

E Pluribus Unum

THE METAVERSE

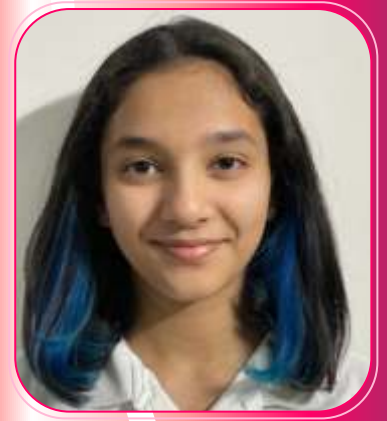
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193 Member States<> One United Nations

The Metaverse: This changes everything!

-by Amara Sood, Grade IX IGCSE, SNS Gurugram



From watching cartoon characters enter alternate universes to believing that you're actually in one, we've dreamt it all as children. Maybe it was that ounce of hope we had that it was true or not; nevertheless, it will soon exist.

The metaverse, essentially, is the Internet 3.0 or, as Mark Zuckerberg says, "the next chapter for the internet." The concept and the name aren't new. Neal Stephenson first used it in his science-fiction book *Snow Crash*, which was released in 1992. In his book, the main character: Hiro, delivers pizza for a mafia who now controls the territory of what used to be the United States. When he's not working, he plugs into the metaverse. This is primarily what the metaverse will be.

The metaverse essentially is like real life but online. In all its glory, it will be a part of the Internet where people will be able to meet, interact and do anything from going

to concerts to working with the help of personalised avatars that make them feel more connected than a simple video call. According to plans, it will be synchronous and persistent. So, each time you revisit a metaverse space, it will begin from where it ended.

The metaverse does not exist yet, but we do have some predecessors. These include virtual reality and games like Fortnite and Roblox. They are indeed not the metaverse, but will be part of it. For example, Fortnite and Roblox both check many boxes in being classified as the metaverse since they have avatars and in-world economies, but both are standalone properties. Players cannot use their Fortnite avatar in Microsoft Teams meetings, and 'Robux' is certainly not accepted as money in the real world.

There is just one main reason why the metaverse doesn't exist yet. The metaverse is a network, a collection of services together both by firms and individuals. Like the mobile cannot exist on one single app, the metaverse depends mainly on the interconnected services to succeed.

The Covid-19 pandemic has driven millions of people worldwide to gaming platforms where they can interact and feel more connected. All big companies like Apple, Amazon, Google, and Meta (Facebook) are trying to figure out what the next big thing can be after the invention of the mobile phone.

Building the metaverse might take one or many decades, but we do know that hardware will play an integral part in making it popular. This is why the race between Meta, Apple, Microsoft, and other companies to build AR glasses exists. Whoever wins the race may not win the metaverse, but they will undoubtedly have a massive advantage.

A television and **virtual reality professor at Brooklyn College, Jason Moore** spends a couple of hours on the metaverse every day. He says, "these are virtual worlds that, when you're inside of them, feel like you're inside a kind of a cool video game but, it's so much more than a game because it's like the Internet, where you're socially connected. You can do basically anything in the metaverse."

A million questions arise while thinking about the metaverse, the most prominent one being Who will own the metaverse? While the vice-president of Meta, Vishal Shah, has said that "We're not trying to build this alone. It's kind of like saying, you know, what company owns the internet? It doesn't make sense if you frame it that way".

People like Jason Moore are concerned and believe that "It should be for everyone, and any one company should not control it and it certainly should not be controlled by a company that's demonstrated that they really put profits over people."



Meta has previously been accused of many privacy-related issues, which is another concern for the people but as the CEO of Improbable, Herman Narula, rightfully said, "Do not prejudge the metaverse and suspect motives of those who might promote it. After all, the idea of the metaverse is in some ways older than most people can imagine."

Another critical question is: **Do the people want to be part of the metaverse? Meta bets that they do and have plans to spend at least \$10 billion on its Metaverse division this year and employ 10,000 people to work on it in the next five years.** Meta is concerned that Facebook is losing relevancy in this world, so the metaverse is the key to Meta's existence.

There are many varying opinions, such as that of tech analyst Benedict Evans who is skeptical of the whole idea and believes that every 15 years or so, there is a generational reset in tech. We're at the start of one now.

In a recent essay, he offers a fair warning: "Tech history is full of companies that dominated one generation trying to seize the next — they tend not to make it. The incumbents very rarely create the future, and the future very rarely comes from a centralized, \$10 billion project." Many counter this claim by saying mockery is unreliable.

When YouTube was launched in 2005, people wondered why anyone would want to watch snarky teenagers filming themselves in their bedrooms when the charm of cable TV was only the push of a button away. **In the 1990s, smartphones were mocked as symbols for insecure investment bankers due to their brick size.**

We have been influenced by worlds that may not exist throughout human history and are inspired by the characters we invent. We find value in the ideas that live outside the reality around us. This may be only escapism or childish play but, Cognitive Science reveals something else.

Research shows that we have long suspected envisioning other worlds, creating different environments because the satisfaction we derive from this is important for psychological fulfillment, and their absence undermines mental health.



The self-determination theory in Social Psychology puts forward that people have three primary motivations:

- Competence (the desire to obtain skills and solve problems)
- Autonomy (the wish to express their identity and make good choices)
- Relatedness (their social standing)

These motivations are why people play games, and it is why people work beyond simply for survival.

Research shows that virtual experiences are not just virtual when it comes to the impact on the mind; they are simply any other experience. In the metaverse, people will be interacting in it. It will be treated as not a fictional place but a whole new domain with real opportunities.

The metaverse has the potential to improve the real world. Many of the jobs today don't fulfill people's psychological needs and lead to psychological poverty. An American political philosopher, John Rawls, argued that society provides people with a sense of purpose, not survival.

The metaverse can help deliver this.

None of this means the metaverse will magically appear overnight or that the techies in Silicon Valley will eventually succeed. But, it does suggest that the metaverse is an idea worth taking seriously. The metaverse has the potential to bring a sense of fulfillment, economic opportunity, and equity to people's lives. That is, provided that a handful of companies don't dominate it. The virtual world can overcome the faults in the real world and light the hope that people recognise digital environments as real places.



The what if Problem

-by Naina Mittal, Grade IX IGCSE, SNS Gurugram



What if I can't finish my assignment on time? What if I don't pass my math exam? What if I can't shoot a basket, what will my friends think? What if my friends make me talk to new people, what will I say? What if I can't pronounce that word accurately? What if people make fun of the way I eat if I go to lunch with them?

Do thoughts like these often enter your mind without welcoming? I'm sure they do, it's normal. **These all are examples of anxiety. But what is anxiety?**

Anxiety is not a disease in itself, it's just a feeling. A feeling of worrying and being nervous about the upcoming or even ongoing life events. It can originate due to the most random things in the world. Happiness and anxiety are tremendously alike; they both are emotions that will come and go and no one can stop them from coming.

Think of it like this, if you have skin cancer then it is a physical condition; if you have anxiety it is a mental health condition. Anxiety is often referred to as a cancer of the mind. Now, this entirely depends on the amount and the extent to which anxiety you have.

Occasional anxiety is habitual but if you're anxious about something or the other every day and it starts to affect your way of living then it is a problem. This problem is known as an anxiety disorder.



Anxiety disorders

Anxiety disorders are serious **mental illnesses** that cause significant worry or fear that doesn't go away and may even get worse over time. It can affect your routine or the way you make your decisions for anything, strongly. **Anxiety disorders can altogether make you a person with a different personality which is isolated.** If you feel like your mind is on fire or running rapidly in a marathon then, my friend, you have an anxiety disorder.

"Over 40 million adults in the U.S. (19.1%) have an anxiety disorder. Meanwhile, approximately 7% of children aged 3-17 experience issues with anxiety each year. Most people develop symptoms before age 21."-<https://www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness/Mental-Health-Conditions/Anxiety-Disorders>.

"One in six Australians is currently experiencing depression or anxiety or both. Breakdown: 17.0% of Australians aged 16 to 85 have experienced anxiety and/or affective disorder in the past 12 months. This is equivalent to 3.2 million people today."-<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/media/statistics>

Types of anxiety disorders:

There is an array of types of anxiety orders, the most common ones are:

1. **Generalized anxiety disorder(GAD)**=a person feels anxious on most days, worrying about lots of different things, for six months or more. This is the one most people experience.

2. **Social anxiety**=a person who has an intense fear of being criticized, embarrassed, or humiliated, even in everyday situations, such as speaking publicly, eating in public, being assertive at work, or making small talk.

3. **Phobias**=a person feels very fearful about a particular object or situation and may go to great lengths to avoid it, for example, having an injection or traveling on a plane. There are many different types of phobias. One is acrophobia which signifies fear of heights.

4. **Panic disorder**=a person has panic attacks, which are

intense, overwhelming, and often uncontrollable feelings of anxiety combined with a range of physical symptoms. Someone having a panic attack may experience shortness of breath, chest pain, dizziness, and excessive perspiration.

Sometimes, people experiencing a panic attack think they are having a heart attack or are about to die. If a person has recurrent panic attacks or persistently fears having one for more than a month, they're said to have panic disorder.

5. **Obsessive-compulsive disorder(OCD)**=a person has ongoing unwanted/intrusive thoughts and fears that cause anxiety. Although the person may acknowledge these thoughts as silly, they often try to relieve their anxiety by carrying out certain behaviors or rituals. For example, a fear of germs and contamination can lead to constant washing of hands and clothes.

6. **Post-traumatic stress disorder(PTSD)**=this can happen after a person experiences a traumatic event (e.g. war, assault, accident, death of a close one, disaster). Symptoms can include difficulty relaxing, upsetting dreams or flashbacks of the event, and avoidance of anything related to the event. PTSD is diagnosed when a person has symptoms for at least a month.



Symptoms of anxiety disorders

How do you get to know if you have an anxiety disorder because the thought definitely won't come written on a piece of paper under your pillow? **There can be three types of signs which can lead to you believing that you have this illness:**

1. Physical- when you were about to perform in front of 200 people you might have sweated or had a stomach ache or drunk a lot of water to keep yourself calm. This shows that anxiety can also have physical symptoms. Some forms are a lot of pain like **stomach aches, headaches, nausea, or digestive trouble**. Sleep effects like insomnia or waking up repeatedly in the middle of the night while sleeping. **Differences in breathing, restlessness, or increased heart rate. Shaking or trembling, sweating much and continuous fatigue.**

2. Psychological- racing thoughts, **uncontrollable over-thinking, difficulties concentrating**, feelings of dread, panic, or 'impending doom', feeling irritable, heightened alertness, problems with sleep, changes in appetite, wanting to escape from the situation you are in, and dissociation(feeling like you are not connected to your body). Also, **excessive fear, worry, catastrophizing, or obsessive thinking**. Feeling futile is also tremendously common.

3. Behaviorioul- **restlessness and agitation, inability to sit still and remain calm, social withdrawal and isolation, agoraphobia**(intense fear of being overwhelmed or unable to get help), claustrophobia(fear of being in small or confined places), inability to properly meet responsibilities at home, work, or school, irritability, exaggerated startle reflex, decreased ability to perform normal activities of daily life, usage of drugs or alcohol to self-medicate the symptoms.

Anxiety disorders can also be hereditary. "Individuals inherit a predisposition to being an anxious person, [and] about 30 to 40 percent of the variability is related to genetic factors," explains psychologist Amy Przeworski, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the department of psychological sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

How to recuperate from anxiety?

What if you could recuperate from this mental disorder? What if you could make your life normal again? Yes, it's possible.

"Anxiety disorders are the most common mental illness in the U.S., affecting 40 million adults in the United States age 18 and older, or 18.1% of the population every year. Anxiety disorders are highly treatable, yet only 36.9% of those suffering receive treatment." There are various ways to do so, let's take a look at some.



•Medications(with side effects):

1.SSRIs are a type of antidepressant used to treat anxiety disorders. Sertraline is the most common SSRI suggested for anxiety, but there are other SSRIs available. These are better tolerated than most other types of antidepressants. The majority of people will only experience a few mild side effects when taking them like feeling agitated, shaky or anxious, being sick, indigestion, diarrhea or constipation, loss of appetite and weight loss, dizziness, blurred vision, dry mouth, excessive sweating, sleeping problems (insomnia), or drowsiness, headaches.

2.SNRIs are a type of antidepressant. You may be prescribed an SNRI if SSRIs did not help your anxiety. SNRI is a serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor, which is a group of antidepressant medications. Side effects are remarkably familiar to SSRIs with the only distinction being the severeness. SNRIs are more powerful and their impact can be very disturbing at times.

3.Doctors should only prescribe benzodiazepines if your anxiety is extreme or if you are in crisis. This is because they are addictive, and they may become less effective over time. These are the most widely prescribed psychoactive drugs in the world.

They enhance the activity of the neurotransmitter GABA—a chemical in the brain that helps you to feel calm, they alter the activity of the neurons that trigger stress and anxiety reactions.

Their effect also produces drowsiness, making it easier to fall asleep and sleep through the night. If benzodiazepines are taken continuously for longer than a few months, stopping therapy suddenly may produce seizures, tremors, muscle cramping,

vomiting, and sweating. To avoid withdrawal symptoms, the dose of benzodiazepines should be tapered slowly. Transient drowsiness is commonly experienced during the first few days of treatment. A feeling of depression, loss of orientation, headache, sleep disturbance, confusion, irritability, aggression, excitement, and memory impairment can be the main side effects.

4. **Beta-blockers work best for short-term event-related anxiety, such as social phobias and stage fright by blocking physical symptoms of anxiety including rapid heart rate, tightness in the chest, or sweating.** They don't affect the emotional and psychological aspects of anxiety such as worry. Side effects are fatigue, cold hands, and feet, headache, dizziness or lightheadedness, depression, shortness of breath, vomiting, diarrhea, or constipation.

5. **Buspirone is used to treat both short-term anxiety and chronic (long-lasting) anxiety disorders. It's not fully understood how buspirone works, but it's thought to affect chemicals in the brain that regulate mood.** Buspirone can take up to several weeks to become fully effective. It's available as a generic drug as well as the brand-name drug Buspar.

Utilizing it may develop movement disorders such as shakiness (tremors), muscle stiffness, mask-like facial expression, jerky walking movements, or a condition known as tardive dyskinesia. These may be permanent although most are temporary.

6. **Tricyclics work, as well as SSRIs, do for treating most anxiety disorders, except obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD).** Tricyclics are started at a low dose and then increased gradually. The effects of dry mouth, blurred vision, constipation, and difficulty in

urination; postural hypotension; tachycardia; increased sensitivity to the sun; weight gain; sedation (sleepiness), and increased sweating can occur.

These medications should only be put into use if the anxiety disorder is extremely severe and cannot be treated in the early stages or at home. The side effects of these can be harmful and stopping or starting these suddenly out of the blue can have many negative impacts on health. If necessary to be utilized then caution and instructions must be followed, along with advice from psychologists.



•**Methods other than medications:**

1.333 rule-very simple. Just look around you, see what all's there. Then name three things you see(in your mind or out loud though preferably out loud). Now, do the same things with three sounds you can hear. Eventually, move three body parts(any body parts like your fingers, legs, arms, tongue).

2. **Distract yourself**-watch a funny meme or a video, call someone up to talk to them just for "I am getting bored's" sake, or go for a walk. Distracting yourself and not thinking about the anxiety can help a lot to not overcome the anxiety in a really short period.

3. **Reidentify**- while having a major panic attack you might feel like you're going to die or it might feel like a heart attack. "I'm JUST having a panic attack, it's not going to do anything to me." "I'm just anxious or worried." "There's not a bomb in me." Sugarcoating it sometimes can help if you suddenly start getting extremely paranoid about these attacks.

4. **Breathing exercises**-this may sound cliché but yes deep breathing in and out can improve the state of mind drastically.

5. **Adequate sleep**-the most simplistic thing to say, yet the hardest to follow. Getting efficient sleeping time is as important as having a balanced diet. These will help you remain calm.

6. **Become a toddler**-pretend you're just learning how to count. Go ahead, try counting from 1 to 10 then 20 then keep increasing gradually.

7. **Write**-if you 'literally' don't like talking to anyone about it (which is completely normal) then write it somewhere. Maybe on the notes app on your laptop or in an actual diary for a journal; do whatever applies to your style.

8. **Meditate**-make it part of your routine, practice it every day. Doesn't matter if it's for 10 minutes or an hour.

9. **Physical activity**-this is one helpful way of venting your

frustration. Boxing, running, jogging, swimming or cycling-it all helps.

10. **Music**-search for music that soothes and calms you and, make a **playlist**. It works better if you sing along or hum it.

11. **Play a game**-name five cities you want to visit, recite the alphabet forward and then backward, play ATLAS with yourself, identify all of your favorite movies and whatnot.

12. **Shower-taking a shower**(especially a cold shower) can calm the nerves and bring you back to the normal you.

13. **Trigger points**-observe and identify what triggers your anxiety(what springs it into action). Keep making a note of these points and thinking of plans to solve or avoid them.

14. **Self love**-make a self care routine for you in which you can work out/take a night bath/put on a face mask/dance or any other thing which makes you genuinely relaxed.

So don't let this stream of fear get encouraged. Stop it right in Phase 1 if you can, and even if you can't then it's okay. It will be okay, but don't give up on it. Keep practicing and exploring ways to cure and make it better. Don't give up on yourself.

"Anxiety is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind. If encouraged, it cuts a channel into which all other thoughts are drained."

—Arthur Somers Roche

Influence of #MeToo On Indian Cinema

-by Anshika Kansal, Grade IX IGCSE, SNS Gurugram



The Me Too movement or the #MeToo movement was originated as movement to aid survivors of sexual violence, it was soon converted into a platform for victims of sexual assault to speak up about the horrible incident(s) which led to them being affected and impacted in a negative way. It elucidated how common it is for a person to be assaulted by a colleague who holds a position of dominance.

It was found in the year 2006 although, it became a leading hashtag on all social platforms in 2017. **The reason the movement became immensely well known globally was because numerous famous personalities came forward and shared their horrific experiences with the world.**

The movement was originally founded and promoted by an American social

activist, Tarana Burke. She started utilising the phrase “me too” on her Myspace page to highlight the existence of something as petrifying as sexual assault mainly towards woman of colour.

Even though this movement had ignited flames of rage against the abusers all over social media in the year 2017 itself, in India the first case which was brought to light was in October of the year 2018. **An actress accused a fellow actor of sexually harassing during the filming of a music video for a movie during an interview. According to the details uncovered further, she had filed a complaint against him in the year 2008 although no action was taken against the harasser.**

The case was repeatedly commented on one too many times, yet it was largely ignored. After months of trying to attain justice in the year 2018, the actor was given assurance that he will no longer be under a magnifying glass for further investigation. **However the victim had to deal with the consequences of the complaints and the defamation case filed by the actor.**

Further more three of Bollywood's celebrated directors and producers had taken the decision to dissolve their production house right before one of the three were accused of harassing a former employee. Two of the three claimed that they had taken in account the allegations made and collectively made the commitment of their parter facing a punishment for his actions. Afterwards a defamation case was filed against by the accused towards his partners.

A singer went on to put forward his opinions on the subject of multiple women coming forward with their allegations when a flight attendant had accused him of sexually harassing her, that most women who have blamed men for behaving inappropriately are fat

and ugly. It was disturbing for millions to discover that even after saying such an offensive statement in order to defend himself the Bollywood singer went on with his career.

It is unfortunate to know that these were just a minute number of such cases which had taken place, and it is even more upsetting to be aware of the fact that there will always remain a large number of victims who might have never even put thought into expressing their petrifying encounters with the dark side of being part of a film industry.

It is simply effortless to conclude that everybody who got called out wasn't proven guilty thus, they didn't have to face repercussions but most of the sufferers of sexual harassment had received backlash.

None the less, the me too did allow women to be safe by not working with the accused and proven offenders. It helped the film industry recognise the pattern of hierarchy being followed. Workshops started being held targeting sexual harassment in workplaces for every individual who is part of the set for the movie.

A law has been created, the act has been named as The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace. It enables all film sets and companies to have an Internal Complaints Committee.

The progress has been quite slow as most of the work done is by the ICC and the ICC itself will be owned by the employer on set which can lead to disclosure of information provided in confidence.

It was rewarding for the women who had gone through a great deal distress to know that numerous notable names were

being banished by the film industry and actors in their support were dropping projects.

Bollywood was also able to break away from sexist trends such as the male actors being given heftier salaries than female actors. The MeToo movement's most important contribution to Bollywood was an opportunity to become woke towards all things unjust.



I the wayfarer

-by Anvi Behl, Grade IX, SNS Faridabad



I the wayfarer,

Bathed in the sweat of day

As I lay,

My weary gaze confined to the twists and turns in the thick barks of a great old oak,
wrinkly, as if to drape a sheet of cloth over a fragile pole.

Yet the tree never lost its grace in acceptance of age, as if it could hear each wrinkle on its
body and each scratch on its bark, reciting songs of its past in royal diction.

The great old oak, ignorant of its frail last years, somehow stood proud of how many passers, he'd given shade too.

I the wayfarer,

Blissed by the viridity of young butterflies with wings as if petals of a blossoming rose, gifted to it for its deeds of pollinating majestic gardens.

Flying about in quick circles, flutters appear as if broken pieces of the lightest cloud of summer, falling to the earth in an elegant ballet.

I the wayfarer, Adulated by the warmth of the sun equated by the cool breeze of wind and the drops of drizzling rain dancing down to each petal of a young jasmine, carrying the composure of heaven.

I the wayfarer,

Sigh in gratitude yet shy ambiguity at the pose of Isolation that I breathe in, slowly falling asleep to melodies of the bird's songs, echoing louder than the choir of pessimism in my mind.

Surrounded by the sui generis of nature, I smile wide as plays of isolation fade away.

Away

-by Anvesha Choudhary, Grade IX, SNS Faridabad



So many reasons to shy away,
So many dreams shattered and stray.
Still, you don't give up and go away,
Because somehow you always have a motivation to stay.

While, I, who has a motivation and have tried to reason can't help but ignore and run away,
Because this is how I have always been, selfish-too focused on my own thoughts, wanting things simply my way.

So, now that I have reflected, I come here to apologize to you,
To give in and make do in your way.
Because I love you, I need you,
and shudder at the thought of you being distant from me - keeping your distance and away.

So, I hope you forgive me and let me come to you,
as now my patience has devoured and the mental isolation and loneliness is too much to take,
the walls of selfishness have been destroyed,
and all I want to do, now, is not ignore and be close to you,
not be shy and not run away.



COP 26 Summit

-by Anshika Kansal, Grade IX IGCSE, SNS Gurugram



COP 26 summit or the Conference Of the Parties was the annual UN climate change conference. As the name suggests it was the 26th UN climate change conference which was hosted by the United Kingdom in Glasgow.

The reason each conference is significant is because it is one of the only events which is being executed at such a large scale to tackle the world's most burdensome problem, climate change. COP meetings are always looked forward to by many as that is one of the few times almost the entire world willingly comes together for something momentous to occur.

The last conference which had brought a considerably large amount of change was the COP21 held in the year 2015. During this conference The Paris Agreement was signed which enforced the leaders to limit the production of greenhouse gas and limit global warming.

They agreed on refraining from increase in temperature compared to previous pre-industrial levels. Countries have to abide by the terms of the treaty in order to prevent death-dealing disasters from unfolding.

This agreement was signed by 196 wealthy countries, so that they can provide aid if necessary to countries which financially restricted in order to decrease the emission level of harmful and fatal gases. However the privileges provided by this treaty weren't used judiciously.

The Paris Agreement was to be evaluated in every 5 years and the COP 26 was the first time it was assessed. After its evaluation they came to the conclusion that global warming had been limited to 1.5 degree Celsius which meant that drawing up the agreement turned out to be of great success.

Other than following up on the Paris Agreement, there were two other objectives of this year's COP summit. One of the two was to make countries commit to the emissions being under the global warming limit of 1.5 degrees. Their other motive was to phase-down the utilisation of coal.

The two objectives were attained to some extent although numerous people have gone forward and scrutinised these targets, which led to the conclusion as well as forging of the question whether

the awaited COP26 summit was as triumphant as everybody aspired it to be. Majority seems to be skeptical as countries aren't ambitious enough to put in the amount of effort required.

The reason for countries being less enthusiastic was the results provided which concluded that warmth on planet earth is bound to increase more than the Paris Agreement settled on. It is inevitable for the temperature to accelerate further as the renewed targets didn't align with the rise in temperature which could occur and wouldn't lead to world eradication.

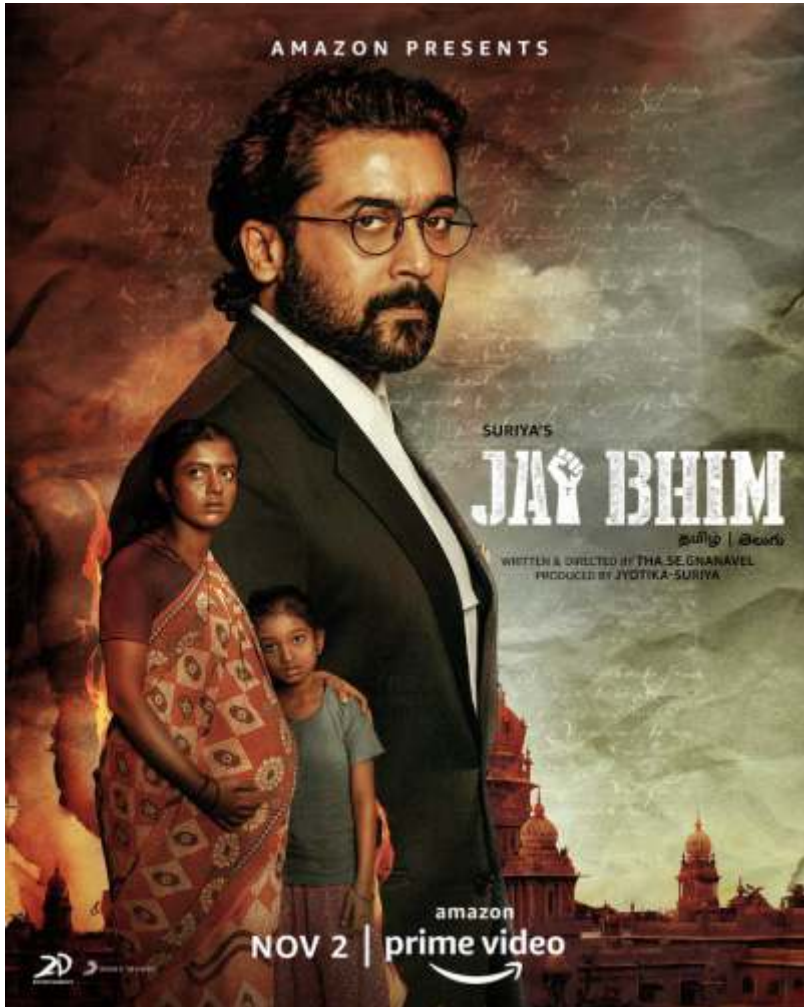
The planet is down a path where the earth may increase by 2.1 to 2.4 degree Celsius instead of 1.5 degrees. Although the new Glasgow pact did increase the fading optimism as all countries were asked to update their 2030 temperature targets under this year but, according to the president of the COP26 Alok Sharma, the planet requires immediate action as the desire of the temperature rise remaining 1.5 degrees would be unintelligent.

Another cause of dampening the world's spirits was the utilisation of the phrase 'phase-down' instead of 'phase-out' when it came to putting an end to the usage of fossil fuels such as coal. According to the statistics put forward at the conference after China and USA, India was the most prominent supporter of phasing-down the usage of coal as it is their most vital source of energy instead of completely abolishing its use.

Despite the shortcomings, this conference did lead to numerous positive outcomes. The world was able to turn away from using fossil fuels as their primary source of providing energy. This is set to reduce the emission of hazardous gases by 45% than before. This provides evidence that the world is headed in the right direction.

Movie Review: *Jai Bhim*

-by Manan Poddar, Grade IX IGCSE, SNS Gurugram



Often it happens that real-life events are dramatized and refined on the big screens for the masses to see but what truly is inconceivable is a real life story being portrayed in its raw form. 'Jai Bhim' is one such marvel of the Indian film industry which is not only critically acclaimed but has also touched the hearts of millions in a very limited period of time. The movie is inspired by the unfortunate real life events that transpired at the Mudanai Village of the Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu in 1993.

The differing distribution of wealth and power has been incessant throughout human history. It is the tyranny of those in power and convalescence of the unfortunate which is responsible for this abominable situation.

The movie *Jai Bhim* gives us a quintessence of one of thousands such incidents where those who can't voice their opinions or defend their rights pay the price for the wrongs of the so called "superiors".

Directed by T. J. Gnanvel, this movie casts an illustrious personality in South Indian Cinema Suriya Sivakumar alongside Lijomol Jose, K. Manikandan, Rao Ramesh and Prakash Raj and many other actors.

The movie revolves around unscrupulous cops who apprehend innocent Scheduled Tribes/ Scheduled Castes for crimes they haven't committed for solving criminal cases effortlessly. The modus operandi of bespoke corrupts is to cold-heartedly torture SC/STs into accepting the oburgation for something they haven't done.

A snake charmer and daily wage labourer from the Irula Tribe Rajakannu was wrongly accused of theft and taken into police custody with his brothers Irattappan and Mause Kutty and sister Pachaiyamal for theft at the village headman's abode.

The apprehension was made with no warrant and it all happened on the grounds of a baseless suspicion. Rajakannu succumbed in the police lockup post third-degree torture inflicted upon him by the immoral authorities, particularly SI Gurumoorthy.

It is heinous to note that amid one such interrogation, his sister Pachaiyamal was undressed in front of her brothers and they were asked to fornicate. Soon after this Pachaiyamal was released both physically and mentally scarred.

Concurrently Rajakannu's wife Sengenni (Parvathy) strives to free Rajakannu. She beseeched authorities and put her shoulders to the wheel even when expecting. The police authorities on seeing Rajakannu succumb, set-up a faux story.

According to the made up description by the police officials, Rajakannu and his brothers had escaped the police lockup. The police also set up forged witnesses and evidence. Sengenni knew there was something fishy going on after which she contacted Justice K. Chandru who was then a lawyer in the Madras High Court.

Justice K. Chandru filed a habeas corpus petition which was not only heard but a first of its kind to include any sort of cross-examination. The best of public prosecutors were assigned to the case as the whole police department was being openly mocked.

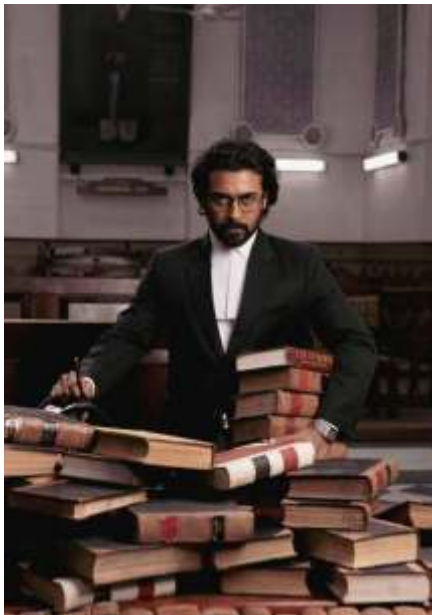
Justice Chandru gave it his all where he also contacted the Scheduled tribes and visited the village for a first hand inquisition. He eventually was successful in justifying that the witnesses and evidence provided by the police were indeed fabricated. His interrogation skills were so immaculate that he was able to get senior police officials give the nod on forging the intel in order to solve the case faster.

Sengenni was also offered considerable remuneration at the cost of dropping the case which she blatantly refused. IG Perumalswamy was also asked to conduct a probe into the situation

from scratch and keep Justice K. Chandra in the loop. IG Perumalswamy found SI Gurumorthy responsible for the murder of Rajakannu in his report. **The decision eventually went in favour of the victim and Sengenni, and Rajakannu's cousins received remuneration for all the inconveniences caused.** All the struggle paid off when all those censurable were penalised be it false witnesses or police officials.

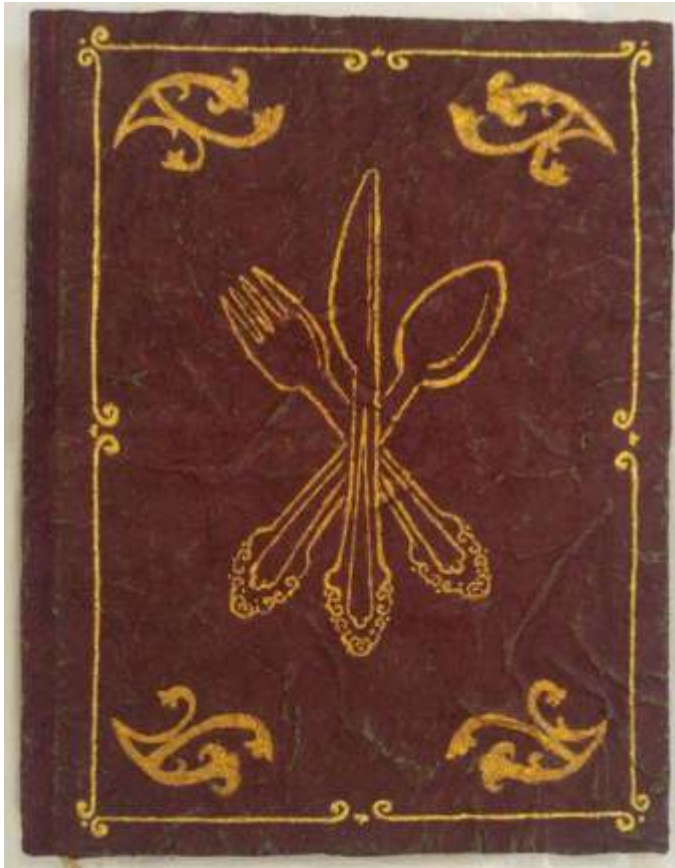
The characterisation in this film is natural, the art department has done wonders with the sets and the cinematography further heightens the class of this masterpiece. **It is onerous and almost unthinkable to recreate the 1990s flawlessly but T.J. Gnanvel along with his team have made it possible.**

The movie doesn't have any songs but music has been used at the befitting moments to deepen the emotions portrayed by the actors. Though I was eagerly waiting for this movie, it fortunately exceeded my expectations in every criteria. **It is people like Justice K. Chandru who are real-life victors and women like Sengenni who time and again show that there is no better than women to change the society.**



Oh! A Magical Cookbook?

-by Swinzal Taneja, Grade IX, SNS Faridabad



I found an old and an antiquated cookbook in my attic,
And it seemed very dramatic,
When I started investigating it,
With my 2 best friends, it magically lit!

To my surprise, it was endless,
Which made me feel breathless,
It had weird names for the recipes like "Bitter Truth Truffles", "Itchy Ice-cream", Turns
out that these were magical which almost seemed like a dream, I felt that I was supreme!

Ingredients from which the recipes were made,
Were really difficult to find and were expensive to be paid,
The families of the ingredients were "Cedronian", "Elysian" and I was
like "Whoa!", It definitely blew me away as you might know!



Unfortunately, I figured out that my grandma was under a magic
spell, She was definitely not well,
I was sure that the answer lied in the cookbook,
And my duty was to look.

After baking recipes and solving mysteries after mysteries, Which
uncovered unexpected histories!
Finally, I was able to help my grandma and break her the curse she
was under, Which almost seemed like a wonder!!

Movie Review: *Schumacher*

-by Aishani Das, Grade IX IGCSE, SNS Gurugram



'Schumacher' is a documentary film co-directed by Hanns-Bruno Kammertöns, Michael Wech and Vanessa Nöcker, about the rise of one of the greatest racing drivers in history **Michael Schumacher**. The world premiere occurred on 15th September 2021.

There is more to Michael Schumacher than meets the eye. **This documentary enraptured all those details about the Formula 1 legend.** A young boy with big dreams, he knew what he wanted from the beginning. Luck secured him a seat in Jordan-Ford in

1991, but it was him and his talent that brought him **7 world championships**.

As described in the documentary he was a dependable son, considerate husband and a ruthless driver, but he was also an incredible leader. He joined Ferrari in 1996 when they weren't seeming promising anymore, however, he took up the challenge and wanted to make Ferrari great again.

His determination and strong mentality that he didn't need the best equipment to win, led him and Ferrari to podiums week in and week out. He did bring Ferrari to the peak once again. His championship rival was Mika Hakkinen and their rivalry on track is one of the best till day, after winning in Monza Italy (2000) Schumacher was definitely going to win his first championship with Ferrari, **beating McLaren and Hakkinen was a legendary moment and a start of a new world championship streak**.

He had spats with multiple drivers on track and didn't give in easily and an example of that is his crash with David Coulthard in Spa (1998). He didn't assume it was his fault and blamed Coulthard but upon reviewing footage he was proved to be in the wrong however he didn't accept his mistake.

Michael was not only a headstrong person, during an interview in 2000 when asked about having the same number of wins as senna he broke down into tears, unable to contain his emotions as six years ago year, Ayrton Senna a sensation and icon in formula one lost his life on track, this was truly heartfelt.

The streak of wins did come to an end, in 2013 Schumacher found himself the victim of a tragic accident in the French Alps. Ever

since limited information has been shared and the documentary only sheds light on the situation during the concluding ten minutes. "I miss Michael every day. Michael is still here. Different, but he's here." These words by Corinna hit you like a hurricane. His children Mick Schumacher (A current F1 driver for Haas) and Gina Schumacher also spoke and reminisced the moments they had with their father.

You do get to know him as a person a little bit more than you did before. The tribute follows a compassionate gaze that refrains from being voyeuristic & exploitative. I personally really like the documentary. It was very motivational, you truly don't need much to succeed just grit and determination.

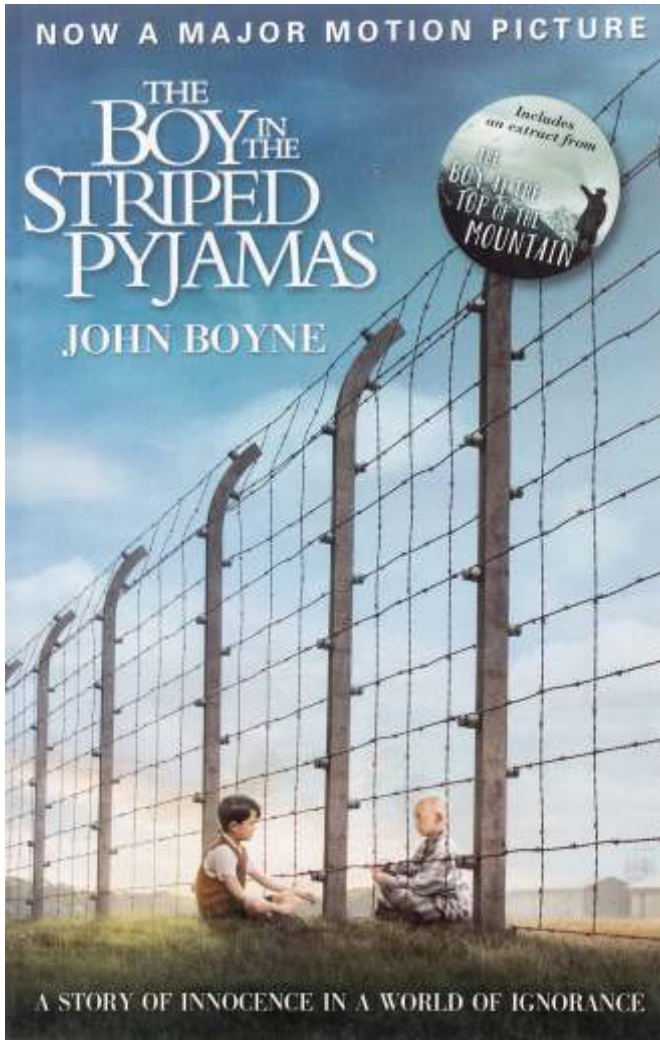
Seeing Schumacher leave last from the Grand Prix, and working late with the Ferrari mechanics to improve the car was touching. The overall structure of the film was well laid and the editing was exceptional. The movie really made me emotional and I broke into tears ever so often. I don't have sufficient elements to nitpick about, I give it a 5 out of 5 stars.



Movie Review:

The boy in striped pyjamas

-by Vani Dawar, Grade IX IGCSE, SNS Gurugram



The boy in striped pyjamas by Mark Herman made in 2009, one word to describe this movie would be expedition. Expedition because it's a journey the viewers go through Bruno's journey. Also to mention the movie has been derived from a book by John Boyne. Trying not to give any spoilers now the movie is set in Nazi Germany and is about a 8 year old boy, Bruno, he seeks adventure and exploration.

Through occurrence of some events Bruno's father is promoted to being officer, this causes a huge shift in the boy's life. Having to move from his home in Berlin to a cottage in far away land of wrecked Germany.

The shift being difficult for Bruno and Gretel, his sister that I forgot to mention earlier, when boredom gets the best of Bruno he takes it upon himself and explores the area. During his adventures he got hurt, he found new things and then one day he saw one of the servants of his cottage going into some far area and following along the trail. He comes across a guarded area with barbed wire fences and behind them a boy about the same age as his.

The story then follows these two boys slowly bonding and building trust in each other and in no time they were amazing friends. Bruno would sneak out everyday with one thing or the other, like a ball to play with from over the fence or food for the Jewish boy. Side-by-side the boy and Bruno started digging under the fence and as time flew the hole was big enough for Bruno to fit through and then rest. I'm gonna request everyone to watch and find out.

Now, the main part is my opinion on the movie. I completely adore the movie, it made me feel emotions I have never felt before. I saw and realised the struggles of those children similar to the Jewish boy and how miserable their life was.

I don't have more to say, more so I don't wanna say it because this movie is where things should be left unsaid so you can live the emotions when you watch it. Lastly, the movie left me in an elysian state.

E Pluribus Unum



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NOVEMBER, 2021