and learn while sitting at home.
 (C) That I get a chance to show off my virtual background.
 (D) I get to be on my laptop without having to give an excuse to my parents.

Q5. You are scolded because your video was off. It was turned off because-

- (A) Oh! I didn't realise.
 (B) I didn't get scolded because I NEVER break the rules.
 (C) Ummm... connectivity issues.
 (D) You sneaked away to get something to eat.

If you got all A's, you are the 'Headless Chickew', blissfully unaware of what's going on. It is a marathon to keep up online. The very fact that you make it to Zoom, is a big achievement.

If you got all B's, you are 'Mr./Ms. Student of the Year'. You are annoyingly perfect and are the ideal student. Your diligence and discipline are to be admired!

If you got all C's, you are the 'Cyber Geek'. Online classes for you are all about creativity and you love showcasing it by constantly changing your virtual backgrounds!

If you got all D's, you are the 'Cool Kid'; the one who feels like they're too cool for all this and prefer to have their own gala time online while trying to pay attention to the teacher. *-Advaita Sehgal, 10 and Arshya Gaur, 11*

When the teacher asks me a question on Zoom



Created by Arni Gandhi, 7

Me calling the teacher to let me back in the meeting after I lagged out for the 8th time



Created by Arav Malhotra, 12

News you might have missed amidst the COVID-19 crisis...



New Zealand Passes Landmark Law to Decriminalise Abortion:

Under the old law, abortion was an offence in New Zealand. A woman could only legally get an abortion if two doctors certified that continuing the pregnancy would result in danger to her mental or physical health. Recently, abortions have been decriminalised.

25 people were killed in a terrorist attack on a Gurdwara in Kabul:

Over two dozen worshippers were killed and eight others were injured when a heavily armed suicide bomber stormed a prominent Gurdwara in the heart of Afghanistan's capital, Kabul on the 25th of March. It was one of the deadliest attacks on the minority Sikh community in the strife-torn country.



The Super Pink Moon:

The biggest supermoon of the year was seen on the 7th of April. It appeared bigger and 30% brighter than a regular full moon. It was a rare astrological phenomenon that brightened up being in quarantine for many.



Christchurch gunman pleads guilty to New Zealand mosque attacks that killed 51:

Brenton Tarrant, 29, appeared via video-link in the High Court in Christchurch on Thursday morning and admitted to 51 charges of murder, 40 charges of attempted murder and charges of engaging in a terrorist act.

Great Barrier Reef suffers third mass bleaching event in five years:

The mass bleaching affected around 60% of the Great Barrier Reef's corals. This was one of the greatest bleaching events ever to occur and was a result of the increased carbon emissions and global warming. It indicates the risk we're at of losing one of our most pristine natural wonders.



-Kavyini Garodia, 11

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