

NEWS & VIEWS

Est. 1964

E-ISSUE 1

Welham Girls' School



CORONAVIRUS
SOS



QUARANTINE
BINGE-WATCHING



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EDITORIALS



MENTAL
HEALTH

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AUNT AGATHA; CREDITS

Photography by Vidisha Agrawal

Dear Readers,

It is a great time to be alive. A global, novel virus that keeps us contained in our homes—maybe for months—is already reorienting our relationship with the government, the outside world and even each other. A few months ago it would have been impossible to fathom that life as we knew it would come to a complete standstill and our only radical choice, dramatically put, would be, “distance or death”.

Even with the virus excluded, 2020 so far has presented to us a series of confusing events. The stock markets crashed, Bollywood lost three timeless gems and cyclones left Kolkata and Mumbai in shambles. At the same time Kim Jong Un died and came back to life, Elon Musk named his son X Æ A-12 and the Pentagon confirmed UFO sightings. It seems that the universe too, has a sense of humor.

Crisis moments, however, present opportunities: more sophisticated and flexible use of technology; less of the ordinary; a revived appreciation for the outdoors and other simple pleasures of life. Already we have been witness to remarkable feats of adaptability and solidarity with the world adhering to social distancing, working from home and adopting online platforms of education. We too must partake in the unwritten resolution to overcome and tread forward; therefore we bring to you the first ever online issue of the News and Views. We sincerely hope is that it serves as a little source of joy and perhaps even a reminder that we all must do our bit and carry on.

To all Welhamites out there, especially SCs for whom the lock down has been rather anti-climactic-- Perhaps this year is not what you imagined it to be but don't let it get the better of your spirits and morale. Take this time to sit back and heal or venture forth and explore but be sure to remember that even though the world seems covered in grey, “there is no storm that lasts forever”. Under all that negativity and uncertainty there is a blank canvas that lies before you, no one knows exactly what will come, but maybe it is a pandemic that will finally get us to listen to our common sense, our imaginations, our eccentricities—and not our programming.

Lastly, it is okay if you've finished Netflix; consider Prime or even Hotstar next. We would however, suggest keeping Gaelic on Duolingo and a 15 dollar trip to Italy for a last resort kind of situation.

Stay home, stay safe and happy reading!



BY TAARIKA MANN AND ANISHA KEDIA



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

**The News and Views board sent Mrs. Padmini Sambasivam, Principal, Welham Girls' School, a list of questions regarding her opinions on the impact of the pandemic on education. Here are her views-*

Q1. As one of the leading educationists of the country, what are your views on the impact of the pandemic on the education sphere and how do you think the situation should be handled by the Indian education system?

Ans: As an educationist, I try to remain nimble-footed, agile and adaptive to the changing times. It is crucial for the education system to acknowledge the changing scenario and deliver accordingly.

a. Enhancing multiple skill sets: On the academic front, the curriculum will have to be one that enhances multi skill sets, since it is not only about survival of the fittest anymore but also survival of the quickest. There are discussions about gig economy today where a time may come where people will be hired for a particular task when needed. So the idea of having a permanent job may be soon lost. We will have to constantly evolve and one would have to be not only fit but quick to thrive.

b. Student-directed learning: I feel the teacher-being-a-sage-on-stage concept is gone and the teacher can only remain a facilitator. The age of student-directed learning is here to stay and therefore, it is imperative that students understand they have to take the onus of sincerely learning and excelling.

c. Embedding sustainability: In these last 60 days we have seen the planet heal itself. This is a wake-up call that the education system must embed sustainability in the curriculum at the grassroot level and etch the need to be thrifty with resources and be respectful of it.

However, it is important to educate the heart as much as nourish and nurture the intellect. I believe all this cannot be achieved without the inner emotional strength because that's what gives us the energy to look at life with a sense of joy and purpose. We have to also believe we can make a difference and constantly be the voice for all that is right and humane. Being compassionate and empathetic is crucial for all of us to get on the other side of this pandemic.

2. Our school has recently commenced with online classes. How successful do you think it is as a means of teaching and what difficulties does it impose?

Ans: I am proud to share that our teachers are one of the best! Using technology for initiating flipped and blended learning in the last few years really helped and within a week-and-a-half of initiating the training for the online classes, they were ready.

We also we ran trial classes amongst ourselves and tried all the features that might come handy in teaching a concept before going live with the students. For lower classes, we started fun learning so they get used to the concept of virtual learning. We plan to take this to the next level and introduce an array of activities. We are also exploring ways where students can share their work and assessments done online. Our biggest loss is not being able to physically interact with the students. We miss the joy of seeing their expressions when they interact or when they share their opinion in the class; the natural humour and witty interaction in a class born out of physical presence is surely missing. May be in time, with better technology, we will be able to bring a virtual classroom that will overcome these barriers too. Another challenge we face is when some students play truant by logging in but not attending the sessions

Q3: To end with, is there something you would like to say to your Welhamites?

Ans 3: To my dear Welhamite, I would say this is the time to keep the faith and believe in yourself. It is not Doom's Day! Despite the strange times we are in, we can change how we perceive the pandemic - one can still look at life with joy and perhaps, think we are on an adventure!

To my dear Welhamite, I would say - Be mindful and grateful for the moment and enjoy adapting to the change. You are not alone in this and therefore, just as you have people looking out for you, you have the responsibility of looking after the needs of all that is around.

To my dear Welhamite, I would say Being cheerful is habit, pick it up now. Only if you have hope and cheer can you spread it. The world needs my Welhamites and I am proud of each one of you and know you will make this place a better one with your unbridled spirit.

God Bless!

WHATS IN

- Wifi Issues
- Microphone Malfunctions
- 7:00 a.m. Online Workouts
- *Mitron, Bhaiyon aur beheno*
- Teams Parent interactions
- Coronavirus
- Diwali in March
- Finishing Netflix

WHATS OUT

- Hospital Visit Slips
- Voice rest
- Lazy late Mornings
- 'MY' girls
- PTM's
- 'The Flu'
- Diwali in October
- Finishing the syllabus



FROM THE SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S DESK RECLINER



BY HANSIKA NATH

Dear Welhamites,

Though a little late but I'd like to start by thanking each and every one of you for entrusting me with this exceptional responsibility, that I sincerely hope, I am able to do justice to.

It has been a disappointing year so far with 4,80,000 people having already succumbed their lives to the deadly Covid-19 as I write at this moment. Among our few sources of refuge, the Indian film industry lost three of its most legendary actors; Instagram painted itself black with the filthy 'bois locker room' scandal and Microsoft Teams, yes, that happened.

And amidst this 'six month holiday twice a year' that each one of us had once craved for, it seems that most of us now are genuinely missing our time at Welham. I acknowledge that it's been a hard year for all of us, and especially the Batch of 2021 who had (*now broken*) dreams of making their last the best. Though informally, I would like to welcome the new B2 batch and urge them to take their unconventional start at Welham constructively.

Let us all hold onto the phrase '*woh beeta hua kal kabhi wapas nahi aata*' and hope that each one of us manages to make the most of these unforeseen circumstances, making the best of them in our own unique ways. This is the time we must rise to the occasion, move past the inevitable, test our own limits, seek solace from within and embrace what the Earth has to offer. It's time to take out those dusty books, pick up those boxed instruments, embrace this fate and create our own symphony of hope and optimism.

For sooner or later, this too shall pass.

Stay home and stay safe!



BY JAYA VATS; SCs





"GEORGE FLOYD: REST IN POWER"

The custodial killing of unarmed Afro-American George Floyd, fondly remembered by his friends as a 'gentle giant', in Minneapolis on the 25th of May kindled a nationwide movement against police brutality in the United States. In the days observed after Floyd's death — National Guard troopers were deployed, stern curfews were imposed and hundreds were arrested at significant public locations throughout the United States.

In a video that surfaced online almost immediately after his demise, Floyd is viewed pleading with Minneapolis policeman Derek Chauvin who suffocated him via pinning him to the floor with his neck under his knee for eight whole minutes despite no resistance to arrest from Floyd. Floyd's last words, "I can't breathe" —grew to be a rallying cry for protesters across the globe that demand an end to racism, police brutality, and the attitudes and policies that allow both to exist. As an outcome of the will of the people, Chauvin and the other three police officers involved in Floyd's demise have been fired and arrested.

The situation has further been aggravated by a regression in policy that has stemmed from the country's leadership. TIME Magazine has stated that policies instituted to protect black lives have been systematically rolled back in recent years, from the return of mandatory minimum sentences to the Department of Justice refusing to conduct an oversight of police departments accused of civil rights violations. According to the New York Times- an executive order once again allowing police easy access to military equipment has also been signed. In this scenario, the government's rhetoric has been unhelpful as well. Rather than make any attempt to engage with the protesters or understand their demands, they have been accusing them of representing the "depravity of the Radical Left," and of being "looters and thugs".

However, the nation wide protests over police brutality and systemic racism have almost immediately made a phenomenal impact. Minneapolis announced a complete dismantling of its police force and promised to rebuild a just law enforcement from ground up. Police departments in cities across the country have reached agreements with their communities to improve accountability for law enforcement. America is also witnessing a broad cultural shift with confederate monuments being demolished all over Southern states. As per Vox, two-third of Americans now believe that Floyd's killing indicated deeper issues in the way police treat black Americans rather than just an isolated incident. The Democrats have unveiled a sweeping Police Reform Bill that could be a major step in eradicating police brutality from America.

The journey to achieve equality in America is not yet over but these protests stand as testimony to the famous words of Vironika Tugaleva- "There are few things more powerful than people united."



BY KHUSHIYA JHAMB ; PRE SCs

'CHINA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC'



BY TAARIKA MANN AND ESHANYA AGRAWAL; SCs

FOR

A virus maybe born by blind forces of nature but its transformation into a global pandemic is highly influenced by human agencies. In his book 'Development as Freedom', Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen has explained that famines are not caused by the mere lack of food, but the lack of information about food, coupled with the problem of transportation. There is, materially speaking, enough food on the planet to feed everyone, provided one knows where the food is and where the hungry people are and is able to make the two ends meet. That is why established free-market democracies, which allow the free flow of information and markets, have no famines.

Similarly a global pandemic is the result of the absence of crucial information and the incompetency of public services. In this scenario the problem began with the inability to regulate marketplaces that were previously known hotbeds for the exchange of pathogens and the failure to shut down transportation and control movement once the virus had spread.

These are problems of governance, not science. Good governance responds to public demand, encourages the free flow of information, including bad news, and rewards cooperation in the public interest, even when it goes against parochial bureaucratic self-interest. Bad governance does the opposite. Unsurprisingly, authoritarian governments, such as China's, do not welcome cooperation on a global scale.

To put this into perspective-In late November, word had already escaped the mainland that there was a virus in Wuhan. On December 15th the U.S Trade Bill was signed. Six weeks later, the trade truce was signed with a very clever out clause that the Chinese made sure was there. It said that if there was any kind of Act of God pandemic then they didn't have to make good on what they had committed to buy from the United States of America; within days they announced the first Coronavirus case. So were the Chinese aware of the virus for six whole weeks before they shut down Wuhan? It seems so. During this time did they allow the unfettered travel that would turn this into a global phenomenon? Yes they did. Is this criminal enough to deserve a hearing in front of a world tribunal? In my opinion, it absolutely does.

However the argument doesn't end here, China also severely under reported what happened in Wuhan which can easily be deducted by what happened in Italy, Germany, United Kingdom and now the United States. It is pragmatically impossible for a city with similar density and population as Delhi to have such few cases. Their failure to provide good, valid data was what resulted in a world that wasn't prepared enough to ensure that fewer people die.

The Chinese government, as a byproduct of power it didn't have to earn, is becoming increasingly comfortable with doing as it pleases. We saw this when the Uyghurs became victims of mass genocide; we were aware when they openly violated international law in the South China Sea and we still watch as they exploit nations in Africa, work towards technology powered authoritarianism and conveniently eliminate anybody in their country who tries to speak up. At present the fight against the virus must unite us but when all this is over, China will have to be held accountable for its actions.

AGAINST

“It's racist and it creates Xenophobia. It's a very dangerous situation”

Here are a few facts to put my side of the debate into perspective. By December 31st the Chinese officials had already alerted The WHO of several cases of unusual pneumonia.

January 19th: The United States has its first confirmed case.

January 31st: Italy gets their first Coronavirus patient.

February 28th: The United Kingdom witnesses the beginning of the virus.

Countries across the globe receive confirmed cases over the following week, including Nepal, France, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, and Taiwan to name a few. With the world economy in shambles, more than 3.53 million cases across the globe, and a radical redefinition of normal life, the world has been quick to put the blame on the place of origin and even gone to the extents of terming it the ‘Wuhan Virus’. But the following timeline will make you reconsider:

March 9th: The Italians go into lock down after 9172 confirmed cases.

March 23rd: The British declare nationwide lock down, delaying it for an astounding four weeks before taking action.

As for the United States, despite being the country with the highest number of cases in the world, they have been too busy discussing solar energy cures for the virus, to impose a lock down in all the States. These are just a few places where this virus has hit the worst. The list is never ending.

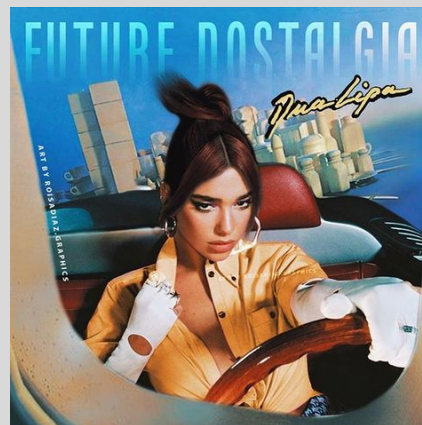
Popular opinion says, that the Chinese covered up the crises for three crucial weeks around January, hiding the gravity of the situation, which in turn led to the difference between a local virus and a global pandemic. What we are failing to notice is that other countries, despite knowing the grave impacts of the virus, took even longer to respond. These nations refused to take a stand even after seeing the conditions worldwide, adamant on comparing the disease to flu. Interestingly, the very people blaming the Chinese for mishandling the virus are taking to the streets claiming their freedom. The whole world saw the situation in Italy, a country with the second best medical services in the world yet, some countries did not take the hint. The United States and South Korea got their first case on the same day. While USA waited till the situation was way out of hand, South Korea took strict measures and successfully stopped its spread in their nation. To conclude, as far as the intent and responsibility are concerned all world leaders are equally to blame for the massive spread of the virus which has led to this current crisis.

What we are witnessing here, is widespread xenophobia due to the huge ideological gap between the Chinese regime and the western ideologies. China, being a superpower, has massive world trade networks and economic ties which led to the virus swiftly reaching all parts of the globe before the country could realise its seriousness. The novel Corona virus goes much beyond racism and cultural boundaries, and playing the blame game and taking to the streets at this crucial juncture is only going to hinder our progress. What we need is for the world to stand as one, and fight this disease tooth and nail, in order to defeat the virus and return to life as we knew it.



POP

How I'm Feeling
-Lauv
Future Nostalgia
-Dua Lipa



R & B

03.15.20
-Childish Gambino
After Hours
-The Weeknd



HIP HOP

Dark Lane Demo Tapes
-Drake
Music to be Murdered By
-Eminem



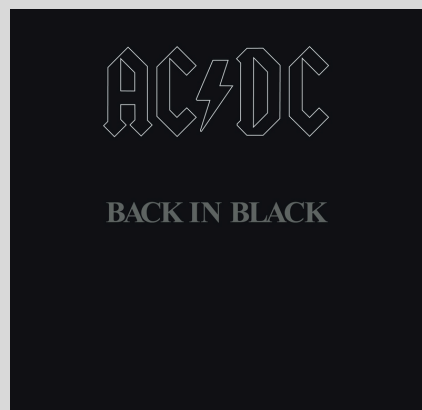
ROCK

Gigaton
-Pearl Jam
Manic
-Halsey



EVERGREEN

Rockstar
- A.R Rahman
Back in Black
-AC/DC





YOU ARE GOOD ENOUGH

Acceptance. In a world of peer pressure, teenage suicides, and clinical depression, what does it mean to be accepted? We live in a society full of stereotypes. A society where being a doctor is considered a legitimate profession but being a disc jockey is as good as unemployment. A society where we encounter extremist actions of misogyny and fascism at every nook and cranny, where standing for one's rights is "a cry for attention", and your every step, every tweet, every word is up for judgement and trolls.

In an environment like this, one's only attempt to live a sane life is by trying their best to gel with everyone. We put on masks, we shed skins, we deceive, we lie, and we drown out the voices in our heads with compliments and fake promises which hold no real value for us deep down, all the while suppressing the real person living inside of us. All for what.....acceptance? To avoid judgement from a society whose internal mechanism functions to put people down? A society we owe nothing but rejection and anxiety to?


In a world of "What will people say?" we often tend to forget ourselves and the only real ones to be blamed for this, is us. In our attempt to satisfy other's perceptions of us, and meet their expectations of us, we forget self-love. What we really need to do, is stop and think; think and weigh what matters at the end of the day.

Our mental health or others' satisfaction?


Studies prove that the people who learn to accept themselves as well as love the best version of themselves, lead the happiest lives. With the increasing awareness of the importance of mental health, the ratio of people coming out with their sexuality has increased immensely and more people have been opting for unconventional professions. People have started feeling comfortable in their own skins. However, we still have a long way to go. What we need to stop doing is mistaking promises for actions; acknowledgement for friendships, and words for truth.

BY ZARAH CHOUDHARY; SCs




 **President Trump:** 'I see the disinfectant that knocks it out in one minute and is there a way we can do something like that by injection inside or almost a cleaning?'

(Well Mr. President, the greatest leaders lead by example.)

 **President Andrés Manuel López:** If you are able and have the means to do so, continue taking your family out to eat. That strengthens the economy.

*(*the last supper*)*

 **Bharat Singh Kundanpur:** 'When coronavirus can be removed by washing hands with alcohol, then drinking alcohol will surely remove virus from the throat.'

(Essential commodity?)

BIRD BRAINS





WELHAM WARRIORS

The school is extremely proud of all Welhamites serving as front line workers across the world. It is a pleasant reminder of the fact that Welham has raised leaders who rise up to the occasion when all seems grey. The Welham Wings Initiative by the Welham Girls' Alumni Association successfully helped many families by reuniting members across India. We extend our heartiest congratulations for impacting so many lives and making this initiative a grand success. We salute their courage and spirit. Thank you for making Welham proud!

CLICK HERE

<https://youtu.be/v9WWHrU5FB4>

Access the full Video on the Welham Girls' School Youtube Channel

ROSES & RASPBERRIES



A bouquet of blooming white roses to Ms. Deepti Kumar for joining the News and Views Editorial Board. We love you ma'am!



Bathtubs full of exotic, florescent pink and red roses to Mrs. Sambasivam and the entire Welham staff for their unmatched dedication towards their students.



A single fresh, budding rose to every new B2 and Pre Sc. Welcome to Welham and we wish you a happy journey ahead.



Vases of fragrant roses to Mr. Siraj for his unparalleled efforts in managing the entire school on Microsoft Teams.



Gardens full of beautiful, vibrant roses to the Ed-Board of the NV because we thrive on self praise and put out a 'brilliant' online issue.



Buckets full of worm infested raspberries to Microsoft Teams for rattling us out every time we skip classes



Swimming pools of sour raspberries to the privileged halves of each batch that managed to attend their midterms. (*Warm regards from the Dharamshala Gang*)



Truckloads full of putrid rotten raspberries to all teachers for their never ending repertoire of assignments.



Cartons and cartons of foul smelling, fungus-infested raspberries to the school authorities for managing to get us out of bed at 8:00 a.m. even when we're at home.



Hospitals full of gooey, moth-eaten raspberries to the man who ate a bat for completely ruining the last year at school for all SC's.

THE LOCKDOWN DILEMMA

*“Hum soye nahin kayi raaton se Ae jaan-e-watan sau chaand bujhe
Humein neend ussi din aayegi Jab dekhenge aabaad tujhe”*

On March 24, 2020, March 24, 2020, the Prime Minister of our country Mr. Narendra Modi announced a nation-wide lock down for 21 days in view of containing the spread of the virus. This lock down was supposed to end on 14th April but was extended by another 20 days followed by further extensions until the 1st of June. The lock down authorised by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), under the Section 6 (2)(i), commanded a closure of all government and private offices, transport facilities, markets, places of worship etc.

Keeping in mind the widespread poverty in the country, it was not hard to foresee that the poorer citizens would be at the receiving end of the measures taken. The ones in the lower strata of society are compelled to step out of their houses to fend for their survival. The stakes of them dying of starvation in such a scenario are much higher than that of contracting the virus. Owing to the lock down, migrant workers and daily wage labourers lost their means of livelihood. There have been instances of these workers walking back miles to their hometowns with no food or water. Here, the country was faced with a dilemma: lives or livelihoods.

The lock down also led to the police patrolling cities and towns enforcing the restrictions of the lock down. The reliability on criminal procedures for handling the lock down may not have been the most suitable solution in such a situation. Heavy reliance on criminal law which is based on the principle of retributive justice makes it extremely important that the functioning of the criminal justice system is well examined. There have been contrasting news of the handling of the situation. One side shows the high-handedness of the police whereas the other depicts their supportive nature. Even though, the latter heavily outweighs the former, it should not be ignored. The absence of listed do's and don'ts, operational protocols on lock down management, made overnight enforcement the singular focus. Brute action was thus inevitable.

With Unlock 1.0 India now stands 4th among countries with highest number of confirmed cases. The country just saw more than 12,000 cases reported in a day for the second time. Opening up markets may give a slight boost to the economy, but it will have adverse effects on the health quotient of the country. We are well aware of the insufficiency of our health infrastructure which is in no way prepared to handle the kind of health crisis foreseen. Public expenditure would need to be diverted completely to strengthen the health infrastructure of the country. The crisis faced has no either-or solution. Health experts suggest that the best time to impose lock down would be at the peak of the crisis which is only now arriving. This is where the second dilemma comes in- 'to reinstate the lock down or continue with eased restrictions.

With a population like ours, the solution will be complicated, but the pandemic is a call for the whole nation to come together and fight the COVID-19 virus. We salute all health workers and policemen who are risking their lives to serve the nation. They are not less than soldiers and are fighting nothing less than a war.



BY ANISHA KEDIA; SCs

COVID-19 UPDATE



BY ANUSHKA KHETWAT, SIMARNA PAINTAL AND CHHAYA SINGH; PRESCs

STATISTICS AS PER 26th JUNE, 2020

DOs



Avoid crowded places and remain at least 3 feet apart.

Sneeze or cough into your elbow instead of your hands



Cover your mouth with a mask when going out.

Maintain good personal hygiene: bathe everyday and wash your hands every 2-3 hours or sanitise with an alcohol based sanitizer.



International:

Total cases:

96,08,014

Total deaths:

4,89,405

Recoveries:

48,08,236

India:

Total cases:

4,90,401

Total deaths:

15,301

Recoveries:

2,85,636

DON'Ts

Avoid touching mouth, eyes or nose. Do not pick nose, or bite nails or rub eyes



Avoid panic buying!

Avoid touching other people. Do not kiss, hug or even shake hands with people too much.



Avoid spreading fake news and facts which haven't been confirmed as this caused panic

Fact 1: People mistake sneezing to be a symptom of COVID-19, however it is NOT. Coughing is a symptom but sneezing is not.

Fact 2: An estimate of the size of the virus- 100 million copies of it can be placed on the tip of a needle.

Fact 3: Although the origin of SARS - CoV - 2 are unknown, bats and pangolins carry similar viruses and thus it is likely that the virus mutated and was transmitted by another animal and then passed onto a human .

ZEROING IN ON THE ZERO YEAR



BY ALIYA ANAND; SCs

As the world that we know scrambles back into the safety of their fully equipped homes and fellow Welhamites bemoan their lost SC year and the seemingly terrible misfortunes that have befallen their unassuming souls, there is another layer of society that faces far more pressing issues.

The world has somehow cheated us out of our first few `Auld Lang Syne`s and has shortened what was to be our ultimate, glorious year teaming ,with the almost anxious joy that fills you up as you embark on the last segment of this 8 year battle. Yet life goes on and our classes resume online, and we continue to steam through our syllabus at an almost alarming speed for teachers who claim to be doing this for the first time. There are approximately 472 million children in India out of which only a fraction is currently enrolled in educational institutions. Out of these few children a majority lack the infrastructure and broadband connectivity to access the same online classes that we so blatantly take for granted.

The Indian education system is already far from perfect and it is plagued with issues of overcrowding, lack of amenities and academic resources, a disproportionate teacher-student ratio and a serious lack of funds. Add that to an unprecedented global pandemic and you have the perfect recipe for disaster. Article 21 A of the Indian constitution states free and compulsory education for children between six to fourteen years as a fundamental right, yet this is probably the most poorly upheld right in our country.

A possible solution would be to broadcast lessons over various mediums of communication, television being the most widely popular. As a significant majority of our population has access to television in some form or the other, this is a viable approach. However, with the way things are panning out one must act fast for the dropout rates in India are already alarmingly high and with the current economic state the disadvantaged section of society will be looking more towards generating income than receiving high school diploma. The government must take action soon. It is truly remarkable that schools have managed to switch over to online learning with such commendable ease but the unjust disparity that results, further deepens the rift between the haves and the have nots and makes one reassess the education system as a whole.

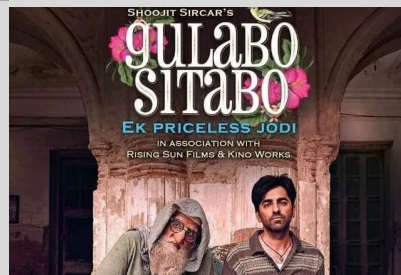


BY JAYA VATS; SCs



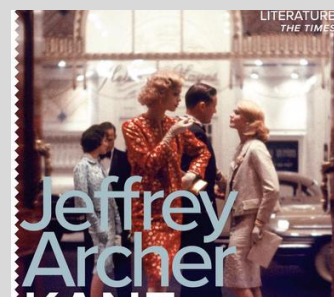
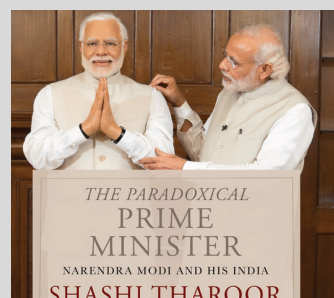
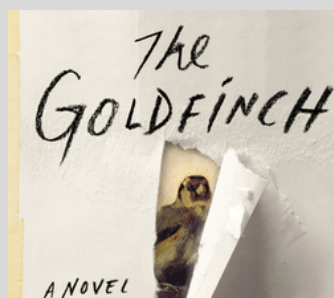
MOVIES

Ocean's 11, 12 and 13
Dead Poets Society
Ford Vs Ferrari
Django Unchained
Shaw Shank Redemption
Inception
JoJo Rabbit
The Platform
Catch Me if You Can
Little Women
Groundhog Day
Gulabo Sitabo
Chhichore
Parasite



BOOKS

I am Pilgrim
The Godfather
The Handmaid's Tale
The Goldfinch
The Paradoxical Prime Minister
The Color Purple
Kane and Abel
1984
Love at the Time of Cholera
The Reader
Asura: The Tale of the Vanquished



TV SHOWS

Sherlock
The Peaky Blinders
Modern Family
Money Heist
When They See Us
Elite
Special Ops
Supernatural
You
House
Marzi
The Raikar Case

ENTERTAINMENT

IT'S SHOWTIME

When was the last time you ran to a movie theatre because a new movie was on and you were about to miss the starting advertisements? I sure hope you remember that because that may have been the last time you could have done so. Sadly, cinema halls and theatres are soon going to be a thing of the past. The idea of watching a movie will no more mean buying a ticket and trying to sneak food into a movie hall. With the growth of platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hotstar and Hulu, people are forgetting about movie theatres.

Watching a movie now means scrolling through a vast selection on your preferred online streaming service and hoping that your Internet connection remains stable. Most people prefer these online streaming services because they provide at-home entertainment at a low cost.

Unlike movie theatres, online services give people the liberty to choose what time they want to watch a movie and on what device. The algorithms on these platforms also analyse the user's choices and suggest similar movies. This feature means that you will always have a movie to watch unlike with movie theatres where you have to wait for a desirable movie to take the screen. We are not only seeing the slow death of cinema halls but also of offices. With all the files available online on Google Drive and meetings being conducted on platforms like Zoom and Skype, the need to physically visit an office is minimal.

In fact, working online is more convenient as there is no time wasted on transportation. People can define their own hours and optimize their workspace. All these things increase the quality of work and efficiency of workers. Though these online services may be tempting, they come with their own disadvantages. Working online means you have to stare at a screen for a long duration. This extensive screen time can cause obesity, insomnia, and of course damage to your eyes. Working online also means that there would be no one supervising you. This would lead to lack of self discipline and succumbing to various distractions. In order to complete tasks, you would need a lot of self-motivation and dedication.

Sadly, the current lockdown has helped this situation by ensuring that people cannot access cinemas and offices and are forced to use online services. Until now, there has been no certainty on when the lockdown will open. Some experts speculate that it may go on till 2021 which means that online platforms may become the new norm.



BY MRIGYA KUMAR; SCs

AUNT AGATHA

Q. Does 'finished Netflix' fit any kind of job requirement?

Ans. *Dear sequestered Welhamite,*
I would begin by congratulating you but given the circumstances it seems only fitting that you have reached this milestone, joining the several others now looking for an equally consuming pastime. I, however, regret to inform you that while such a requirement exists, you shall not be reaping the fruit of your countless late nights, spent tirelessly absorbing content nestled in bed, simply, because others got there first. You seem to have forgotten the few of us who choose to spend our days this way, regardless of pandemics. We now sit in our offices in Silicon Valley, chuckling as our more outgoing counterparts fall into social withdrawal. You have my condolences however, and I suggest investing in Amazon Prime.

Q. Is a six-dollar trip to Italy worth it?

Ans. *Dear finally-emerging-from-under-a-rock Welhamite,*

The first thing you ought to do is indulge in the last few months' copies of any newspaper you can find. I'm hoping that will be enough to make you re-evaluate your question. However, I like to cover my bases, so must tell you -no. Italy's beautiful and while I agree that a trip to at the price of a burger does seem like a steal, I would much rather not fall prey to currently cure less pandemic. I'm hoping against the balance of probability that I will be off the fifteen percent that is unaffected and going into the heart of one of the worst affected countries doesn't make the cut for my self-care list. I advise that you retreat under the rock to wait out the quarantine, and then consider any travel.

**Yours Truly,
Aunt Agatha**

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