

# VASANT VALLEY TODAY

## THE NEW EDUCATION POLICY (NEP)

Education is the key to opening the doors of intellectual growth and curiosity in the minds of the young. The onus of our country's development lies on the youth and it is education alone that can transform them into pillars of strength for our nation. The desperate change that the National Policy on Education (1986) had been requiring for the past 34 years, finally took place when the Union cabinet, headed by PM Modi, approved the 2020 National Education Policy on the 29th of July. Envisioning a centered education system, this new policy is "built on the foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability."



The policy makes all courses interdisciplinary and replaces the 10+2 system with a 5+3+3+4 system, which includes 5 years of primary education, 3 years of a preparatory stage, 3 years of a middle stage and 4 years of secondary school. This system helps in preparing students for jobs by introducing vocational training from grade 6 onwards. It also aims at having a new 'Teacher Training Board' for teachers and a new 'Basic Learning Programme' for parents. There are changes in the policy for higher education as well and a new system of graduation courses including major and minor courses has been included.

### SCHOOL WATCH

#### Mock Stock Exchange Competition

1st: Rishnav Thadani and Kartik Vaish  
2nd: Shivang Mittal and Mehul Moolchandini  
Consolation Prize: Aryaman Minocha and Ananya Roach

#### Inter House Psychology Quiz

Winners- Yellow House-Aarvi Gupta (12), Aarav Malhotra (12), Sanah Bedi (11), Sairah Mamik (11)  
Runners Up- Red House-Sanaa Sharma (12), Nandani Agarwal (12), Myra Kapur (11), Bani Narang (11)

#### IRIDISCENCE- CARMEL CONVENT SCHOOL

Symphony- 2nd position- Sanjana Singh  
Book Discussion- 2nd position- Naira Chopra & Kavyini Garodia  
Ecoquence- 1st position- Ahaana Gupta  
Impromptu Inscriptions- 3rd position- Anirudh Vats  
Ad-Beat- 1st position- Myra Prasad, Lavanya Agarwal and Arsheya Chowla

#### हिंदी भाषण प्रतियोगिता- कक्षा १०

1st-अद्वैता सहगल  
2nd-सोनाक्षी गर्ग  
3rd-महक आनंद

#### Class 12 History Poem Writing Competition

1st-Zaayra Singh  
2nd-Tanmay Singh, Gauri Minocha and Naira Chopra

#### संस्कृत श्लोक वाचन प्रतियोगिता परिणाम कक्षा ७

प्रथम स्थान- आदित्य कुमार  
दूसरा स्थान- अमायरा पुरी, रितिका पनवार  
तीसरा स्थान- निर्वान मानिकतला, त्विषा पुंडीर, अर्णव गुप्ता

Examinations will now take place only for classes 3, 5 and 8. The board examinations for classes 10 and 12 will do away with the age-old "ratta maar" or rote learning concept and will include practical applications of knowledge. These changes will take a large burden off the shoulders of the students, and will result in increased involvement in extracurricular activities.

The NEP also plans to help protect and promote our culture through the study of classical and regional languages. The move to narrow the divide between water-tight streams like arts, science and commerce becomes a potential game-changer for making a more inclusive and holistic education system.

There are a few criticisms against the NEP. It overlooks the crucial opportunity to erase inequalities within the education system. The draft also lacks operational and funding details. While all might seem good on paper, the Centre must now ensure that the policy does not face litigation, state resistance, or operational challenges during implementation. Since the policy allows school dropouts to join a four-year graduation program, it poses pertinent a question- Why would a student wait to complete all 4 years if he receives a diploma in two? The policy also acts as a hurdle for students, by introducing a global language like English only in class 6. Another drawback of this policy includes over-reliance on information and communication technology, diverting focus from priorities such as infrastructure, regional economic imbalances and social access to education.

Inspite of these, personally, as students, we believe this policy is a step forward in establishing innovative rules and unfolding new opportunities for young minds. We feel anticipation and excitement for what is yet to unfold. Impressive and fresh ideas have been put forth, but since our history is scattered with ambitious education policies that end up faltering in execution, only time will tell whether this new policy will succeed.

- Advaita Sehgal and Dakshayani Chandra, 10

## TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN COOL

It's a little hard to believe that things are going to stop going the 'Mahi Way'. Yes, the only captain to win all three ICC trophies has retired from the game. Who would have ever thought that Mahendra Singh Dhoni, a Jharkhand boy from a humble background would hit the winning six, earning the nation one of the greatest gifts ever- an ICC World Cup victory! However, to hit that six, Dhoni had to do a lot of 'padding up'.

Being the son of a pump operator, Dhoni couldn't afford the best training equipment. Using his friends' equipment Dhoni would practice for hours at the Commando Cricket Club. Later, while he represented the Indian Railways cricket team, he took up a job as a ticket collector.

A super athletic wicket keeper, Dhoni played 538 internationals in 15 years, scored over 17,000 runs, averaged 45 runs with a strike rate of nearly 80, held 634 catches and effected 195 stumpings. Besides that, he holds the record for most stumpings by any wicket-keeper and highest score by any wicket-keeper in an ODI. Along with his numerous sixes and famous 'helicopter' shots, he is known as one of the best finishers in cricket, winning many games for India. His calm and composed demeanour and legendary leadership skills made him one of the most successful captains in Indian cricket and earned him the title of "Captain Cool."

M.S. Dhoni, besides being remembered for his staggering records will also always be remembered for his unassuming, down to earth nature and also as a player who brought a lot of dignity and respect to the game. He came without any fanfare and also retired in a similar way by suddenly announcing it on Twitter with a couplet from a Hindi movie, "main pal do pal ka shayar hoon". He is definitely not a "pal do pal ka shayar" and will remain in the hearts of cricket fans forever.

- Advait Gaur, 9



## 'बंदिश बैंडिट्स' : शास्त्रीय और पॉप संगीत का नया मेल



डकैती, हत्या व अभद्र भाषा से हटकर, अमेज़ॉन प्राइम के नए शो, 'बंदिश बैंडिट्स' ने हिंदुस्तानियों के दिल में सिर्फ एक सकारात्मकता ही नहीं, बल्कि गर्व का दीपक जला दिया है। यह शो राजस्थान की प्रसिद्ध भव्यता, शाही परंपरा, अलंकृत मंदिर और हलचल भरे बाजारों के आकर्षण दृश्य से सम्मोहित करता है। इस शो के मुख्य पात्र, राधे (ऋत्विक् भौमिक), पंडित जी (नसीरुद्दीन शाह)

व तमन्ना (श्रेया चौधरी) दर्शकों को हिंदुस्तानी संगीत व रॉक म्यूजिक का मधुर संयोजन पेश करते हैं। सबसे ज़्यादा प्रशंसीय बात यह है कि यह शो हमारे युवा, जो हिंदुस्तानी घरानों की ख्याति व इतिहास से अपरिचित हैं, उनको भारतीय संगीत में उपस्थित कला व परिश्रम का ज्ञान देता है।

राधे का पात्र इस शो में हमें पूर्वजों के जीवन मूल्य जैसे परंपरा, प्रतिष्ठा और अनुशासन का पालन करना सिखाता है। तमन्ना जो एक बड़े शहर की लड़की है, वो आज के युवा का प्रतिबिम्ब है। उसका विद्रोहात्मक स्वभाव, ऑटोडोन से मनोयुक्ति व अशुद्ध भाषा से अत्यंत प्रेम, इस शो को युवों के बीच बहुत लोकप्रिय व निकट करता है। इन दो पात्रों द्वारा, हमें विदेशी संस्कृति से अपनी नज़रें हटाने को व अपनी संस्कृति की गरिमा को जानने के लिए प्रोत्साहित भी करता है।

इस शो का सबसे सर्वश्रेष्ठ अंश शंकर अहसान लोय द्वारा गाये गए गीत हैं। अगर विद्यार्थी शो को ज़्यादा पसंद भी न करें, वो इन महान गायक की मधुर आवाज़, उनकी शुद्ध सुर, ताल व लय सुनने के लिए देख ही लेता है। उन्होंने हिंदुस्तानी संगीत की प्रसिद्धता व प्रतिष्ठा को फिर से सबके सामने साबित कर लिया है और भारतीय युवा भी अब अपनी मातृभूमि में पैदा हुए इस अनोखे व अद्भुत संस्कृति को जानने के लिए और शायद सीखने के लिए भी और उत्सुक हैं। आशा है कि इस शो को देखने के बहाने से ही सही, हम हिंदुस्तानी संगीत की शोभा अपने पीढ़ी व आने वाले पीढ़ी के लिए एक प्रेरणास्रोत हैं।

-अर्शिया गौड़, १९

## WORLD TODAY

*The easiest way to ace a GK quiz!*

Russia begins investigation of opposition leader Alexei Navalny's illness following rumours of poisoning.

Hurricane Laura has made landfall in the U.S and is said to be extremely dangerous.

An oil spill by a Japanese ship near Mauritius has had severe ecological impact and has led to endangerment of marine wildlife.

SC okays holding of NEET JEE exams with special COVID precautions

CBI takes over investigation of Actor Sushant Singh Rajput's Death in Mumbai

Latest COVID Sero-Surveillance data suggests that Delhi is moving towards herd immunity

MS Dhoni and Suresh Raina retired from International cricket on 15th August

'Black Panther' star Chadwick Boseman dies at 43

Thousands evacuate their homes as floods hit Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha

A large amount of stored ammonium nitrate explodes in Beirut, causing at least 190 deaths, and leaving an estimated 300,000 people homeless.

## TECH VVIZ

Like all other events this year, TechVVIZ took place online. Before the day of the actual event, workshops were conducted for students participating in MusicBytes (the music-making competition) and in the Multimedia Competition, which continues to be the flagship event of TechVVIZ. We witnessed skilled gaming and quizzing abilities in the Game-O-Matic and Tech-O-Byte events respectively.

The theme for the songs in MusicBytes was 'Connect' and the final round of the event was judged by a panel of skilled musicians- Mr. Vir Chowdhary, Mr. Jay Pei, and Mr. Puneesh Suri. The submissions made use of diverse techniques and it was truly commendable to see how students had collaborated through technology.

The theme for the Multimedia Competition was 'Lights, Camera, Action...It all happened online!' Even the judges, Ms. Monisha Baldawa, Ms. Sameera Iyengar and Ms. Kavita Carniero were impressed by the movies students showcased and the unique ways in which each team interpreted the theme. The movies reflected the students' handiwork as they created entire films with only their phones as equipment and their family as crew.

As TechVVIZ 2020 drew to its end, we were left amazed at the skills showcased and were very grateful that we were able to pull off the event online.

- Vedita Bagla, 12

## पंडित जसराज: गायन की एक अविस्मरणीय मूरत



प्रसिद्ध वाद्ययंत्रकारों ने इसे अपने चुने हुए वाद्ययंत्रों जैसे सितार और सरोद के माध्यम से अपने नाम को बढ़ाया है, पंडित जसराज ने खुद को दुनिया में एक ईश्वर प्रदत्त वाद्य-स्वर के माध्यम से अपने संगीत को स्थापित किया। संगीत में रुचि लेने वाले परिवार में जन्मे पंडित जसराज ने मात्र 3 साल की उम्र में संगीत के क्षेत्र में विद्या प्राप्त करनी शुरू कर दी थी। अपने पिता की मृत्यु के पश्चात उन्होंने अपने बड़े भाई गुरु पंडित मनीराम से संगीत सीखा और फिर गुरु महाराजा जैवंत सिंह ने उन्हें नया मार्ग दिखाने में मदद करी।

एक आत्मीय और सुरीली आवाज के धनी तथा गायन को एक नया रूप देने वाले पंडित जसराज, न केवल भारत का सम्मान बढ़ाया बल्कि दुनिया के नक्शे पर भारत को एक उच्च स्थान प्रदान किया। पंडित जसराज ही एक ऐसे गायक हैं जो पारंपरिक संगीत को एक गहन अभिव्यक्ति के रूप में पेश करते हैं। पंडित जी की इन कुछ अद्वितीय तथा उदात्त कलाओं के कारण उन्होंने अपने लिए गायन की विशाल दुनिया में एक विशेष स्थान का निर्माण किया और उस सिंहासन पर कोई भी उनकी जगह नहीं ले पाएगा। शुद्ध शास्त्रीय संगीत को जल के समान लहराने तथा मधुरता देने में कामियाब हुए पंडित जसराज अपने लय व सुरों के द्वारा संगीत में से ऐसे चमत्कारों को उत्पन्न करते थे कि सुनने वाले को आश्चर्य होता था।

गुरु और गुरु के रूप में, पंडित जसराज ने पहले से ही दुनिया को कई शानदार शिष्यों को प्रस्तुत किया है, जिनका पालन-पोषण और आदर्श शिक्षक-छात्र संबंध गुरु-शिष्य परम्परा की भारत की समृद्ध परंपरा के अनुसार किया गया है। आज उनके अग्रगामी शिष्य भी उत्साह से भारतीय संगीत का झंडा दुनिया के हर कोने में ले जा रहे हैं, परम्परा की भारत की समृद्ध परंपरा के अनुसार किया गया है। आज उनके अग्रगामी शिष्य भी उत्साह से भारतीय संगीत का झंडा दुनिया के हर कोने में ले जा रहे हैं, मगर शायद ही कोई उनका स्थान लेने में कामयाब हो पाएगा।

## CHANGE

On August 11th, Kamala Harris made history as she became the first Asian woman of colour to be nominated as a Vice-Presidential candidate. Indians buzzed with excitement at the thought that someone who was a part of their community and shared some of their experiences, was just a "heartbeat" away from presidency. Residents of Chennai flocked to the streets to show their appreciation for Joe Biden's choice. Many Indian-Americans were thrilled with this pick.

Kamala Harris was born to a Jamaican father and Tamilian mother in the diverse city of Oakland, California. When Kamala was just seven years old, her parents called for an end to their marriage. Thereafter, Kamala spent time with the maternal side of her family. She served as San Francisco's District Attorney from 2004-2011 and then as California's Attorney General from 2011-2017. She was applauded for her progressive stance when she teamed up with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to launch the 'Climate Equity Bill'. This bill focuses on the transition to renewable sources of energy and ensures the upliftment of low-income communities that have been severely affected by climate change. She has, however, faced criticism by Americans about changing her political stance. She was one of the first Democrats to sign Bernie Sanders' 2017 'Medicare for All' bill but backtracked on the same issue during her presidential campaign.

Since Harris is someone with a strong understanding of India, her presence in the White House would imply the presence of someone who might speak critically, as well as thoughtfully, on issues such as the Indian occupation of Kashmir, or the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act that excluded Muslim immigrants. These are all issues that President Trump failed to address.



Although Kamala Harris might not be the most progressive Democratic leader, she has been accepting of her multi-racial identity. Bobby Jindal, the first Indian American to run for President, completely distanced himself from his Indian roots. All in all, Kamala Harris has encouraged people to see that change is possible and has become a symbol of hope for many.

- Shylpa Upadhyay, 10



## Picture Prompt Story Writing

**The Thief and The Boy:** Grandfather was an active man who was quite the detective. He caught the thief the last two times our house was broken into. I also wanted to catch a thief but when my family heard this, they laughed. I was determined to prove them wrong. My grandfather was very worried about a certain family heirloom. After encountering two thieves, he had a pretty good idea where to hide it. So, grandfather hid it in the garden. But an intelligent thief managed to get his hands on it. This was my chance to prove myself. I was sure that the thief would come again because his last attempt at our house had been successful. I was right. I had placed traps all over the house. From ping-pong balls scattered on the floor, to a rope to make the thief trip. When he entered, he slipped on the ping-pong balls. The persistent thief was then tripped by the rope. I rushed towards him. The noise awoke the adults and they helped me pin the thief to the ground. We called the police. Grandfather and I rushed to look through the holes in the fence to see if they had reached. Once they came, the thief showed no resistance and handed the family heirloom. I had proved my family wrong. It has been 80 years since the incident. I am still living in the same house. I take my grandson every day, to look through the holes in the same fence.

*Samarth Meattle 5 B*



**Jordan Saves the Day:** Jordan always loved visiting his Grandpa Sam. His grandpa was the security officer of the locality. They loved spying on their neighbours through the holes in their wooden fence. One day Jordan decided to spy on their neighbour Mrs. Wood. She was kind and loved to bake muffins for her neighbours. But one thing she didn't like at all was being spied upon. If she came to know about being spied upon, you better run for your life. This was not known to Jordan and Grandpa Sam. One evening, a burglar broke into Mrs Wood's house while Jordan and Grandpa Sam were peeking through the holes in the fence. When they saw the burglar they quickly called the police. The burglar was then arrested. Mrs. Wood thanked Sam and Jordan for their help. Well, that day Mrs. Wood admitted that being spied upon was not bad after all. The hero of the day was obviously Jordan. Mrs. Wood gave Jordan a few muffins as a thank you gift. Jordan sure did feel as proud as a lion!

*Adhiraj Jaswal 5 A*

**The Mysterios to the rescue:** There was a boy whose name was Jack and he loved visiting his grandfather. When grandpa was young, he used to be a spy. Each time 7-year-old Jack would turn up for a visit, grandpa always had a new story to share. Jack loved to play fake spy missions with grandpa. They called themselves the Mysterios. One day, something came up! Rumour had it that Grandpa's neighbour was a criminal in disguise! The Mysterios heard of this strange mystery and formulated a plan. The following day they made holes in the wooden fence and dug an entire tunnel. After an hour of looking through the hole in the fence they went through the tunnel and ended up in the neighbour's garden. The front door was locked. Luckily Grandpa knew how to pick all kinds of locks. They saw their neighbour as soon as they entered. Lucky for them his back was turned. They both went on with Plan B. They rang the doorbell and were welcomed in warm-heartedly. Jack made an excuse to go to the restroom. As Jack entered a dimly lit room, he saw that the walls had a bunch of fake signatures and disguises! Jack took pictures. He sprinted as fast as a leopard and said he was getting late for his class. Without wasting a second, the Mysterios reached the police station and showed the evidence. Soon their neighbour was put behind bars.

*Maira Ghosh 5 B*

### बारिश का मोसम

गर्मी गई, वर्षा आई  
अपने साथ ठंडी हवाएँ लाई।  
बाहर काले बादल छाए,  
खुशी से मोर ने पंख फैलाए।  
रेनकोट और छाता निकला,  
बच्चों का तो ताता निकला।  
बाहर है मिट्टी की सौंधी खुशबू,  
घर में गरमा गर्म पकौड़े की खुशबू  
तालाब, नहर सब गहरे हो गए,  
किसानों के सपने सारे पूरे हो गए।

अन्वित बोस ४ ब

### SeaSparkly

Hello! My name is SeaSparkly and I'm a baby ant. Naintara is my loving and caring neighbour. I live next door and I'm very lucky. My name SeaSparkly means that at night I sparkle when the sun sets.

*Naintara Sitaram 2C*

### Acrostic poem on ROSES

Radiant and gets our attention  
Often feels like another dimension,  
Such a beautiful fragrance,  
Enchanting flowers, just makes me feel calm,  
So don't cut them, let them grow free.

*Cyra Parhawk 4 B*



### LIMERICKS

There was once an old lady  
Whose first name was Hady  
She ate some spicy ham  
With a spoon of strawberry jam  
So she went totally crazy.  
*Zubin Trehan Sabni 3A*

There was once a dangerous dog  
Who bumped into a log  
It was a mistake  
The log was a snake  
And so he ran off in a jog.  
*Veda Zoya Nanda 3A*

There was once a bustard  
Who found a seed of mustard  
It tried to put it in its beak  
But she was so weak  
So she went to find some custard.

*Swara 3A*

# THE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

The National Conventions have been longstanding bastions of the American elections, glorious events that are essentially a narcissistic celebration of the Democrats and Republicans following the contentious primary elections phase. Yet the massive events of screaming delegates and flurries of balloons failed to materialise this year and instead the Convention took on a digital avatar due to the worldwide pandemic.



The Democrats came into their Convention week riding on a 8% lead in both the presidential and generic ballot having nominated a historic ticket, a 77 year old white man for President and an African-American women with an Indian heritage for Vice President. The Convention was a smooth affair with a delegate roll call that displayed the beauty and diversity of America. The powerful speeches ranged from the establishment's biggest names such as Barack Obama to rising stars such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, from the progressive left's very own Bernie Sanders to the most conservative of Republican governor's John Kasich. It truly represented, not the Democrat's ability to build a coalition, but Trump's ability to create unity, aligning the world against his policies and regressive tactics. The speeches delivered at the Convention, however, were not spirited affairs that lifted hope and told of a better America, but were sombre affairs underscored by fear and the tragedy of a second term for Trump.

At the time of writing, the Republican National Convention has just begun, already representing a sharp contrast to the Democratic Convention. It displays the dichotomy between the parties and clearly highlights the failed state of American politics. Not only are both Conventions marked by the taint of fear but are utilising it to paint the nightmare that is the opposition. We see the death of the Republican party itself- six of the twelve keynote speakers share the last name as the President. Since the official party platform shows unequivocal support for the individual running for office rather than policy changes proposed, it seems as if the party has plenty to worry about.

- Siddhant Nagrath, 10

## INDIAN MATCHMAKING

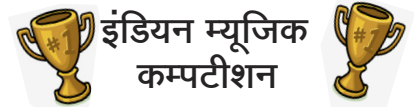


Over the past few months, many issues and events have taken the Indian internet by storm: the virus, the plight of the migrant labourers, and, of course, 'Indian Matchmaking'. Netflix's latest viral show is hosted by Sima Taparia, or "Sima Aunty from Mumbai", a self-proclaimed "Indian Cupid". The eight-episode series follows her matchmaking process- from hand-holding in Houston to Havelis in Hyderabad. Caste, skin colour, and body type make up the feathers of the Indian Cupid's narrow arrow, which she shoots to hit the 'perfect girl' and 'perfect boy'.

For instance, you have the typical Indian rich boy, Akshay, who can buy everything except a personality. Sure, the show is regressive, outdated, and wholly wrong, but there's one thing it does get right- the depiction of a typical Indian man. Akshay is a true mummy's boy: the apple of her eye, and the instigator of her high blood pressure. To anyone who hasn't watched the show- think a Rahul Gandhi minus the poor Hindi. Another popular candidate was Pradhyuman, who, in his own words, is "a smart and charismatic person, and not just another pretty, rich boy". Frankly, that introduction does seem pretty rich coming from someone who spends the whole show looking for someone as good-looking as him.

Perhaps the most notorious candidate is Aparna, Sima's absolute nightmare. A career-driven, Indian-American woman with an exhaustive list for her future partner, Aparna can never be appeased. However, much like every female character in a film with a male-driven plot, Aparna has an epiphany and changes herself to suit men. Much to the viewers' surprise, she does find a match at the end- a man who takes her for 'Goat Yoga'. It was a learning experience for the viewers- no one knew that bovines brought people together in India as well as America! However, the ten candidates were not the star of the show. It was our very own Cupid who attracted the most attention. Like a drill sergeant prepping men for war, she screeches tales of 'compromise' in the ears of all women under her command. She stretches them to the absolute limit to become more 'flexible'. Is a life without purpose what you want, women?", she cries out, "Absolutely not!", say the parents and men having ice cream and ladoos on the side.

-Prarthna Batra, 11, Sanaa Sharma, 12



## इंडियन म्यूजिक कम्पटीशन

हिंदुस्तानी संगीत प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेना मेरे लिए एक बहुत ही अदभुत अनुभव था। असली स्कूल में न होने के बावजूद यह एक आनंदमयी अनुवाह था। हर किसी के तुजुर्बे और संगीत- वादन के गुणों को देख मैं अचंबित हो गयी थी।

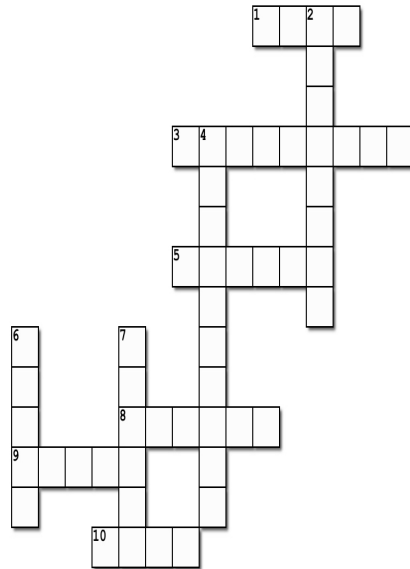
इस कला के प्रति सभी का दृढ़ निश्चय और लगाव देखना अदभुत था। सभी का सहयोगमयी काम भी अपने आप में अद्वितीय उद्घरण था और मिलझुल कर काम करने में मैंने भी बहुत कुछ सीखा। मुझे इस प्रतियोगिता में हिस्सा लेना बहुत अच्छा लगा और मैं यही आशा करूंगी की मुझे संगीत कला प्रदर्शन के लिए ऐसे और अवसर मिलें। मैं अपनी टीम के साथ प्रथम स्थान पर आने के लिए भी अत्यंत आभारी हूँ।

मैं उम्मीद करती हूँ की सभी को हमारी प्रस्तुति पसंद आई हो। संगीत के प्रति लगाव को प्रार्थमिकता देते हुए मैं ऐसे कई और अवसरों की मनोकामना करती हूँ।

-संजना सहि, 12

# Teachers Day Crossword!

These are some trademark statements from teachers but they aren't complete yet. With the help of the teachers names, finish the tag lines!



**Across**

1. Aww, so \_\_\_\_\_ (Mr. Trivedi)
3. Put it in a box and write very very very \_\_\_\_\_ (Mrs. Sood)
5. I swear on my \_\_\_\_\_! (Mr. Datta)
8. Come on guys speak up, I don't want a class of \_\_\_\_\_! (Mrs. Kumar)
9. Is that an okay? Yes, no, \_\_\_\_\_? (Mrs. Bakshi)
10. Okay. Fine. \_\_\_\_\_ enough. (Ms. Nijhawan)

**Down**

2. You take \_\_\_\_\_ anyway! (Mrs. Nag)
4. No one is as \_\_\_\_\_ as me (Mrs. Sayam)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ on you guys! (Ms. Sobti)
7. Guys please turn on your \_\_\_\_\_ (Every teacher on zoom nowadays!)

-Sara Jayakumar, 9, Vedika Bagla, 12

# WHYQ

Shopping used to be a delight. People liked to step out of their houses and chat with their neighbours and shopkeepers. Going out and buying groceries was something everyone looked forward to.

Due to COVID-19, this is no more. People now avoid stepping out for fear of catching the virus. The Indian Kirana stores are crowded, poorly managed and lack the basic infrastructure needed for individuals to practice social distancing. I, along with 5 other teenagers, decided to change this. We created WhyQ, a simple WhatsApp chatbot which provides local Kirana stores and RWAs with the technological infrastructure required to make social distancing possible. Our product help in regulating the number of people coming to a shop at any given time to ensure social distancing and also enables the reservation of groceries. It also allows individuals to have their orders ready by the time they reach the store and helps shopkeepers manage inventory and financials.

We are currently testing our product in a few localities and working with a few hundred happy customers & a few dozen shopkeepers. We've been featured in popular publications like 'Business Insider', 'Dainik Bhaskar', 'Deccan Herald' and 'Daily Hunt'. We hope that our initiative helps shoppers and shopkeepers in this time of uncertainty.

-Jai Relan, 10

## The Importance of Art in a Pandemic

Fear. Loss. Uncertainty. These feelings paint our world a gloomy shade of grey. Deafening silence engulfs once bustling and energetic cities. Families watch through their little windows, waiting. They wait for a stroke of cheerful yellow. They wait for a soulful strum or a trembling note. They wait for artists to paint the color of hope.

In Italy, the artists continued to keep their countrymen's spirits alive even when the city had over 200,000 cases. Thousands of musicians, while maintaining social distancing, sat on their small balconies every day and played upbeat numbers. These artists gave Italians a message of hope and an inspiration to unlock their own creativity. A few months back, a French artist, Saype, unveiled his work called 'Beyond Crisis' which was created in the Swiss Alps. He built a fresco of more than 3,000 square meters. This astounding piece of work shed light on building a world with more solidarity and humanity.



Many artists including Idina Menzel, Billy Porter, Finn Wolfhard and Judy Gold came together in light of the Judaic Passover. They raised over two million dollars for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention foundation. If the pandemic didn't get their spirits down, it certainly shouldn't be able to get ours.

Today, in these trying times, art gives us the freedom to express ourselves. It creates an optimistic world, one that seems quite impossible to be true. However, it gives us hope. Maybe one day, that beautiful but imaginary world will be ours.

-Sara Jayakumar, 9, Shyla Upadhyay, 10

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