

VUCA

CHRONICLES



CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II 2nd June, 1953

Article by : Avni Sethi, Grade 7, SNS Faridabad

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THE CORONATION CEREMONY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

By Avni Sethi, Grade 7, SNS Faridabad



The coronation ceremony, an occasion for pageantry and celebration, but it is also a solemn religious ceremony, has remained essentially the same over a thousand years. For the last 900 years, the ceremony has taken place at Westminster Abbey, London. The service is conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury; whose task this has almost always been since the Norman Conquest in 1066.

A coronation is a ceremony marking the formal investiture of a monarch with regal power. In 1937, the 11-year-old Princess Elizabeth had watched her father, King George VI, crowned in the elaborate ceremony and 16 years later on 2 June 1953, her own official coronation was to take place.



Her motivation was clear, nothing must stand between her crowning and her people's right to participate.

Coronations have been held at Westminster Abbey for 900 years and The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was to follow suit. **But the Coronation of 1953 was ground-breaking in its own right – the first ever to be televised, it was watched by 27 million people in the UK alone and millions more audiences around the world.**

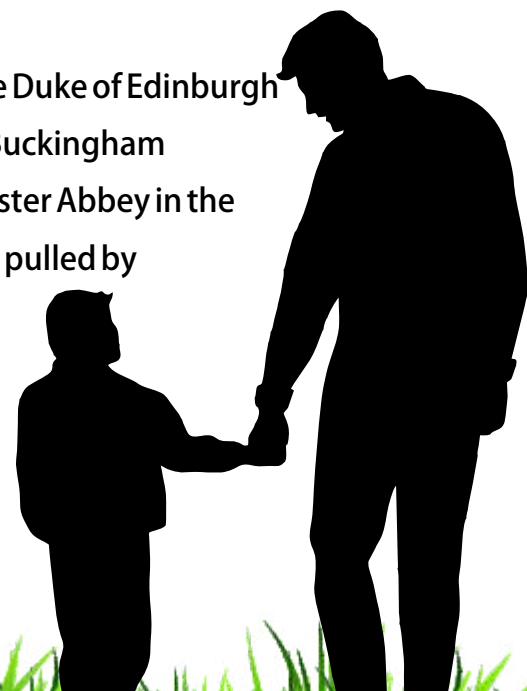
Apparently, there had been much controversy in the Government as to whether it would be 'right and proper' to televise such a solemn occasion. Several members of the Cabinet at the time, including Sir Winston Churchill, urged the Queen to spare herself the strain of the heat and glare of the cameras, by refusing to have the ceremony televised.

The Queen received this message coldly and refused to listen to their protests. **The young queen personally routed the Earl Marshall, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir Winston Churchill and the Cabinet ...she had made her decision!**

Queen Elizabeth II was crowned on 2 June, 1953 in Westminster Abbey. Her Majesty was the thirty-ninth Sovereign to be crowned at Westminster Abbey.

Queen Elizabeth II is the sixth Queen to have been crowned in Westminster Abbey in her own right. The first was Queen Mary I, who was crowned on 1 October, 1553. **The Queen succeeded to the Throne on the 6 February, 1952 on the death of her father, King George VI.** She was in Kenya at the time and became the first Sovereign in over 200 years to accede while abroad.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were driven from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey in the Gold State Coach – pulled by eight grey gelding





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The Queen's Coronation dress, designed by British Fashion designer Norman Hartnell, was made of white satin and embroidered with the emblems of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth in gold and silver thread.

horses: Cunningham, Tovey, Noah, Tedder, Eisenhower, Snow White, Tipperary and McCreery.

The Coronation Bouquet was made up of white flowers – comprising of orchids and lilies-of-the-valley from England, stephanotis from Scotland, orchids from Wales, and carnations from Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.



Since the Coronation, The Queen has worn the Coronation dress six times including the Opening of Parliament in New Zealand and Australia in 1954.





recognition, the oath, the anointing, the investiture (which includes the crowning), the enthronement and the homage.

The Queen's Coronation service began at 11.15am and lasted almost three hours.

On her way to the Coronation, Her Majesty wore the George IV State Diadem - the crown depicted on stamps. **Made in 1820, the Diadem features roses, shamrocks and thistles with 1,333 diamonds and 169 pearls.**

The Sovereign's procession was made up of 250 people including Church leaders, Commonwealth Prime Ministers, members of the Royal Household, civil and military leaders and the Yeoman of the Guard.

The Archbishop of Canterbury conducted the service, a duty which has been undertaken since the Conquest in 1066. **For the first time in 1953, a representative of another Church, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, also took part.**

The Coronation service fell into six parts: the



During the investiture, **The Queen first put on the newly-made Colobium Sindonis - a loose linen-lawn garment, and then a robe of cloth of gold called the Dalmatic or Supertunica.** The Lord Great Chamberlain presented the golden spurs, the symbol of chivalry, after which the Archbishop of Canterbury presented a jewelled sword and then the armills, the golden bracelets of sincerity and wisdom. Finally, **The Queen put on stole and cloth of gold Robe Royal and received the orb, the**





The St. Edward's Crown, made in 1661, was placed on the head of The Queen during the Coronation service. It weighs 4 pounds and 12 ounces and is made of solid gold.

coronation ring, the glove, and then the sceptre.

Prince Charles was the first child to witness his mother's coronation as Sovereign. Princess Anne did not attend the ceremony as she was considered too young.

The Queen was crowned in St Edward's Chair, made in 1300 for Edward I and used at every Coronation since that time. It is permanently kept in Westminster Abbey.



After the crown, the orb, also made in 1661, was the most important piece of regalia. It is a globe of gold surrounded by a cross girdled by a band of diamonds, emeralds, rubies, sapphire and pearls with a large amethyst at the summit.

There were more than 2,000 journalists and 500 photographers from 92 nations on the Coronation route.

Among the many foreign journalists was Jacqueline Bouvier (later the First Lady of the United States of America, Jackie Kennedy), who was working for the Washington Times-Herald at the time.





The Queen appeared with her family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace still wearing the Imperial State Crown and the Royal Robes to greet the cheering crowds. Her Majesty appeared again on the balcony at 9.45 pm to turn on the 'lights of London'.

Lights cascaded down the Mall, lighting the huge cipher on Admiralty Arch and turning the fountains in Trafalgar Square into liquid silver, until all the floodlights from the National Gallery to the Tower of London had been illuminated.

Numerous official photographs were taken in Buckingham Palace after the Coronation, but the most memorable are those taken by Cecil Beaton. For his defining image he posed The Queen in front of a backdrop depicting Henry VII's Chapel in Westminster Abbey.

The 'Crowning Ceremony' took place exactly as it is laid down in the history books, and when St.



Edward's Crown (this crown is only ever used for the actual crowning) was placed on her head the whole country, watching on their television sets, joined as one in celebration. Therefore, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was certainly a day to remember.

On 9 September 2015, Queen Elizabeth II, having previously surpassed her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria, in 2007, to become the longest-lived British monarch, became the longest-reigning British monarch. She can also lay claim to being the world's oldest reigning monarch.



Education is my right

By Maira Singhal, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



We are all privileged with the boon of quality education. School is a place where we learn, aspire, imagine, and create. However, sometimes we fail to realize the fact that this tool is not enjoyed by everyone.

Men are usually supported to study however that is not the case with the other genders. Children from unprivileged families with no education usually start working to earn for their family.



Girls are married off at an early age where they may have to face violence and abuse. Light has come our way and with people focusing on such problems there are less cases of child marriage and girls especially are able to complete their higher education.

Though countries have increased their student enrollment usually there is a higher population of men. Let's see where India stands in this age-old problem.

As of 2019 states in India like Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka have more girls than boys in higher education. For example, in Uttar Pradesh there are 90,000 more girls than boys.

According to the latest all India survey on higher education the gross enrollment for ages 18-23 in higher education institutes in India is 27.1% compared to 26.3% in 2018-19.

The ratio for male population is 26.9 and 27.3

for females. **No. Of universities have multiplied from 799 in 2015-16 to 1,043 in 2019-20; colleges up from 39,071 to 42,343.**

Uttar Pradesh has shown the highest student enrollment followed by Maharashtra and Tamilnadu. **However even after this advancement the nature of courses taken up by women haven't changed. They have the least representation in tech and engineering.**

While the gender gap is decreasing, we can't rejoice still as still little kids are not allowed to live their childhood and we need to work to decrease the gender gap in education.

Education is not a prerogative but a right it doesn't matter which caste or gender.

"education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world", by nelson Mandela.



Five heavenly virtues of life

By Ayanna Kapoor, Grade 7, SNS Gurugram



Do you know what the five heavenly virtues of life are?

I'm assuming you don't, but all I can say is this - these five heavenly virtues will help you cope with these difficult times we are all facing. **They will make you feel calm, both mentally and physically.** Let us dive right in!

1.Charity- Charity is the act of giving to people in need, usually associated with giving away money, daily life supplies and more. **For me, charity is also being generous. Instead of giving away physical items, we can pass on positive energy,** and the person you pass this on too will too pass it on as well.

PATIENCE



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I'm sure everyone has heard of the term "give and take," This is the perfect example of it!

2.Patience- Patience is the ability to wait for a long time or tolerate something without complaining. You may be impatient sometimes, maybe because the pain can really hurt, but we should always keep this saying in our minds. It goes- **"What goes around, comes around."** Everything we do, good or bad, manifests, and karma eventually gives you what you deserve, based on the amount of good or bad you've done. **So next time, if you're in an intolerable situation, always remember to stay patient.** Your time will come, and karma will pay you back.

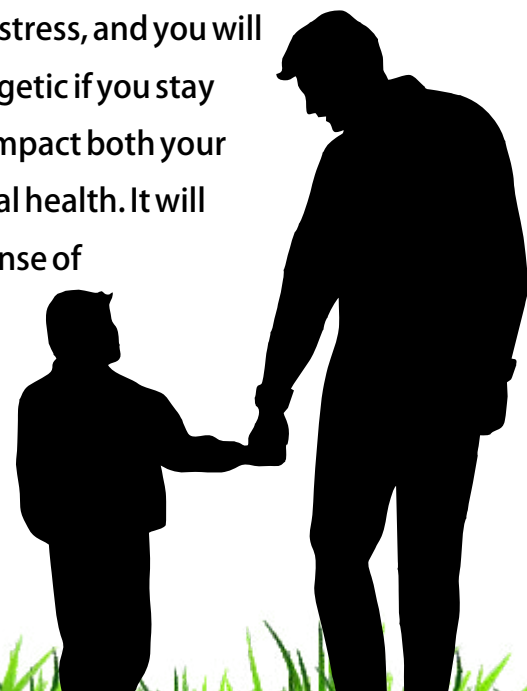
3.Value- We should always learn to value ourselves, our surroundings, and the circumstances we're in, as there is always **scoped to be in a worse place.** And if we're not, we should learn to value it.

4. Self-Care- I'm sure most of us have been called selfish once or more than once in our life. Selfish translates to taking care of ourselves but not our surroundings. However, this doesn't mean you can't or shouldn't take care of yourself. **Taking care of yourself before others isn't not the same as being selfish. If you can't help yourself, how will you have the will or energy to take care of others?** Self-care is the individual actions we take for ourselves, to stay healthy, and take care of our surroundings. This is not selfish! Praising yourself isn't selfish! It is self-confidence! We should all be our authentic selves.

And last, but certainly not the least is-

5.Optimism- Optimism is looking at the positive aspects of things, rather than the negative aspects.

This will cause less stress, and you will suddenly feel energetic if you stay positive. This will impact both your physical and mental health. It will leave you with a sense of happiness.



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SELF-CARE



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Even if it is your worst enemy, don't ever have a negative image of them in your head. That will only contribute to souring your relationship with them. Like Anne Frank too found all the positive things in life, you can too!



These were the 5 heavenly virtues of life! And like I said, always remember to follow these virtues now, when in need, and in your future as well.



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The Eminence of Empathy in our Lives

By Aanya Modi, Grade 8, SNS Noida



Take a moment to imagine this, you're standing on the road under the scorching sun with a flat tyre, helplessly waving for help from any driver that passes by. **Help! Help!** You scream, but no one decides to listen, instead, they all drive off as if they saw nothing.

Hopeless, you try pushing your car to the tyre shop. With a red face, a dry throat and ready to give up mindset you try to push the car very certain that you won't be able to make it.



Suddenly out of nowhere you hear a voice, "can I help you with that?" At that point, that voice would probably feel as though it was a mirage, and you are not sure if it is real or not.

The person comes closer and decides to help you, he tells you that this happened with him several times and he knew exactly how it felt.

That person would probably feel like an angel, right? Well, it is because he was being empathetic. With this example, I'm sure you probably get the gist of why empathy is the best policy right? But why was his behaviour like so and how does it help us not only in such rare situations but in day-to-day life?

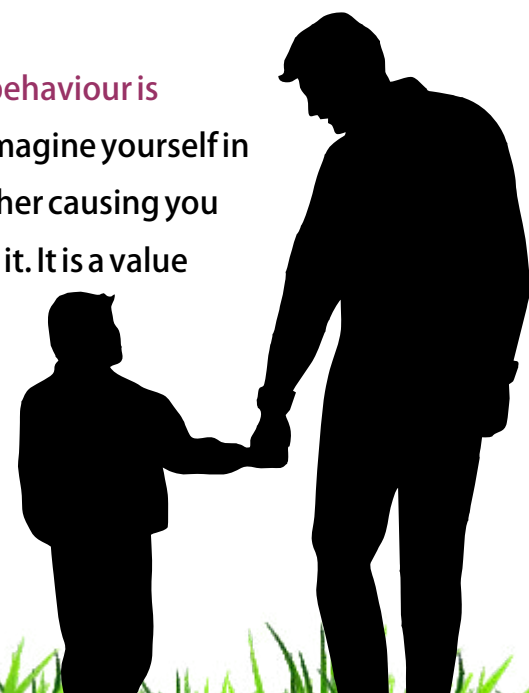
Barack Obama famously stated, "Learning to stand in somebody else's shoes, to see through their eyes, that's how peace begins. And it's up to you and me to make that happen. Empathy is the quality of character that can change the world."

I firmly believe that empathy is truly necessary for us as citizens, because only we can help one another. To understand this better, let's take another hypothetical scenario wherein you read about students who are not able to attain education due to poverty and lack of resources.

People will have different reactions to this, one person might just be kind enough to think about those children and donate an old device to support them and contribute to help them learn, another might just feel sorry for them and talk about this with other people but not actually help them.

One is an instance of empathy and another is an instance of sympathy. But which behaviour is better and why so?

Well, empathetic behaviour is better. It lets you imagine yourself in that situation, further causing you to act according to it. It is a value that should be



EMPATHY VS. SYMPATHY

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embedded in us. While empathy is the quality of understanding and assisting the other person, sympathy is the quality of feeling helplessly sorry for someone without imagining what it is like for them.

But the real question is how can one build empathy? It requires one to be sensitive, compassionate and have a feeling of fellowship for others.

Building an empathetic behaviour is as simple as just taking a moment to think about what the other person is going through or just putting yourself in their situation and to understand, support and help them instead of just feel sorry for them.

During the recent lockdown, so many people like our house help, delivery staff, cleaners come to help us in such tough times risking their own health. We should always display some form of appreciation for their support,

whether it is giving them a raise or a holiday or maybe just telling them how thankful we are. By doing some of the chores occasionally, we must understand how hard it is for the ones who do them every day.

The world today is going through a difficult time where so many people are suffering from poor health during a pandemic, poverty, lack of basic facilities and inequality. We need to build awareness around their situation and issues and come forward to help them in our own way.

As Gandhi once said, "We must be the change we wish to see" and I believe to see a change in our society we have to change first, and a huge part of that is being sensitive and empathetic.



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Making Peace With Our Planet

By SreeLaasya.B, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



The damage going on inside - mining, drilling - results in stuff like earthquakes, pollution, and natural disasters on the outside. To decrease these reactions we must stop mining and live with the wonders we already have on the surface instead of digging into the earth, searching for precious gems and rocks.

The greed of humans is never met with, as we go on to discover new substances and their properties; the rarer they are the greater damage they cause to the earth.

Like a diamond; since it is rare, it costs a lot of money,



and the larger the market becomes, the greater the demand is, and the greater the demand greater the damage.

Nature is similar to Godzilla, it is on our side for now but it has enough power to rebel against us. Nature VS Man is not war it's the wipeout of the human race off the planet.

To ensure this does not happen and to make sure there is still a world after us, we must make peace. We have been taking and using many resources from our planet but have not given back anything except garbage and pollution.

From global warming to the COVID pandemic, it is all our fault. Rival countries fight against each other in the modes of war, airstrikes, naval warfare, bio-weapons, etc.

All of these include people splitting up and coming together. Before the situation reaches something like that in the movie Geostorm and

we must build satellites to control global warming and climate change, we should come together, realize our mistakes, and ask for forgiveness.

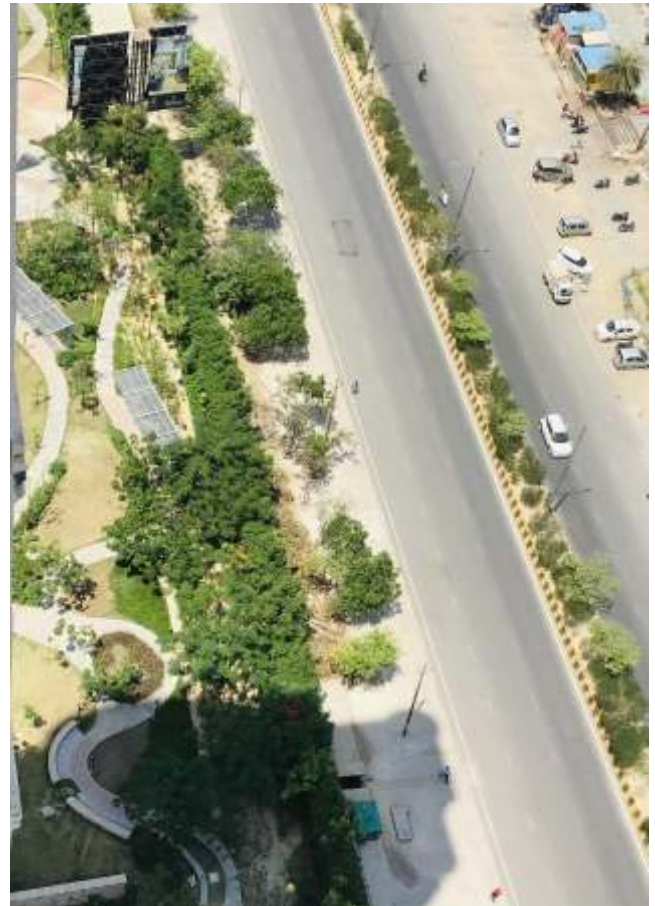
A peace offering for the planet can include recycling, reusing, reducing, planting more saplings around us to ensure clean and fresh air. Waste can reduce by segregation which helps recycle paper-made materials.

Hope you all are now inspired to make peace with our planet. Stay home and stay safe!



The Earth: Boon to Humanity

By Nishita Harit, Grade 8, SNS Noida



Pause and observe the plants and vegetation in your society and the areas nearby.

The land which we now occupy was once covered by trees and vegetation. Earth has sustained life on its surface for about 3.5 billion years. Earth has been an exquisite mother for humankind.

Whenever we hesitate in stopping a person from smoking or picking up wrappers from the floor or reporting water leakage, it leads to numerous

You can start caring for the environment by adopting some simple practices:

- 1) Use environment friendly material for daily usage.
- 2) Disposing waste at the right place/sending it directly to recycling centres.
- 3) Being aware of environment related issues around you.

complications for nature. Why do you think the ozone layer began depleting way back in the 1970's?

It is because we humans weren't careful about the gradual rise in levels of pollution until it was too late. By 2009, the Antarctic Ozone Hole had begun developing.

The harmful chemicals from smoking, the landfills and the plastics left out in the open created a big bubble of chemicals which affected the ozone layer.

To quote Jane Goodall, always remember "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." Even if it is only 1 percent of the whole population.

Now, Identify some problems in your area and send the possible solutions at the email given below ~

giriansquad24@gmail.com

Hope you will help me with this cause:)

"Together let's make this world a greener world."



1st time I saw the Ocean

By Myra Sharma, Grade 6, SNS Gurugram



The First Time I saw the ocean I loved the view
I liked how the birds flew
I felt something new; I liked how the wind blew
Something I never knew
I went a little closer to the water
And just stood there watching the sunset
The breeze touching my face
I closed my eyes and enjoyed
Wanted to have the happiest day
As I never felt this way
The sand getting stuck between my toes
The water washing it away and it goes
You never know what Nature can show

World Oceans Day

By Stavya khadelwal, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



World Ocean day is celebrated on **8th of June**.

Let's start by looking at some fun facts

- Approx. 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by water and **oceans hold ~ 96% of water on the earth's surface**.

- Oceans are where life began 3.5 billion years ago.**

- Australia's Great barrier reef is the largest living structure on Earth. It covers an area of approximately 344,400 square kilometres (133,000 sq. mi). This reef can also be seen from moon.**

the rivers and all other water bodies indiscriminately with all kinds of wastes. Then these water bodies finally go into the seas and then the seas end up in oceans. Hence, all our oceans are severely polluted, polluted to really alarming levels.

·Despite so much water, there is **only 3% of fresh water available on Earth** and from that also **2.5% is blocked in glaciers**, polar ice caps, atmosphere, and soil or it lies too far under the earth's surface to be extracted at an affordable cost. So, **we have only 0.5% water which is fresh on earth**. This is why we face water scarcity every year.

Our Oceans and World Ocean Day

Oceans are really important as they help the marine life to stay alive and are one of the most important things for humans also. Despite having five oceans and their large eco-system and its impact on us in many aspects of our lives, we seem to have stopped caring for them. **World Ocean day is a big event although it is not given the due importance.**

Today our oceans are in very poor state. They are **polluted to very dangerous levels**. This is because of us humans only, as we are polluting

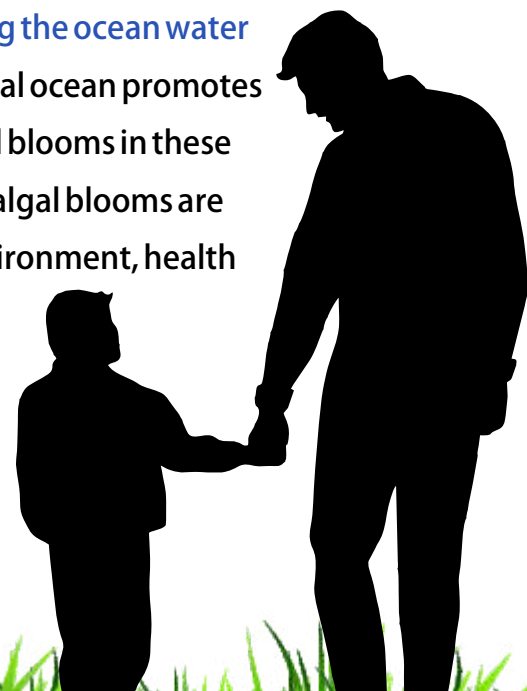
About Ocean Pollution

Our oceans are being flooded with two main types of pollutants: chemicals and trash.

a) **Chemical Contamination or Nutrient Pollution**

The chemical contamination or nutrient pollution are really concerning for our health, environment and economic reasons.

The chemical contamination is concerning as **increased amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in the ocean is making the ocean water toxic** and the coastal ocean promotes the growth of algal blooms in these conditions. These algal blooms are harmful to the environment, health and humans.





pieces) hence, they get toxic in them and as the food chain moves the bigger fishes (whales etc.) eat them, eventually they also get toxic and die. This basically effects the whole food chain of the marine ecosystem.

This is also concerning for economic reasons as the negative effects on health and the environment caused by algal blooms hurt local fishing and tourism industries.

b)Trash

Marine trash is another big source of pollution in the oceans. Marine trash includes mostly all manufactured things. Most of this trash is plastic shopping bags, beverages bottles, cigarette butts, food wrapper and etc.

This trash reaches here by storm winds, littering, poor waste management and hence it causes debris in the ocean. 80% of these debris comes from land.

Plastic waste is particularly problematic as a pollutant because it is so long-lasting and also non-biodegradable. Many animals mistake plastic bags and other debris as food and eat them and eventually die. Also, small fishes mistakenly eat micro-plastic (small plastic

Potential Solutions:

·What are the things we can do make our oceans safe for our marine life and for everyone?

So two-pronged solutions for marine pollution are:

a) Prevention

b) Clean-up

Prevention can be done by not using low quality materials like (single use plastic) which are non-biodegradable and don't decompose.

But, these type of low quality materials are being used mostly as these are cheap. Things like shopping bags, shipping packages bottle caps and etc.





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We all have to come together and save our ocean and celebrate future ocean days with our ocean being clean for our marine ecosystem and for everyone.

are made from these cheap materials. Uncontrolled use of these things causes accumulation of the same in the water bodies which ultimately reaches and pollutes oceans. This is because of poor waste management and people littering things anywhere.

Clean-up is also not an easy task apart from too much volume of debris, many types of debris don't float (like plastic) and hence, they are lost deep into the ocean and cannot be taken out. An example of area like this is the Pacific Garbage Patch.

Nevertheless, we need to start and make clean-up a movement. We also need to raise requests for making our waste management systems and administration much better than it is now.

Finally, spreading awareness about this topic to as much people we can.



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Traveling without moving

By Sara Garg, Grade 6, SNS Noida



Did you ever think of traveling the world?
For that, the Earth needs to be curled.
But can you travel without moving,
Of course you can while chewing.
But without moving, you won't see the flowers
blooming!

Just take a bite and go to a place,
And travel without a base.
Move just while you are sitting down,
And explore every town.

Take a moment to enjoy your treat,
And walk in every street,
With invisible feet.
Try not to burn the food,
Or else the dream of traveling will conclude!



The Effect Of Tourism On Biodiversity

By Gaurvica Gupta, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



So, before telling you about the impact of tourism on biodiversity, I'd like to explain what biodiversity is. As we can see, **biodiversity** consists of two words: 'bio' and 'diversity'. It refers to all of the different types of life that can be found on the planet, whether they are plants, animals, or even microbes.

These form different kinds of habitats as well. So let's talk about the effect of tourism on biodiversity. The impact of tourism on biodiversity can be beneficial as well as harmful. So that means it has some pros and some cons.



tourists travel to such places, they dirty them by littering. And due to this only many beautiful places which are known as paradise are under threat of tourism. Some examples are Mount Everest, Bali in Indonesia, Cozumel Island in Mexico etc.

However, let's start with the pros. When tourists visit such places, they even learn about the region, such as its topographical and geographical features.

If some of you are thinking about what topography is, then I'm here to tell you. The topography of a place refers to the physical features of that area. So when they learn about the topographical and geographical features of that area, they also understand the value of our mother nature.

And they not only start admiring nature but also inspire others. The aforementioned is the way tourism is beneficial to biodiversity.

Now I would like to tell you all about the cons. There are many tourist spots made across the world. But do you know how and where are these constructed? These tourist spots erected by whipping off a part of biodiversity or habitat are harmful to the environment. When these

When many people enter a tourist spot, the population rises tremendously, plus this has an immense effect on the place. Due to this, they require more resources, the usage of cars Air-conditioners/ heaters, and burning of fossil fuels increases, which causes more pollution.

Nevertheless, I understand travelling is fun, but it shouldn't become a reason for harming Earth. We need to keep in our minds that our mother Earth is not only ours but also of our generations. So by not damaging the Earth, we are saving our future.



less and did everything to become like the people she saw on social media. Everyone liked those people.

She wanted people to like her too. *She didn't want her weight to affect her personality, but it did.* The first thing people noticed about her was how 'fat' she was.

After exercising for months and trying all kinds of diets, she looked at herself in the mirror. Was she happy? No. But she looked more like those models. People stopped making fun of her for being fat. But that wasn't it.

Now they told her, 'you look too skinny, eat something maybe, I can see your bones.' The poor girl was surprised. As she walked down the hall, she felt everyone staring at her. Maybe they were making fun of her.

She wanted all those negative thoughts in her head to disappear but they kept coming back.

She wished she could have a 'normal' body. But what she wished for even more, was for her to be happy again.

Her body had never harmed her. She was healthy. And before she got so concerned with her weight, she was happy. When she didn't care about having a small waist or having thin hands, she was happy. But what happened? *She stopped exercising. She did nothing special. All she wanted to see was what was wrong with her previous self.*

One morning she got up early. She was in an unusually good mood. She stood in front of the mirror and thought, 'I look like myself.' If you could see her, you would see how bright her smile was and how her eyes twinkled. *So what if she was fat. She was finally happy. Her mind didn't tell her 'you look ugly', her mind told her 'you look beautiful today.'*



Online Classes: My Experience

By Vihaan Vajpeyi, Grade 6, SNS Noida



I had completed Grade 4 and graduated to Grade 5. After the session break, the School was about to start, and I was very excited to go to my new class. My grandparents happened to plan a visit to my aunt's place in Indore and asked my sister and I if we wanted to accompany them, to return before our School reopened.

We were thrilled at the prospect. However, before the session break could end, the lockdown was announced and as a result, we were stranded at our aunt's place.

A few days later, when School was about to start, my father informed me that we were to have online classes. At first, when I heard this, I was very



confused. What do you mean by online classes? How will all of us join classes simultaneously? On the first day, I logged into class under my grandfather's supervision.

The first session was a one-to-one introductory session with our home room in-charge Swati Ma'am. While I was excited to meet her, I was also a bit shy. That went off well.

Gradually, our regular classes commenced. The initial classes were on 'Google Meet'. It took me some time to understand the platform, but once I got the hang of it, I loved it. It had all sorts of cool features! I thought to myself that this year was going to be fantastic.

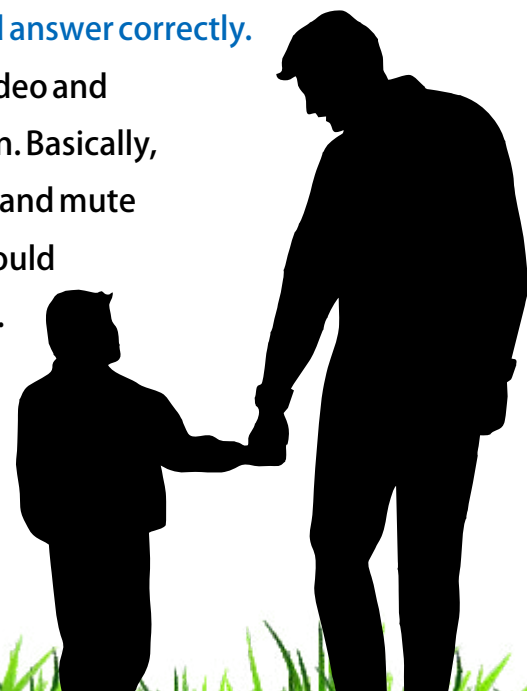
After first few classes, our teacher introduced us to 'See Saw', a platform for submission of our assignments. For the first few weeks, it was all fun. Soon the lockdown eased, and we were able to go back to our parents. To my surprise, our father had ordered new iPads for my sister

and me. We even had a new printer. Life couldn't have been better!

However, soon I realized how wrong I was about online classes being fantastic. The online classes gradually turned boring since we just had to sit at one place and listen to the teacher. The teacher's screen sometimes lagged and technical issues occurred often. The good thing was that you could chat. You could just write to ma'am if you had any problems without disturbing the class.

Later, we started using chat in a different manner. We found out that we could indulge in private chat, so we started chatting without the teacher even noticing. That led to many children not focusing in class, so when the teacher asked a question, only some people could answer correctly.

There was also a video and microphone option. Basically, you could unmute and mute yourself and you could turn your video off.





My classmates found this very useful, and I admit, I did too. We could mute ourselves and turn our camera off, and then eat while the class was going on. **Once we started to get the hang of online classes, we did crazy things. Some people changed virtual backgrounds; some people even got virtual filters.** I felt that this was very fun, so I also joined.

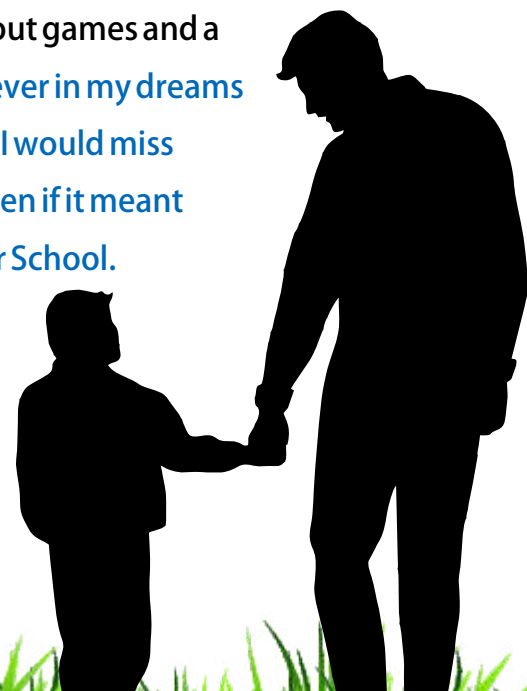
We soon ran out of luck. Our teacher soon noticed this and disabled the private chat feature. **Some children still wanted it, so they installed an app called 'Hangouts'.** Some children kept talking in their hangouts group even during class, so ma'am told us to stop.

After some time, we changed platforms. Our new platform was called 'Zoom'. We use it for meeting even today, in Grade 6. At first, some of us were angry because we couldn't understand what was wrong with Google Meet. The teacher told us that 'Zoom' had a lot more features, so we tried them out. In a couple of days,

everybody loved 'Zoom'. It had virtual hand-raise, emoji's, and much more.

With the passage of time, I realized that the charm and excitement of online classes was wearing off. I felt irritated and bored about just sitting on a table for one whole hour continuously. Many a time my eyes hurt. Still, the School was doing the best they could in these dangerous times, and I appreciated that.

Thanks to the online classes, we were introduced to new learning platforms, such as Mentimeter, Padlet, and more. I just hoped that this would be over soon because I really wanted to meet my friends. I missed chatting with them, playing in the field and running down the ramps, talking with Ansh and Anav about games and a lot more things. **Never in my dreams had I thought that I would miss going to school, even if it meant getting up early for School.**





in a life full of boredom, the only thing you can think of is sitting in a cold room, watching TV.

My hopes were uplifted when our teacher told us that whoever wanted to go to School could go. I couldn't believe my ears. Ma'am also told us that if we chose to go to School, it would be only for two days in a week.

I really wanted to go to School. Meeting my classmates and teachers in person would be awesome! Sadly, my father did not allow me to go. He said that I could go once our School resumed regular on campus classes.

I was now sad, angry and also frustrated. I tried to restrain myself from getting angry on such a small issue, but I couldn't. I had high hopes of going to school. Still, I couldn't complain.

The next day, when the names of the children who were going to School were announced, all I could do was feel jealous of them.

Our teacher also told us that the next day would be a 'No screen day', but honestly, when you are

That is how we eventually finished our Grade 5 and moved on to Grade 6. Nothing much has changed since then. Same old online classes, and a life full of boredom and a little bit joy.

I can't wait for the physical school to start. I want to play in the field, chat with my friends and meet my teachers physically. I miss the rides in the school bus, the school assemblies, sitting in the dining hall and eating, helping my smaller sister to her class and running around the dining hall after our food was finished.

Most importantly, I miss all my teachers and friends and hope they are safe and healthy.

I can't stop wondering how my friends would have changed in the past one and a half years.





However, if the online classes have to continue, I want the School to have classes on a more secure platform.

One day, during our English class, some hackers joined our class and started playing some songs with bad words in it.

Secondly, I want these platforms to stop lagging. Most of the times, people kept disconnecting and re-joining, and they end up missing important information.

I also want there to be more interactive and interesting activities like wheel of names, show and tell, Just A Minute (JAM), and also some more fun learning ways so that the students don't end up opening other tabs.



Is Social Media Intruding On Our Lives?

By Rianna Mahajan, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



When people first started using social media, it was a positive space where you could connect, form, and join communities. You could always find your type of person on social media, and that was what intrigued people towards it. Although it's still a creative place, with different communities, its negative impacts have started to become more prominent.

People will believe anything that they see on the internet, be it a 16-year-old teenager trying to find themselves, or an annoying individual, constantly gossiping about life. My grandmother would immediately believe something that she would see in a WhatsApp message, and at times my mom would have to explain to her that it is fake.



Similarly, teenagers look at pictures of things on social media, and without giving it a second thought, believe whatever that picture is saying is true. This often causes insecurities.

Everything you see on the internet is not real, and it's about time people understand that.

There are so many apps to edit the way you look, and even change your background to make it look like you are on an amazing vacation.

Instead of gaining inspiration, social media has started to create insecurities, making people question their talents and looks. Looking at someone prettier, or someone with more followers' sparks jealousy, that turns into hate.

Hate is another big negative impact of social media, even if it's just a simple tweet, or a circulating WhatsApp message. It brings out negativity, and it can drastically affect the person it's about.

I remember walking into my classroom one day and all my friends were doing this dance that I had no idea about. Upon enquiring, they told me it was a new 'Tik-Tok trend', one all the 'influencers' were doing. We then spent the entire day talking about Tik-Tokers, and new trends or dances, often labelling things as 'cringey' if the influencers did not do them.

This made me think about how much social media has become part of our lives. We make it seem as if we will not be able to live another day without knowing the latest trend.

It has come to a point where you are not cool if you did not have the latest iPhone, or if you did not know the full form of a particular slang. People follow Addison Rae or Charli D'amelio like mindless zombies, buying what they buy, eating what they eat, and going to places that they go to.





" It is about time we start focusing on what is important, and what is simply a hurdle in our lives.

So to answer the question. Is social media intruding on our lives? Yes it is.

All around me, I see people glued to their phones, posting an Instagram story, filming a Tik-Tok, and even tweeting about their dreams. It honestly feels like we have forgotten that there is an entire world outside our mobile phones.

Social media is now more than just a platform. It has become a source of income for so many people. It is almost as though we cannot live without it; like a toxic friend who just won't go away.

We need to take time to come out of this obsession and take time to think. Like a wise person once said, "Never have I seen a generation diligently recording themselves accomplishing so little, when they have the capacity of so much more."



My Encounter with Covid

By Vihaan Vajpeyi, Grade 6, SNS Noida



Life before Covid was great fun. Once our school vacations began, my father took our family for a trip to Kashmir. We saw houseboats, took a Gondola ride in Gulmarg, did horse riding in Pahalgam, played with snow to our heart's content and even enjoyed the Tulip Festival in Srinagar.

Overall, we had a blast. However, I also noticed that a lot of people were not wearing masks, but I ignored that fact and enjoyed myself.



When we came back, my mom started feeling sick. **She complained of sore throat and fever. I tried to go near her, but my father stopped me as he thought my mom had Covid. After** a few days, my mother got tested.

I thought that she might have contracted it during our Kashmir trip. Most of the people there weren't wearing a mask so there was a high chance of Covid infection. **Why did I ignore this fact? She was Covid positive.**

At first, I thought this was a prank, but when my father showed me the result, I was shocked. It said "POSITIVE"! My hands were shaking. How was this possible?

When I told my little sister, she started crying very loudly. **I also wanted to cry but I couldn't. I had to keep myself in control for the sake of my little sister.** Still, I was terrified. Corona has killed many people. I wondered what would happen to my mom. For the first few days, nothing bad

happened. My mom quarantined herself in her room and didn't come out. **All this while, our father took care of both of us. I kept calling my mother to ask how she was feeling.** She said that she was fine, but I doubted it. Was she just saying this to make me feel calm? I didn't know, but I hoped that she would feel better in the future.

After a few days, my mom took another test. **The result of the second test came – my mom was still positive and now my dad also caught corona.** When I heard this, I couldn't stop crying. I went to my room and sobbed as much as I could. This was not going the way I expected.

I had nothing to do so I just watched TV and used my iPad all day long. **Surprisingly, I got bored of watching TV and the iPad.** What else can you do when you are locked up in a room with just two water bottles?





I kept asking my parents when they would get retested. I was very anxious for their recovery. **The thought of my parents dying from corona was very scary. What could I have done without them?**

My friend's parents also got Covid, so that made me even more worried. Everyone I knew was getting Covid! **Each night my sister and I prayed to god that our parents' results would be negative. I hoped that our prayers would work, and finally, they did!**

One day, my sister called me near the balcony. She said that my father wanted to tell me something. I rushed there and saw my father standing in the balcony. I was shocked. Wasn't he supposed to be in his room?

I asked him what happened. **He told me that now, he and mom were both negative.** He even showed me the report. It said negative! I was shocked. Before he could say anything else, I

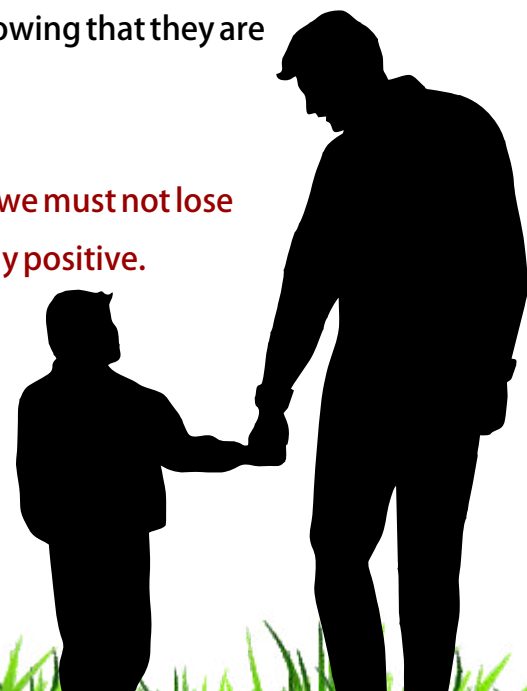
hugged him tight and ran towards my mom in joy. My mom was sleeping but it didn't take me time to wake her up.

When I told her that she was negative, she was also shocked. I hugged my mom tight and she hugged me back. Finally, we could be a happy family again.

I am glad that the worst is over for our family but my heart goes out for many for whom this anxiety and pain is still a reality. **From this incident, I learned that we should take care of ourselves in these times and we should help each other.**

I also realised the importance of family and how we take small joys of life for granted. No amount of money can buy us the happiness of being near our loved ones and knowing that they are safe.

Most importantly, we must not lose hope and must stay positive.



Greek Gods : Inspiring Us During Covid

By Gaurika Mehta, Grade 6, SNS Gurugram



Coronavirus has changed all of our lives. From the raging pandemic to new strains every 4 months or so, it's been a lot to handle. In these trying times, we need all the help we can get.

Greek figures have many attributes that can help us navigate these dark times. From music to family time, these deities have got us covered. Here are my top Greek gods/heroes that I feel are instrumental in winning this battle against Covid – 19.

1. **Athena** – One of my favourite Greek goddesses is



leading the way for herd immunity - we really need some good old Apollo magic!

Athena, the goddess of wisdom and warfare. You might know Ares, who is also a god of war, but Athena and him are quite different. She is the god of strategic war whereas Ares uses brute force.

Athena's method comes into play during this pandemic if you see it as a battle (which it is). Only with logical strategic thinking can we get through this time. Like wearing masks, social distancing, staying in and taking the vaccine as soon as it becomes available, something I know that Athena will approve of.

2. Apollo – One of the most dazzling gods! We know him as the Greek god of Sun, but his other pivotal role is as God of Medicine. During this April 2021 wave of Covid, Apollo has been putting us through major upheavals.

We have been in dire need of healthcare, oxygen, medicines, hospital beds. Finally with the vaccination drive kicking in and medicine



3. Orpheus – During Covid – 19, one source of our happiness and entertainment has been music! Through all our dark or happy times, music has always changed our mood for the





HESTIA

Some of “her” ideas could be playing board games, having movie nights, talking late into the night, having a family dance party, exercising together - all in all, it's great to spend quarantine the Hestia way!

better, and Orpheus is a literal representation of that. Being a lesser-known hero, you wouldn't think Orpheus had much impact, but that's where you're wrong.

Orpheus's music was celebrated throughout Ancient Greece – snakes would stop hissing, birds would stop chirping, animals stopped in their tracks just to hear him play his music. In these Corona times, music has helped many to keep on smiling - it just goes to show that music is a universal language.

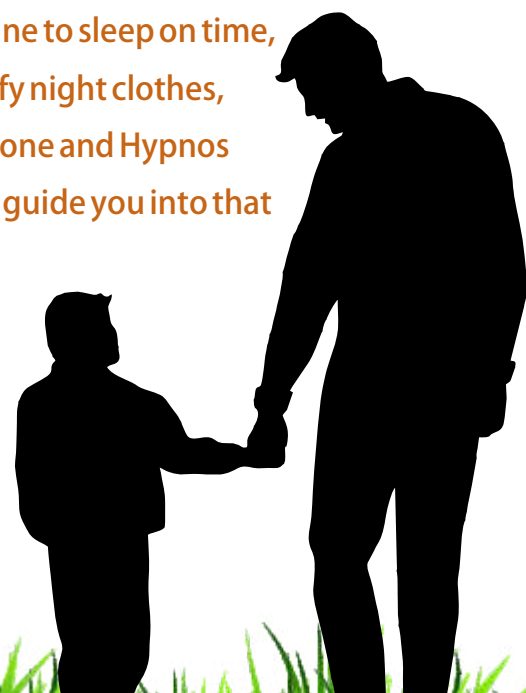
4. Hestia – One of the most important things in life is family. The Greek goddess Hestia is the goddess of hearth and home. She values her time with her fellow Olympians and she extends that to us.

Her loving and caring demeanour is really what we need during these uncertain times. Taking more clues from Hestia - actively and lovingly engaging with family is the need of the hour.



HYPNOS

5. Hypnos – Sleeping-in is definitely a favourite during this pandemic. Being the god of sleep, Hypnos has divine authority over it. For all you who stay up at night tossing and turning, now you know who to go to! Take Hypnos's help in this pandemic by having a discipline to sleep on time, get into those comfy night clothes, keep away your phone and Hypnos will most probably guide you into that dreamland.



Do you face trouble going to sleep?

By Gia Ganesh, Grade 7, SNS Gurugram



Have you ever experienced sad moments, particularly when you're about to sleep? **Do you ever feel depressed during the night? Do you ever think about negative thoughts; voices echoing in your head...** this feeling that you can't really get rid of? What are some causes, and their solutions?

Feelings of loneliness or isolation make things worse. If this is your case, **try talking to someone.** Someone you know that you can trust, or will understand what you're going through in these crucial times.



Drinking water may also help. When I have a lot of stress, I just take a sip of water and my stress gradually fades away.

The last cause may be when you think that you're not okay in life at all. You start to question your existence. Well, I have been there, and it feels so terrible, that I feel like I'll cry a river of tears.

Some people even choke during these whirlwinds of emotions, as they feel the sadness go deeper. But I want to say that it is ok! Don't try and hold back those tears. Let all those emotions out before it is too late.

Don't hold them back and pretend that you're fine when you really aren't. You yourself must pick up those broken pieces and make a beautiful picture again.

I am one of those people who thinks a lot at night, which keeps me from going to bed.

Putting on some soothing music or reading a book may help in taking a step back in life and walking slower. In fact, here I am, writing this essay at night!

Because this is the moment from the entire day where I can hear myself think and talk to me. I encourage you to write poems, essays, articles at night so that you can pour out those feelings, so you don't have to do them while you're trying to sleep.

In fact, not only writing, but singing, dancing, doing art... just doing the things that make you feel happy. Try exercising, doing yoga, staying hydrated, and trying meditation, because things like that can really bring out your inner peace.

Don't add any extra pressure on yourself, and try being the person who everyone else wants you to be. You have to be you and you only!



My love for books vs Kindle

By Rianna Mahajan, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



Books have always been my escape from the real world, I remember during boring periods in school I would slide my murder mystery or fantasy thriller in between my history textbook.

I would get in trouble for reading under the covers at 2 am, and sitting on my mom's lap while she read Cinderella for the tenth or twelfth time was pure bliss. I remember the feeling of getting a new book, smelling the pages and cracking the spine to that perfect amount, there is honestly no better feeling.

From planning, to entertainment, to even jotting down my thoughts, I am the type of person who does



almost everything on an iPad or phone, but for me you can't experience the true feeling of a book on a kindle.

During this lockdown my supply of books has been limited, and my mom has been urging me to download the kindle app and read a new book instead of re-reading my old ones for the tenth time, but I don't want my sweet escape to turn into more screen time.

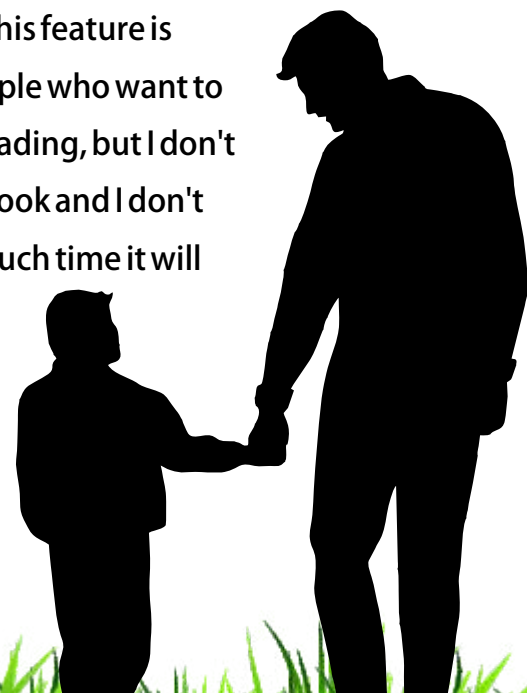
During last year's lockdown I picked up a kindle just to see what the excitement was all about and, in my opinion, I will always prefer books. After a while it did even not seem like a book, I did not get lost in the story like I usually did and it felt like I was reading a boring article that my dad had sent to me.

Kindle books are much cheaper and the usage of paper is less, it's much lighter and easier to carry around, for these reasons and more kindle may seem like a great option for someone who

has only even read their mandatory school novels. But for me, someone who has been reading before they could walk nothing can replace a book.

During this world where everything is digital books give me a sense of holding on to the past, and for me nothing can hold memories better than books. There are some amazing features that you can only experience on a kindle for example the built-in dictionary, but I would rather look through a dictionary or just search it up on google.

Me and my dad have this ongoing joke that I can finish a whole book while he is still on the first chapter, and for this reason he is probably the type of person who will like a kindle, not because it makes reading faster but it tells you how much you read in how long, this feature is great for a few people who want to track their exact reading, but I don't read to finish the book and I don't need to see how much time it will take to finish the





book or how much percentage of the book I have read.

To answer the question have we lost books to kindle, no we have not. There are still readers like me who appreciate the feeling of flipping pages instead of that dreadful swiping.

Some people find kindle as convenient as some people find paperback authentic. Today the amount of book readers to kindle readers is more and I really hope it stays like that in the future





What am i?

By Anika Seble, Grade 7, SNS Gurugram



I am the end , I am the beginning
I am the disease , I am the medicine

I am the pain, I am the relief
I am the atheist , I am the belief

I am the happy , I am the grief
I am the bandage , I am the knife
I am the death , I am the life

I am the first, I am the last
I am the present, I am the past
For I am the minority , And the vast.

This is what i am.



keep to themselves
So this is where my poem ends!

U should reveal it, is what my heart tells me to do
But my brain keeps warning me to not tell it to you
Should I listen to my heart? Is what question bothers me
If i tell then I would be free
No No I can't tell you, what if you betray me?
But, I don't even want my heart to grow even more heavy

Can you build your trust to that level that i could tell what I wish to say
But even if I tell you, will you understand what I wish to convey?
You have to prove that i can trust you
Then i might reveal what I want to say to a few

It feels as if I'm living in a place where I would exist and live in a cage
a cage that kept me captive for I wasn't free
a cage that made me think 'why was it me?'
This buried down truth is something no one can



Is India's West Coast Heading The Same Way As The Cyclonic East?

By Niharika, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



Tauktae was the strongest cyclone to hit Gujarat since 1998, the fifth-strongest cyclone ever in recorded history of the Arabian Sea, and one of the strongest cyclones to come in close proximity to Mumbai in 130 years.

With wind speeds of upto 170 kmph and occasional gusts of 185-190 kmph, as well as the latest addition to a list of unpredictable cyclones since Ockhi (2017), it underwent rapid intensification making it hard to predict how dangerous it was.

What has made the west coast of India suddenly so susceptible?



After all, cyclones are yearly occurrences in the Bay of Bengal. Mainly owing to:

1.The low pressure created by the ocean's warm water. The inflow of warm water from rivers like Ganga and Brahmaputra makes it further impossible to mix with the cooler water that lies below.

2.The absence of other landmasses between Pacific Ocean and the Bay of Bengal tends to push cyclonic winds into the coastal areas, causing heavy rainfall. The excess rainfall is accompanied by sluggish winds and warm air currents around it, which keep temperatures relatively high throughout the year.

3.The absence of air movements from North-West India towards the Bay during the post-monsoon season.

The Arabian Sea was much calmer as:

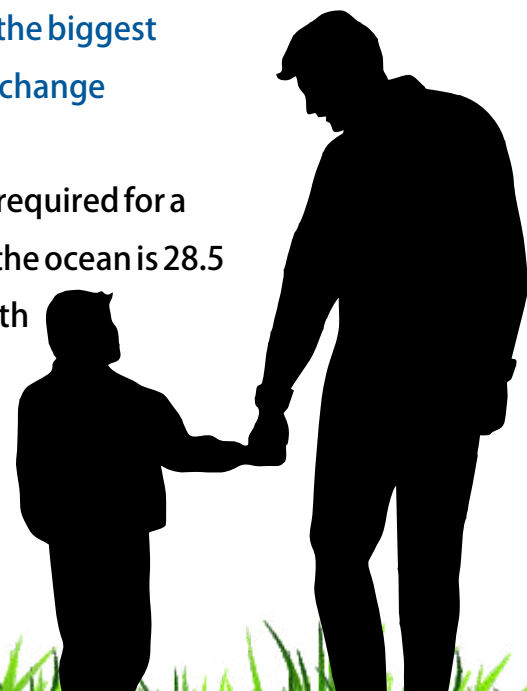
1.The stronger winds helped dissolve the heat, and the lack of constant fresh water (unlike the Bay of Bengal) helped the warm water to mix with the cool water underneath and reduce the surface temperature.

2.The Arabian Sea also enjoys a geographical advantage, as any strong winds from the Pacific Ocean have to encounter the Western Ghats and the Himalayas cutting down on its intensity before reaching it, and sometimes never reaching at all.

Collected information of 150-200 shows that for every four cyclones that the Bay of Bengal registers, the Arabian Sea registers just one, forming a 1:4 ratio. This ratio will soon change.

Global Warming – the biggest contributor to this change

-The average heat required for a cyclone to form in the ocean is 28.5 degrees celsius, with





the Bay of Bengal clocking in at 28 degrees. The Arabian Sea has been traditionally cooler, but now getting warmer due to the additional heat being released into the atmosphere.

-Not only will the warm water support more cyclones, the cyclones will also grow rapidly. Extremely Severe Cyclones like Fani (2019) and Amphan (2020) intensified too fast for people to prepare. A similar thing happened with Tauktae, but the IMD didn't see it coming, thus making its effects more dangerous.

Roxy Mathew Koll, a climate scientist, said the Arabian Sea registered the fastest warming rate among the tropical oceans. Its surface temperature has increased by 1.2 - 1.4 degrees celsius between 1982 and 2018.

This has resulted in an unusual number of cyclones in this circuit

In the past few decades, the average number of

storms to occur over the Arabian Sea, and the time of the year when they do, have both demonstrated a changing trend.

-There has been a 32% rise in the cyclones from 2014 to 2019. In 2018, while the Bay of Bengal maintained its average of four cyclones a year, the Arabian Sea gave rise to three instead of one. A year later it encountered 5.

-There were also only 5 extreme cyclones between 1998 and 2013. However, 2014 had Cyclone Nilofar, and 2015 had Cyclones Chapal and Megh, both in November.

-Vineet Kumar Singh, another researcher, also pointed out that this was only the second time since 1900 that a cyclone, which formed pre-monsoon period, had hit the Gujarat coast with a wind speed greater than 65 kmph.



Israel – Palestine war Why are they fighting?

By Ayaan Gupta, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



The Israel Palestine War has been one of the most defining conflicts in the last hundred years or so and it is again in the news recently. Every day we are hearing about violence and deaths on both sides.

It is amongst the first conflicts that UN tried to solve and, since then, many countries have tried to broker peace but to no avail. But what is this conflict about and what makes it so long-lasting and seemingly unsolvable?

To answer that question, let's do a quick tour of



the British started ruling Palestine themselves and between 1920 and 1939 they encouraged Jewish migration to Palestine from all over Europe, such that by 1939, Jews comprised 30% of the population (up from 3%).

history, starting at the end of the 19th century. During that time, the Ottoman Empire ruled over modern-day Israel/Palestine and it had around 87% Muslims, 10% Christians and 3% Jews.

To the Israelis this was the beginning of their nation and to the Palestinians this was “Nakba”, or the Catastrophe, as they became stateless.

Everyone lived peacefully together! Around the same time, there was a big nationalist movement in Europe where everyone in the Austro-Hungarian empire wanted their own country.

At that time a Jewish journalist named Theodor Herzl proposed that Jews also needed their own country outside of Europe (concept of Zionism was born).

Then in 1914, World War 1 started and in 1917 the British government, to gain support of the Jewish people in the war, issued the Balfour declaration wherein they promised “The Establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people”. After they won the war,

The proposed UN Plan





OSLO ACCORDS

In 1967, Israel and several Arab states went to war again – the 6 day war. **Israel won the war again and gained control of a far larger territory than it initially occupied.**



Land occupied by Israel after 6 days war

In 1964, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was formed by Yasser Arafat which fought for establishing a Palestinian state. By

the late 1980s, they launched the first Intifada (protests) which led to a lot of violence and subsequently to the founding of Hamas – a militant right-wing movement for Palestinian liberation.

This violence was followed by peace talks between the two sides – **Israel and PLO -- which led to the Oslo Accords between 1993 to 1995. This was based on the UN 2-state solution and is the closest that the two sides have come to a permanent resolution.**

Unfortunately, this did not work out and subsequently Hamas came into power in Palestine after Yasser Arafat's death. **Meanwhile Israelis have been setting up colonies in the West Bank, whereas Palestinians continue to live in parts of West Bank and Gaza strip governed in parts by Hamas and the PLO.**

In short, more than any religious conflict, this is a war where 2 groups of people are fighting for their right to live themselves.



Israel – Palestine war Long Drawn and Sanguinary Conflict

By Kashika Dhingra, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



Israel is the world's only Jewish state, located just east of the Mediterranean Sea. **Palestinians**, the Arab population that hails from the land Israel now controls, refer to the territory as Palestine, and want to establish a state by that name on the same land. The conflict is over which one gets control over what land.



(behind only Iran, Pakistan, and North Korea).

-What are the two-state solution and one-state solution?

The current political conflict began in the mid-20th century. Jews fleeing from the torment and extreme anti-Semitism in Europe wanted to establish a home, that is when they arrived in the Arab-Muslim occupied territory.

The Arabs resisted, seeing that the land was rightfully theirs.

An early united nations plan was to divide the land, giving a home to the Jewish population whilst not taking the land away from Arabs and Muslims. This plan most definitely failed; hence the two major wars took place, one of them waged in 1948 and the other 1967.

Non-Muslim countries recognize Israel's legitimacy and maintain diplomatic relations with it, but most are critical of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians and ongoing occupation of the West Bank. Israel is extremely unpopular worldwide. In one BBC poll of 22 countries, Israel was the fourth-most-disliked nation

The two-state and one-state solutions are the only legitimate solutions to this conflict in the foreseeable future.

The two-state solution is the more mainstream solution, with the policy being that Israel and Palestine will be independent states, like the before mentioned plan formatted by the United Nations.

The idea of having two different states is most understandable since both the Jewish population and the Palestinian want to run their countries differently and this option will satisfy both.

The one-state solution although is controversial. According to this solution, this would



merge Israel, the Gaza strip as well as the West Bank into one big country.

What is the Israel-Palestine peace process?

The Israel Palestine peace process is an American-mediated effort to bring the two populations to have a peace treaty and finally end this conflict. The goal is a “final status agreement,” which would establish a Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank in exchange for Palestinians agreeing to permanently end attacks on Israeli targets — a formula often called “land for peace.”

Despite the failure of the peace-process in 2001, the general “land for peace” framework remains the dominant American and international approach to solving the conflict.

This process however for now is not successful due to three main reasons.

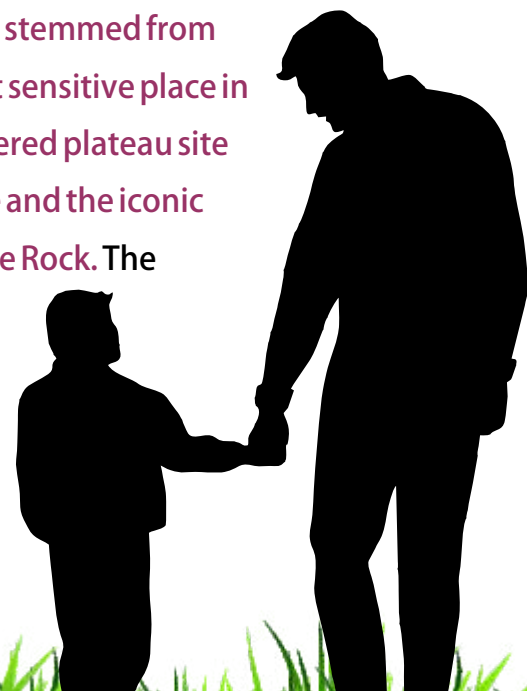
1) Firstly, Israel continues to expand their territory which the Palestinians see as a de facto campaign to erase the Palestinian state outright.

2) Secondly, the Palestinians fail to make unified decisions as a nation because of their own political divide between the Fatahs and Hamas.

3) Third and lastly, its not clear how to begin communication between the two. Both the governments are skeptical whether the other is serious about the peace treaty or using it as a sabotage on the terms and conditions in fine print.

Considering Recent News

“This week, the world witnessed mayhem in the Middle East, which stemmed from clashes at the most sensitive place in Jerusalem, the revered plateau site of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the iconic golden Dome of the Rock. The clashes were a



Hopefully this long-drawn conflict comes to an end very, very soon and no more lives are lost.

I insist you should consider helping in any way possible, use social media platforms and most importantly, your voice to speak up.

reminder of the bloody seven-week war, which killed over 2,000 Palestinians, including hundreds of civilians, and greatly destroyed Gaza's infrastructure.

In the latest escalation of the conflict between Israel and the Hamas, which has killed at least 48 Palestinians in Gaza, including 14 children and three women, Israeli airstrikes toppled most of a massive high-rise building in central Gaza City and killed a string of senior Hamas military figures."

As you have read above, chaos is only escalating, more and more peace-loving civilians are being injured and killed.

This is what war creates- mayhem and innocent lives being taken away.

Those martyred civilians had done nothing to support or cause the war, yet they were murdered by the hatred anyway.



Israel – Palestine war

By Rianna Mahajan, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



A year after India's independence, the world's most intractable war started when one group of refugees found a much-needed home, but in the process, another group of refugees was created.

The war between Israel and Palestine would be remembered as the war of independence in Hebrew and as the catastrophe in Arabic.

To completely understand how it all started we need to go back in time to the 19th century. There was one



This region also had several tribes one controlled by Jews with whom started the Zionist movement – calling the Jews to establish a homeland in Palestine. This was the time when most of the region's residents were Arabs.

big land known as Palestine, within this region are areas, including Jerusalem, that are sacred to three major religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

After World War 1 (Early 20th Century) happened – Britain took administrative control over Palestine. And with their support, a large number of Jews immigrated to this region, much-fleeing persecution in Europe.

The Palestinians now living there did not like this and war soon broke out. During the wars, Israel took land from the Arabs, that land included two parts of Palestine, the west bank and the Gaza strip.

In 1948 the United Nations partitioned Palestine, allocating about half the land to the Palestinian Arabs and about half to the Jews to create the new state of Israel. The neighboring Arab countries attacked





the new nation as soon as it was proclaimed. In the resulting war, Israel captured about 50 percent more land, while Jordan and Egypt occupied the rest of the region. Some Palestinians started a movement to take back Palestine.



In 1964 they started the Palestine liberation organization or PLO. In the Six-Day War of 1967, Israel occupied East Jerusalem, the West Bank (territory west of the Jordan River), the Gaza Strip (along the Mediterranean coast northeast of the Sinai Peninsula), and the Golan Heights (in the upper Jordan River valley). Throughout the 1960s '70s and 80's the PLO launched frequent guerilla attacks against Israel.

In 1988 PLO declared Palestine as an independent state but Israel declined to recognize the PLO. Finally, in the 1990s, Israel and Palestine's leaders started to discuss a peaceful solution for Palestine, and Palestine Self-Rule was brought in.

In September 1995 another peace agreement was signed, and Israel began withdrawing their troops from the towns and cities on the west bank. One group of Palestinians, in particular, opposed the peace talks. The group, called Hamas, did not



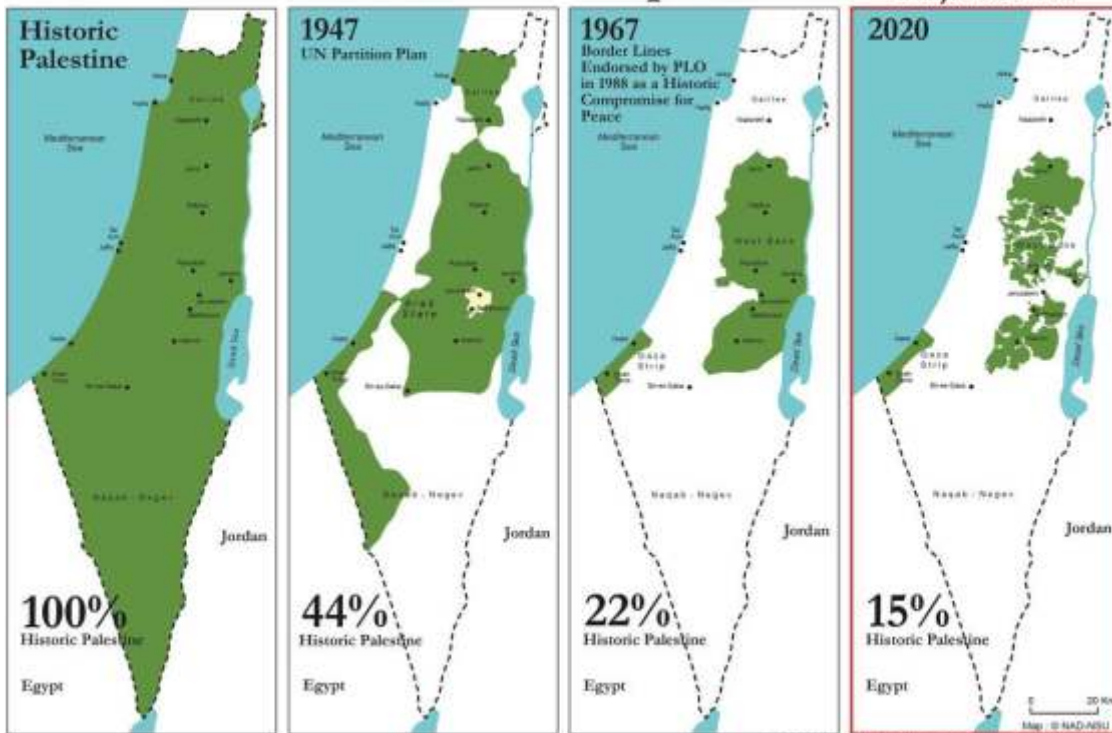


thousands of Israelis and Palestinians were killed or left injured.

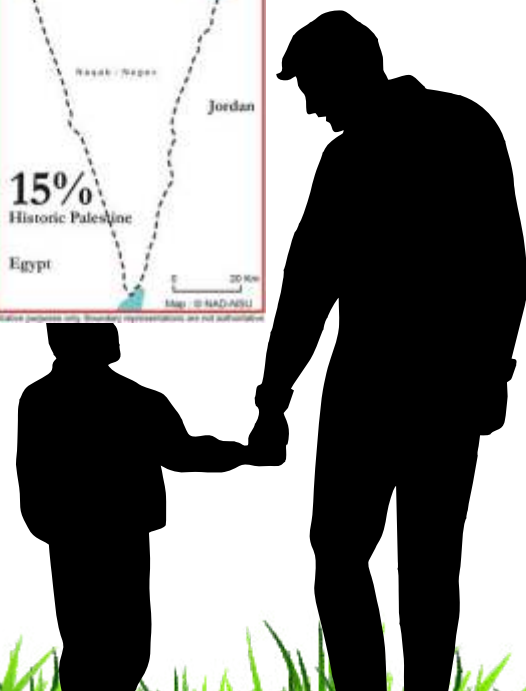
Eventually, by 2012 a resolution was passed by the intervention of the UN, Israel and Palestinians resumed negotiation towards a two-state solution.

believe that Israel had a right to exist. It continued to fight the Israelis as well as the Palestinians who wanted to work with Israel.

The Palestinians Historic Compromise



In the year 2000, Palestinian self-rule faltered, and the peace process collapsed. Then and there on no final peace agreement could be negotiated, following which Palestinian suicide bombings and violence intensified, and



Myanmar Protests-2021

By Devyaani Siddhartha, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



How tomorrow presents itself to us depends on the choices that we make today.

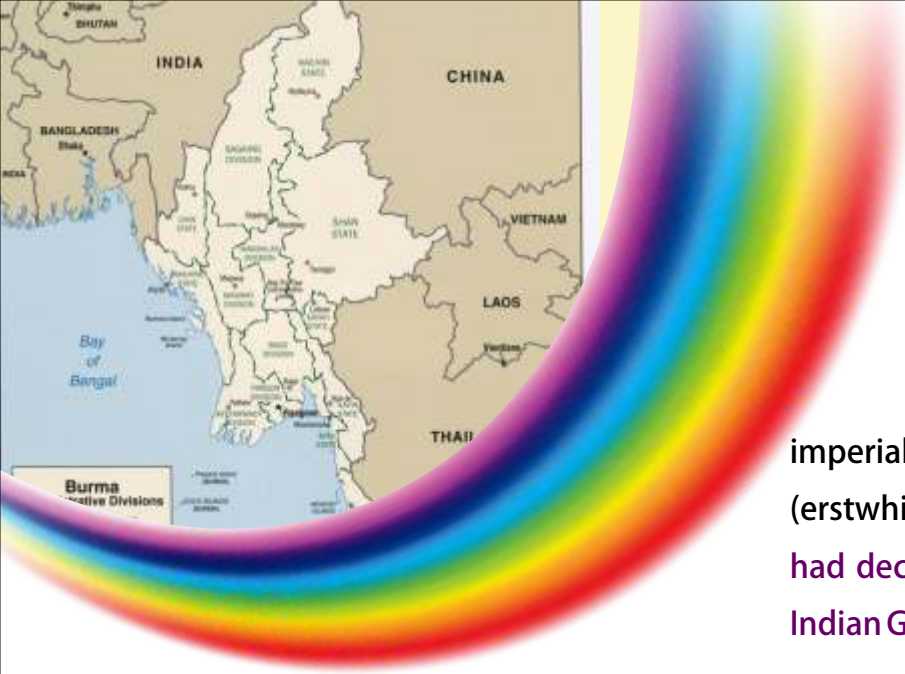
Every occurrence of today is based on a certain context from the past. So, to understand the complex history and current events of Myanmar, we must dig into the archives and continuously keep cross-referencing to the current developments.

Let us begin by looking at the geographical setting of Myanmar.

This country is bordered by China to the north and northeast. Laos to the east, Thailand to the



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imperial British regime also had an eye on Burma (erstwhile name of Myanmar). **By 1886, the British had declared Burma as a part of the Royal British Indian Government.**

This country is bordered by China to the north and northeast. Laos to the east, Thailand to the southeast, Bangladesh to the west, and India to the northwest. **Majorly, the two powerful neighbors of this country have been India and China.**

The geography indicates that Myanmar must be having cultural and ideological influence from both the Indian, Thai as well as the Chinese side.

India and Thailand have never been the main influence on Myanmar since these countries do not have an imperialist mind.

A little background story: Now let me introduce you to a brief history of Myanmar from the late 18th century to the current times.

In the late 18th century, the British were consolidating their control over the Indian subcontinent. This logically meant that the

Years passed, and the western world was marred with two militarily as well as financially devastating World Wars. By the year 1937, the British colonial power was already suffering a lot of opposition from the Indian nationalists, and they realized that they may not hold control over India for a long time. **Therefore, they separated Burma from the Indian government and declared Burma a separate Crown colony.**

At the same time, as the British were enhancing their imperial ambitions in south Asia, another imperialist regime, **Japan was expanding its influence from the eastern side.**





AUNG SAN

VUCA CHRONICLES

Independence Army, trained by the Japanese. In this power struggle, Aung San and his supporters were assassinated by ultra-nationalists.

In 1942, Japan, with the help of the Japanese trained Burmese Independence Army (comprising of Burma's indigenous nationalists) defeated the British regime and established Japanese control over Burma. This trade-off, unfortunately, was offered to the Burmese one foreign Empire in exchange for another. The locals were still disappointed.

In 1945, a local political party AFPFL (Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League), led by Aung San, with support from the British, overthrew the Japanese government. At the same time, Japan was bombed by the US (Hiroshima Nagasaki atomic bombing).

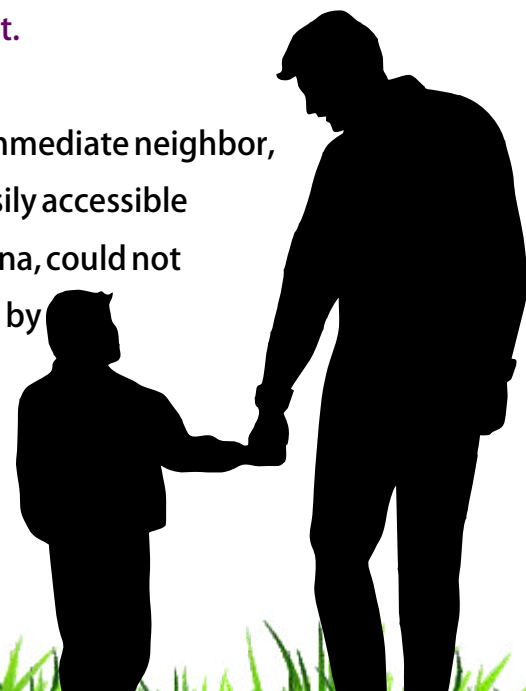
This checked the Japanese imperialist designs, removing Japan completely from the international arena, and in this case, from Myanmar's stage. This left Myanmar with two major sets of ideological opponents, the British-backed Aung San faction and the Nationalists who were originally a part of the Burmese

In 1947, a man, U Nu, who was the foreign minister during the Japanese rule became the leader of AFPFL.

In 1948, Burma was declared independent by the British.

At the same time, in the year 1949, the larger north-eastern neighbor, China, declared itself independent under the leadership of Mao Zedong and declared the formation of the People's Republic of China. In the subsequent years, China progressed phenomenally and developed an expansionist imperialist mindset.

Burma, being an immediate neighbor, sharing a large, easily accessible boundary with China, could not remain untouched by





the Chinese political ideas.

In the absence of Japan, China strategically introduced its socialist mindset in the Burmese mind. Now we can see that the Burmese political stage had the following players - The Western-influenced, pro-democratic faction and the Chinese influenced ultra-Nationalist groups (mostly the military).

Current Scenario:

Since independence, the power struggle in Burma has mostly been between the British/Western-influenced, pro-democratic groups, currently led by Aung San Suu Kyi (Aung San's daughter) and the military rulers who claim to have an ultra-Nationalist stand, but, seem to be highly influenced by the powerful northern neighbor, China.

On several occasions, the elected Governments have been ousted by the military generals, who

have ruled the country for most of the period, in the name of Nationalism and establishing proper Law and Order. This can be seen by how the Military rulers, changed the name of the country from Burma to the locally popular Myanmar and the capital from Rangoon to Yangon in 1989.

On several occasions, Aung San Suu Kyi was put under house arrest for long periods and was occasionally released due to domestic as well as international pressure. In 1991, she won the Nobel Peace Prize, while being under house arrest.

In April 2016, Aung San Suu Kyi won the election and became the country's leader. She remained the country's leader till March 2021, when once more, the country's military ousted her government and put her and her other ministers under detention and declared their government.





assert and influence relatively smaller, poorer, and weaker countries and cultures. Frontline players may be different, stages may be different, ideologies may be different, however the mindset to dominate and expand remains the same.

The entire country, especially the youth, rebelled against this military coup. People emerged on the streets in thousands in support of their democratically elected leaders and against the forced, hard-handed military rule.

These protests were brutally crushed by the military. Hundreds of civilians died, and thousands have been arrested. Internet and telephone lines have been banned for a long time. Press freedom has been curtailed.

All this development has been criticized extensively throughout the world and western countries have imposed several sorts of financial sanctions against the military government.

Let us wait and watch towards which direction Myanmar is heading.

The story of Myanmar tells us how powerful international countries and civilizations try to



MYANMAR PROTESTS-2021

By Mayur Prajapati, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



Myanmar which is formally known as Burma is in the mainland of Southeast Asia. Myanmar is bordered with Thailand, Laos, china, India, and Bangladesh and has a coastline on the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

The history of Myanmar reflects the early settlements of humans around 13,000 years ago. India and Myanmar have cordial relationship with each other. Both countries share much in common, such as culture, history, religious ties etc.

Maintaining relationship with India helps Myanmar economically and military wise. Myanmar is officially



The country has faced a lot of turmoil in the past. This had happened because of the unstable politics of Myanmar, regular conflict between military and civilians.

recognised as a democratic country though it has often been ruled by the military dictatorship.

2021 coupe is not 1st time Myanmar faced this crisis, military has overthrown civilian government earlier too. From 1962 to 2011 Myanmar was under direct military rule or under one party system (Burma Socialist Programme Party) which was headed by military dictatorship, this period was from 1974 to 1988.

On 8 Aug 1988 students of various universities stood together and arrived on road to protest the military dictatorship, this was also known "8888 Uprising".

This movement started by students but later got support from monks and other professionals like doctors etc. Many people lost their lives in this protest.

Hardly a decade was ruled by civilian government from 2011 to 2021. On 1st day of February 2021 once again military had ones again overthrown democratically elected government and established military rule. Military accuses popular leader Aung san suu kyi (She also received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991) that she rigged general election and won it by fraud though there are no such proofs provided by military rulers.

There are two main political parties participated in election. National League of Democracy (NLD) which is headed by Aung san suu kyi while the other is Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). It's said that the USDP has military power behind it. When the 2011 elections



the control over the country and declared one-year state of emergency with Burma's commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Min Aung Hlaing as the leader of the country, serving as the chairman of state administrative council.

happened NLD sailed with victory. At that time even though the country started with Democracy, the military didn't want to lose their authority and supremacy and still holding a lot of power.

Aung san suu kyri did not like the military's role in politics so she was planning to reduce the military's power from the government and politics.

The military didn't like her decisions, so they went going against it. In 2015 elections, NLD gained the victory again, this made the military very nervous. They were now left with no option but to remove Aung san suu kyri from the position by the coup.

She is currently in-house arrest. The military replied the United Nations (UN) saying that NLD had rigged the elections and won. Currently investigations are going on as there was no prove for it. Now they have proceeded to take

Just like 8888 Uprising events, again in 2021, protests emerged across the country against of military's 2021 coupe. 700 plus people already lost their lives and thousands of people detained. Public of Myanmar are not willing to give up this time and international community too are with democratic elected government.

India has good relations with Myanmar's army as well as support democratic elected government too. United States, United Kingdom and china are too having close watch on these developments. Army declared that they will keep power for 1 year and have free and fair re-election to have democratically elected government again.



HONG KONG CONFLICT

By Prisha, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



What is the Hong Kong conflict?

The relation between the people of Hong Kong and China has been strained since the early 2000's. The factors contributing to this are the different ways the people interpret the policies of one country, two systems and the policies of the Hong Kong and the central Government to encourage more visitors from Mainland China and also because of the change in the economic environment and how cities in China have overshadowed Hong Kong.

Hong Kong was ruled by the Qing dynasty of China till 1842, after that China was forced to concede the



island to the British Empire, the island later expanded to include the Kowloon Peninsula. From 1941 to 1945, the country was occupied by the Japanese Empire.

In 1972, the People's Republic of China demanded that Hong Kong be removed from the list of Non-Self Governing Territories in the United Nations, thus stripping Hong Kong of its independence.

Hong Kong currently has its own judiciary and separate legal system from Mainland China and these rights include freedom of assembly and speech, although these freedoms expire in 2047 and Hong Kong's status would change then.

Parallel Business: Since 2012, there has been an increase in mainland parallel traders, which is the sale of goods cross-border, from northern parts of Hong Kong to import and export goods to the mainland. The products that were sold

the most were infant formula and household products; this was because of a shortage of milk powder in Hong Kong for an extended time.

Protests in 2019 and 2020: Many protests took place during mid 2019 and beginning of 2020 against an extradition bill that perceived all people who opposed official policy would be transferred to mainland China. People of Hong Kong feared that this new bill could undermine judicial independence and jeopardise the lives of the dissidents, who were people who opposed the law.

The protestors had five demands them being, not to characterise the protests as riots, grant an official pardon to the arrested protesters, an independent inquiry into alleged police brutality, execution of universal suffrage or universal adult franchise which meant, all people above 18 would have the right to vote. Their last demand was withdrawal of the bill which has been fulfilled.



Candle making

By Avanie Chaudhary, Grade 7, SNS Gurugram



•The most critical step and also the one where you got to be most careful is to melt the wax. This should ideally be done under adult supervision, because it involves a double boiler.

Water has to be heated in a large pan. Once water is boiling hot, place the wax gel in a bowl and place it on the water. Ensure you do not immerse the wax bowl inside the water because hot water may come splashing over you or inside the wax.

Once the wax starts to melt, stir it lightly first and



Keep everything ready like in the picture and then pour the wax in the jar.

then vigorously to help it melt. It has to come to a smoothly pouring consistency.

You can also create coloured wax, by adding food colouring as the wax is melting. I have added some confetti as well for brightening up the candle and making it look like a muffin.

That was about the look. To add fragrance to the candle, add any aroma oil of your choice once the wax is fully melted. I love lavender.

2. Once the wax is fully melted and of pouring consistency, the important thing is to handle the wick properly, otherwise it will not go through and through the whole candle and then the candle will not work properly.



You can choose to sprinkle confetti over the jar as well for a more finished look, depending on the theme of the candle. This one here in the picture is a lemon scented candle.





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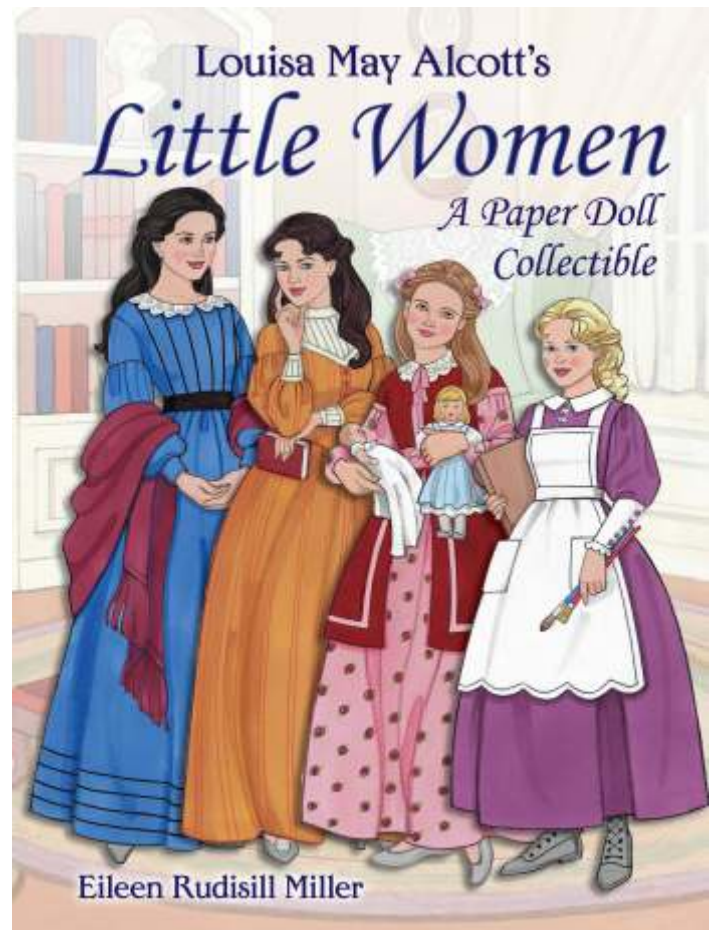
Here is the final product... use as you please at home or to gift to your loved ones. I gifted these to my mother for Mother's Day.



Volatile **U**ncertain **C**omplex **A**mbiguous

Little Women

By Nethra Subramony, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



Little Women was written by Louisa May Alcott, an American Novelist. Originally it was published in two volumes in 1868 and 1869 respectively.

Louisa May Alcott believed in feminism, but was still hesitant to write a novel about girls, which could have a widespread negative response. She sent her first few chapters to her publisher Thomas Niles,



both of them agreed it wasn't up to the mark. But Niles' niece read them and enjoyed it very much. They showed these chapters to a few more girls, who agreed and said it was splendid. Encouraged by their reactions, Alcott continued writing.

Little Women is set in New England, Boston specifically, during the American Civil War. **The story is about the domestic lives of the March family, as the four girls and their mother struggle to make ends meet, and how they survive during hard times.**

The four sisters: Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy, struggle with poverty and see their other well-off friends get what they want in the blink of an eye.

Little Women is the story of all the girls' 15 years of life after their teen years. Each girl has an imaginary 'castle' for herself. The 'castle' is their hopes, dreams and goals for life. **Meg aspired to**

be an actor, marry a good man and settle down. She was gentle, sweet-natured and beautiful.

After she married Mr. Brooke, her neighbor Laurie Laurence's tutor, she understood she couldn't get whatever she wants. **Jo desperately wanted to be a writer**, she develops her skills in time, but she genuinely knew she really wanted to be writer only after she wrote for her sister Beth.

Beth was the icon of selflessness and kindness. She only desires to live with her family, and play her piano. She however later contracts scarlet fever.

Amy was the 'drama queen', her fatal flaw was vanity. She desired to marry a rich man, become a renounced painter and have a place in the society and be rich and wealthy. But in the end all the sisters realized that family is the most important thing.

No amount of money can buy you the happiness of a family.





VUCA

CHRONICLES

"I'd rather take coffee than compliments just now"
~Louisa May Alcott

The March household is tied with a bond which is unbreakable, with the warmth of the glowing flame of the March family which can't be put out in the most challenging of situations.

I think Little Women is a great read. **Alcott has described everything in detail. This book was written in a time when women weren't completely accepted in the society.**

All of them thought that women were only fit for looking pretty, marrying and bearing children. A woman writing a book was almost sacrilege.

This book tells us the importance of family and friends, even following your dreams, and being not just a thinker but even a doer. Louisa May Alcott has channeled her thoughts exquisitely, it is a treasured classic.



Volatile **U**ncertain **C**omplex **A**mbiguous

Sparrow

By Pratyaksha Agrawal, Grade 8, SNS Gurugram



“So small and brown, almost breakable, but so strong. Tiny but mighty…” The book Sparrow is about a 14 year old Afro-American girl named Sparrow. She is a typical introverted and reserved teen who would rather prefer to hide in the bathroom stall and eat her lunch.

Sparrow has a very tricky and complicated relationship with her mother, who is all neat and tidy and is dead set on making Sparrow some friends.



SARAH MOON

book.

But of all her introverted nature she has a special spot for Mrs. Wexler, the librarian who lets Sparrow sit with her in the library during the lunch time, the library is like a refuge from the outside world.

Sparrow has always been fascinated by the birds; her attempt to fly free like the birds is mistaken as a suicide attempt which ends her up having sessions with Dr.Katz.

As if these sessions weren't bad enough Mrs. Wexler tragically dies due to a car accident. Leaving her all alone in this complicated world.

This book is very inspirational especially if you are a young adult trying to discover your true self and trying to make it through these typically hard teenage years.

However, I do feel this book might be too emotional for sensitive teens. So I would not recommend the preteens under 11 to read this





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