

WHERE WE ARE

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NEEV TIMES

By looking only at where we wish to be, we forget where we are. This artwork depicts how ambition turns to greed when we focus only on our goals and lose sight of reality. It is not simply the end that matters, but the means as well. We can only truly reflect on the implications of our actions when we understand

where we are.
Kabir Basu, G9

Leadership Speak

Entering this year, we looked back with intelligence and care in acknowledging the presence of the pandemic within each of us. Guided by this, we continue to seek the constantly evolving and growing image of the child.

After two years, we welcomed school life returning to normalcy for all grades. Nurturing thinking with the whole-child approach has been our focus for this year. Promoting a culture that ensures children are given time (embedded in your calendars and timetables) to develop interests and learn wider skills while still rigorously engaged and challenged academically.



Through the year, however, we saw casual attitudes toward participation and learning interfering with holistic development. We asked ourselves, is this the impact of the pandemic and online learning? How can we help?

We recognize the focus on learner relationships (with people and the environment) to be the greatest need. Participation provides stimulation and joy. When we seek together we stretch each other and are valued within a group of peers who can be mutually supportive to improve performance.

Seeing students through the year grasp the opportunity to participate and compete in experiences from debates to sports to hackathons shows our community's persevering resilience and passion. I hope as we return for the new year, we can leap more immersively into action, giving always our best.

Miss Shanthi Raghunath, Associate Director

From the Editor's Desk



'Where We Are' forms a dynamically confusing concept for me as I sit on the mezzanine layer between school and college. Physically, I am a bit of a nomad; emotionally and intellectually, I have never been more profoundly confused. Yet I have also never been happier. Such sentiment, I know, is shared very deeply by my classmates. So in my last ever piece, in our last ever year, I want to honor that. As you move through school, the looming intensity of graduation feels clearer and clearer, but I think this idea only sheds its abstraction very late. The last six months have been very different for us as a class. Unifying and strengthening in a sense we never saw before. We chose to slow down at a time telling us to run only faster.

At Neev, we hear far too of Dumbledore's quote to Harry, "It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities". As I sit writing this piece between two exams, I can say with confidence, the choices of the people around me have made me who I am. I invite you here to answer, what choices can you make to better shape yourself and the people around you? Where are you?

Noor Sabharwal, Chief Editor 2022-23, G12

Begum Rokeya Writing Prize

Writing starts with an unanswered question. It clarifies thinking, embeds ideas in the world, and creates vehicles to change reality. Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain was born in 1880 in Bangladesh but dreamed of living out of Purdah in a more equal world. Denied a formal education, Rokeya learnt English from her brother. Sultana's dream, written in 1905, was Rokeya's first short story, a sci-fi utopia, rendering real the possibility of women being in charge, a reversal unimaginable in a reality steeped in male dominance. Her flight into fantasy was a revelatory one; she underscored how the toleration of suffering enables its persistence. Rokeya's distinctive literary style of creativity, rationality and humour made her message more effective via poems, short stories, essays, novels and satirical writing.

Writing has many purposes; to inform, to entertain, to explain, to persuade, to express feelings, to explore an idea, to evaluate, to mediate, to problem solve, or argue for or against an idea. There are many ways to achieve a writing purpose; choosing the correct form, the correct language, the style, and organization. In a world of social media, and incomplete language, powerful writers influence in a way little else can.

And the winner is...

Riya Bopanna



Scan the QR to continue reading.

"Ding, ding, ding" My alarm shattered the silence of my poster-infested room. Following my usual morning routine I muttered a few grumbling words before returning back to sleep. I wanted to spend a precious few minutes in slumberland before my mother's prodding would push me back into reality. All of a sudden a voice reached out and grabbed me "Would it kill her to wake up once in a while?". It was my mother's voice. "What did you just say?" I demanded groggily. A puzzled look crossed my mother's face. "Nothing," she replied. "I was just going to wake you up". As a 12-year-old opinionated sleep-obsessed girl I wasn't surprised my mom sometimes thought that about me. But usually, she was better at hiding it. When I went downstairs for breakfast I knew something was wrong. "I have to tell Veda I can't drive her to school today, she has to take the school bus" my dad's voice announced. "Wait, why can't you drive me?" I shot back. My dad's face twisted into the same puzzled look my mom had sported sometime back. "How did you know I could not drive you?" my dad asked curiously "And are you feeling ok? You don't look too well". I gazed at my parent's concerned faces. "It must be all the late-night TV she's watching" I heard my mother say. But her lips never moved. Then, as I stood frozen in the kitchen, it struck me...

The Begum Rokeya writing prize encourages students to find their own distinctive style, develop creativity, form well informed arguments, explore ideas, and become strong writers. In a digital world with its efficient travel, we become tourists of knowledge. But research suggests that even as we learn something in short digital form, "it often does not take root, information bits hanging by themselves, accessible but often lonely". Reading and writing are the misunderstood twins that achieve clarity. Strong readers make strong writers. Strong writers raise questions that raise more questions; isn't that why the word question starts with the word quest? Writing is a powerful quest that we hope many Neev students will undertake with skills, joy, and purpose. As Begum Rokeya did. This is an individual award where middle school students were expected to write an essay on a narrative or argumentative prompt.

Miss Parull Khanna, Head - Student Advancement Cell



Student Voice

Our world, our country, is full of people
trying to be extraordinary.
But, wait, what's so wrong with being
ordinary?

We the ordinary people can rectify our
problems
We the ordinary people can rebuild the
broken structures
We the ordinary people can reinvent the
broken ideas
We the ordinary people can manage
ourselves
We the ordinary people can vote for
whoever we want
We the ordinary people can imagine wild
and high
We the ordinary people can work as a
community
We the ordinary people can make the world
a better place

Why do we hesitate to be among the
ordinary?

Avika Sharma, G5A

Heatwaves Kill Millions of Fish by *Anezka Iris Sequeria, G3A*

On 17th March this year, Australia's second longest river, the Darling-Baaka in Menindee, had millions of dead fish in it. Caused by a heatwave that led the oxygen levels to drop in the river and receding water after flooding, this is a major catastrophe. But nobody is taking any action.

Since the river was used for basic needs like bathing, washing, and fishing, the local community is badly impacted. It is really disappointing that no one, not even the government was taking action about this problem, even though it has happened before.

Before climate change and heat waves affect the whole world, we as communities can do our bit to stop it. For example, we can buy electric vehicles. When people cut trees it reduces the amount of oxygen and cool air so we can avoid using too many things that are made from wood. This way, we can create a ripple effect everywhere, and finally, everyone can save Mother Earth.

Read more about this issue by scanning the QR code above. Happy reading :)



What can India learn from India by *Ira Singh Kapany, G3A*

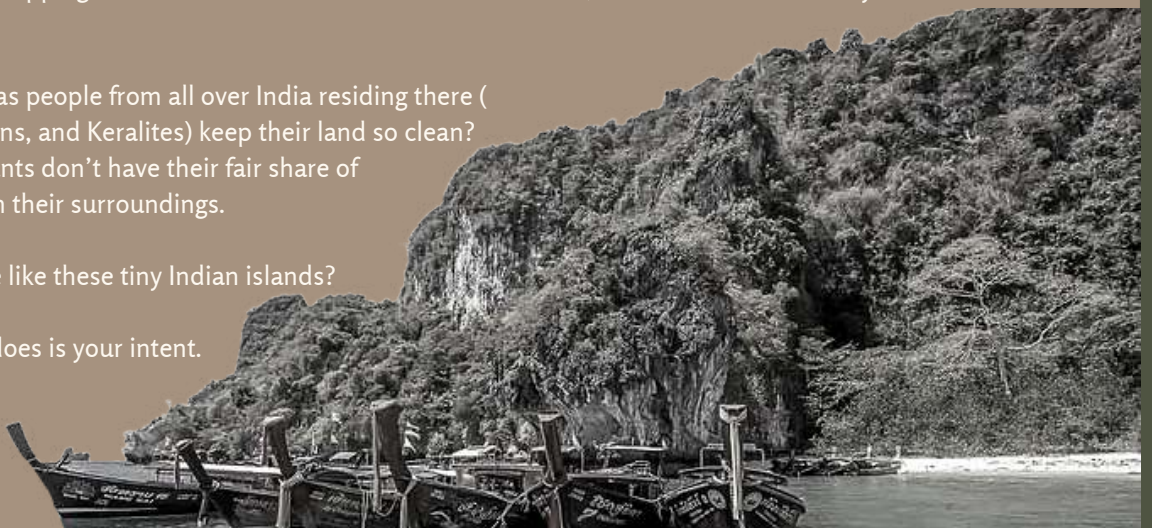
In the recent spring break, I visited the islands of Andaman & Nicobar, a group of tiny islands 1,300 km from mainland India. What caught my eye the moment I landed was that the islands were so clean and green. Not a single piece of trash was seen anywhere. The roads and shopping areas were well maintained. On the beaches, the water was absolutely clean. This got me thinking.

How can an island which has people from all over India residing there (Punjabis, Bengalis, Tamilians, and Keralites) keep their land so clean?
It's not that these inhabitants don't have their fair share of problems yet they maintain their surroundings.

Why can't our mainland be like these tiny Indian islands?

Size doesn't matter, what does is your intent.

I hope India learns from
India.



Student Voice

Technology,
A boon or a bane,
As I ask myself once again,
Through the years,
I have watched in tears,
It's negative impact on us,
Though it's bad, it's a must,
People say technology,
A boon or a bane,
As I look at it in pain,
Sometimes pouring positive impacts,
And sometimes distracts.
I don't know if this debate will ever
end,
But I do know technology can
comprehend,
So with this,
Technology, a boon or a bane,
How can we be responsible with this,
Once again?
We could limit our time,
And it would be fine,
We could seek help,
And it would be dealt,
Stop sharing passwords,
And your privacy sharing would be
shattered.
Technology a boon or a bane,
I ask myself once again!

Vihan Sharma, G5C

The Deaf Village by *Bhumi Bhandari, G5B*

Have you heard of a deaf village? Well, in the heart of Bali, Indonesia, the village of Benkala exists.

The people of this village are nearly all deaf because of a genetic disorder. For more than six generations, people of the village have been born deaf. A recessive gene, DFNB3, was identified by scientists to be causing the deafness.

However, instead of losing hope, the people of Benkala have designed and adapted their lives. Devising an indigenous sign language called Kata Kolok (translating literally to deaf talk), they now learn and talk in sign.

They also express themselves through crafts. Women are employed in craft centers to produce handmade textiles through traditional looms. The center attracts tourists who come to watch performances of a dance called Janger Kolok or watch Kolok martial arts.

In our large modern world, it is important to learn about communities in underprivileged environments working to adapt their differences. Benkala's creativity makes a difference. We must learn from such innovation to better our world. This is 'Where We Are', but we can go much further.



★ R K Narayan Reading Growth Award for PYP ★

Announced in December 2022, participating students worked in pairs to read a total of 15 books, fill up reading logs, and participate in related activities. They interacted with three authors through the journey. The finals were held in the format of a quiz in February 2023.

1. **First place:** Anezka Sequeira and Ayaan Gupta from Grade 3A
2. **Second place:** Advita R P and Anaya Jayanti from Grade 2A

Here's a reflection by **Venpa Senthamil, G2B**: Our school conducted a reading competition, R K Narayan Reading Growth Award. I participated in this competition and my friend Atharva was my partner. In the competition, the goal was to read 15 books in 2 months. Atharva and I put a lot of effort into reading all the books, doing the activities, and we even prepared flash cards for the semi-finals. Then, one day, my dad told me that I didn't make it to the semi-finals. I felt so sad and dejected and even cried a lot. Then after a few days, I reflected on this. I realized that the actual fun was reading so many books and learning about so many things like the Holocaust, the Pearl Harbor attack, Mars Rovers and so much more. I told my father that I will try even harder and compete better next year. I now know that "Failure is not the opposite of success. It is part of success"

Recommendations

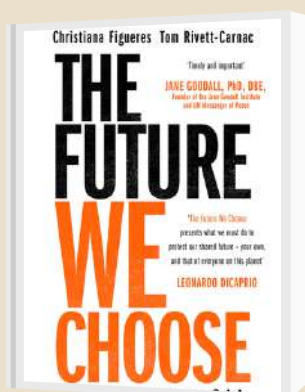
The Wee Free Men by Terry Pratchett

'The Wee Free Men' is a book about a girl discovering her power and giving back to her community. Tiffany Aching is the daughter of a farmer, and her grandmother is a shepherdess and community leader, caring for citizens and animals in their village with medicine. Tiffany is learning to be a cheesemaker when she realizes something else she would be good at.

Tiffany's brother is kidnapped by the Queen of Fairies and she works to get her brother back, using the powers she discovers in herself. Taking the help of the Wee Free Men, tiny people with their skin tattooed blue, she discovers she is a witch. She learns of the important role witches play in taking care of the sick

The book speaks about giving back to the community and being inclusive of new creatures. Terry Pratchett has written many series and this is the first book in the Tiffany series. I look forward to reading the entire series.

Sanjana David, G3B



During one of my I&S classes, we were given two articles from a book called "Surviving the Climate Crisis" by Christina Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac. I took particular interest in an article about 'The World We Must Create', finding it interesting how the world had changed completely. I learned that focusing on the proliferation of trees leads to a much healthier lifestyle. This branched out to many other positives, like mitigating climate change. Many projects like the "Green Envelope Project," work to grow trees and unite communities. I think it is important to look at 'Where We Are' so we can see what we can do for the future

Manaal Hanif, G7A

John Wicks Four

John Wicks Four (JW4) is a testament to the high quality and artistic inclination that action movies should have as the genre amasses a reputation for cheap cash-grabs. But much like the first entry in the series did in 2014, JW4 continues to revolutionize the genre in so many ways. Filmmaker and stunt coordinator Chad Stahelski shows the importance of a quality stunt team on screen and a quality ex-stunt performer behind the camera. With cinematography that will likely go unrivaled for years in action films, the bar has certainly been set high. Stahelski brings back the trademark long, sweeping shots, but his supremely creative use of environmental cinematography is what stands out. From the dark, neon-light nights in Osaka to the headlights of a sideways car projecting a Keanu Reeves-sized halo on the audience in Paris, Stahelski shows yet again why stunt performers should be given bigger production duties; nobody understands action as they do.

The action sequences themselves are some of the best ever shot in Hollywood, owed largely to the hard-working cast. Keanu has trained so hard that he virtually is John Wick now, pushing the boundaries of what an actor his age can do. Donnie Yen's introduction is much appreciated as the action movie legend plays his role to perfection. The incredible stunt team's performances cannot be overstated, as they cement their spot as the best in the business. JW4 understood that the less Keanu spoke, the better. Its plot was simple, but you're not going to watch John Wick for the plot. It is pure entertainment that maintains a standard of innovation and consistently high quality in a genre as old as the medium.

Sanjeet Panigrahi, G12



Recommendations

(Library's Version)

Slow Down – *bring calm to a busy world with 50 nature stories* by **Rachel Williams** (Author), **Freya Hartas** (Illustrator)

This book is a quintessential example of stop, breathe and look around. Gorgeously illustrated, this work celebrates the small wonders happening all around us every day.

1

2

The Dot and the Line – *a romance in lower mathematics* by **Norton Juster**

This book is a heartwarming story in verse about realizing one's potential.

Them – *adventures with extremists* by **Jon Ronson**

This book is a fascinating and entertaining exploration of extremism, in which Jon learns some alarming things about the looking-glass world of "them" and "us". Are the extremists on to something? Or has Jon become one of Them? This is eerily comical.

3

4

The Day You Begin by **Jacqueline Woodson**

This is a beautiful picture book that feels like a hug on a day you need one the most. This book is a reminder to us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes-and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

The Women I Could Be by **Sangita Jogi**

This is an intricately illustrated and empathically written work. Which gives us a world view of what it means to be a feisty feminist. But above all as a reader pointed out this book makes you check your privilege, and look at the world differently.

5

6

All Are Welcome by **Alexandra Penfold**

A warm, welcoming picture book that celebrates diversity and gives encouragement and support to all kids.

Everything I need to know I learned From a Children's Book– *life lessons from notable people from all walks of life* by **Anita Silvey**

This book is a collection of essays by all sorts of notable people in our world, from ocean explorer Robert Ballard to YA goddess Judy Blume. They talk about the children's books that changed, and in many cases, shaped their remarkable lives.

7

Reportage

The Great Filter- Where we are as a Civilization by *Aditi Kaila, G9A*

Life, and advancement as we know it is nothing but a series of evolutionary filters. For example, living on a planet suitable for sustaining life is a filter of its own- if we didn't have the conditions required to sustain life on our planet, life in its current form would not have evolved. The same way another filter is the ability for cells and life forms to reproduce, using molecules such as RNA and DNA for genetic mutation- if this process did not successfully take place, ie; we didn't pass that evolutionary filter, we wouldn't have evolved to who we are today. Like this there are a great deal of filters all organisms have achieved. However, humans were able to overcome far more filters than other species, justifying where we are as a dominant species on planet earth. Take into example the Ice Age as a filter. Humans were able to overcome and break through that filter pushing us up to a more advanced species, while others like the mammoth or mastodon, were not able to overcome that filter- eliminating them from further evolution and existence.

Now scientists have this theory of a certain "Great filter". The great filter is like any other evolutionary filter we've passed, a step in development to push a species towards further advancement and knowledge. However there is one characteristic that sets apart this filter from an ordinary one. It bears an inexplicably high improbability. This 'Great filter' like the name suggests, is a great barrier, and step in evolutionary advancement that if passed, makes the civilization type exceedingly rare. This theory also presents itself as a solution to the Fermi Paradox- a paradox that seeks to answer why we haven't yet discovered extraterrestrial life. How is it a solution? Well, the most perplexing part of it is, scientists don't know whether we've passed this great evolutionary filter, or we're approaching it.

So this means that we could be the first species to reach our level of advancement- making the great filter another filter we've already passed. Just the ability of cell reproduction and genetic mutation, could be the great filter. Since the great filter is, as discussed before, near impossible to pass, insinuates that other life forms have not been able to achieve this filter as yet- holding back progression of life on their planets and making them hard to detect. This would mean that we are an evolutionary anomaly. However, we could be approaching this filter as well, not having passed it yet. This could simply mean that the filter is something that wiped out life on other planets- also the reason they are undetectable to us. Think of the asteroid that ended the dinosaurs' existence on Earth, but an event or occurrence that would wipe us out. This could also be self destruction- think of climate change, an outbreak of a war or even a virus that could stop the course of evolution on our planet. It could also just be an evolutionary step we are not aware of, that gives us an advantageous step in development.

This really gives us perspective on where we are as a civilization today, and in comparison to other possible life forms. We could either be approaching an occurrence that destroys us/ permits us to detect life on other planets, or could mean that we are a very rare species and have a possibility for being alone, in our awareness, in our whole universe.

Planet Earth by *Weda Ganesh, G5A*

The movie, planet earth by David Attenborough, is a global event that reminds us we're all on one team. The broadcasters share a passion for exploring our vast planet and a desire to protect it for future generations. Honest, revealing, and urgent, David Attenborough: A Life On Our Planet is a powerful first-hand account of humanity's impact on nature and a message of hope for future generations.

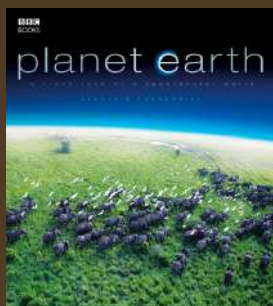
In his 94 years, Sir David Attenborough has travelled to every continent in the world, recording the diversity and magnificence of the living world. He now considers for the first time both the pivotal events in his life as a naturalist and the tragic changes he has witnessed. This inspired him to start this series along with his team.



Reportage



Watch the trailer here!



Planet Earth by Weda Ganesh (cont.)

This movie connects to the theme “Where we are” because it's all around our planet earth and we must save it. Watch the fantastic national geographic documentary to understand the amazing and changing world around us. People are destroying animal habitats, causing global warming, and more! The tragic moments in the series remind us of that and help us think again. Are we doing what we can to help save our planet? These small moments we spend rethinking our choices can be a big change for the planet around us. You have to decide whether you want to help change the world. Watch “our planet” and keep thinking.

Small actions can make a big change. “Keep the oceans blue, our planet green, and our animals safe.”

Earthquake rehabilitation by Samaya Narayan, G4D

On 6th February 2023, a devastating earthquake of magnitude 7.8 on the MMI scale struck Central Turkey and Northern / Western Syria, leaving millions homeless, their families, communities and sense of identity destroyed.

People from across the world have come together to rehabilitate these displaced people. What is rehabilitation and why is it important?

Rehabilitation helps people who were affected in the earthquake by providing them with essential needs and supporting them financially. Most countries need help after a natural disaster because they don't have enough money to rebuild the many hundreds of thousands of homes that have been destroyed or to provide medical care to all those affected or injured. The first step in rehabilitation starts with immediate response.



Many countries including India stepped in to provide relief and support by sending experts in disaster relief, providing essentials like food, water and temporary shelters and supporting relief efforts financially. This limited the number of deaths after the earthquake. The next step is reconstruction of the affected cities and rehabilitation of the injured. This is a very difficult and time consuming process and requires the most amount of money. In the Nepal earthquake in 2015, this was accomplished

by starting with a strong Rehabilitation and Reconstruction plan. This was supported by a call for contribution from International Donors including organizing Donor conferences. Earthquake victim ID cards were also distributed to identify the injured and affected. The last and longest stage is building homes and providing livelihood for those displaced, allowing them to rebuild their communities and sense of identity. It puts the pain of the disaster behind them and helps them move forward with their lives. In our highly interconnected world, such rehabilitation measures prove that we can come together as a community and put the needs of those disadvantaged above our own. This marks a new stage of development in society, one that is crucial in today's uncertain world.

Reportage

Russia-Ukraine: Where We Are by *Elizabeth Stoeckel, G5C*

As the school is drawing to a close the war in Ukraine has still not even slowed, and, considering the fact that the war has been going on for more than a year now, this is surprising. Which side are we on? Where are we in this war? The simple answer is, we have stayed neutral, in the sense that we have not taken a side or supported Russia or Ukraine in any way. However, we are still buying oil from Russia, as stopping imports from Russia would be a major offset to the Indian economy. If we would have sanctioned Russia like many other countries across the globe, oil and gas prices would rise dramatically, more than they already have. This would also lead to general inflation for even basic day to day products like clothes, due to the amount of gas used in transport and manufacture. In fact we can already see this happening in many EU countries such as Germany and France and throughout the rest of the world. So, clearly there are some justifications to India's reaction to the Russia Ukraine war. But at the same time, Russia's attack on Ukraine needs to be stopped, because of the massive negative impacts it has had on Ukraine, not just in the Donbass where most of the fighting is happening. The war has caused major numbers of refugees to leave Ukraine and Russia's military has bombed cities repeatedly, destroying many monuments, schools and even grocery



stores, making life for many citizens difficult. Russia needs to halt their attack before even more damage is inflicted. By not buying from Russia, countries globally have dramatically reduced the income of money to Russia. If we, one of the largest buyers of Russian oil, would stop purchasing, it could cause big impacts on the Russian military, and they would hopefully stop their attack. So should India join a side? Should our government put us, the citizens, wellbeing first or the Ukrainians, and many other countries? Even experts find these questions difficult, though hopefully, if the war stops before long, we will not need to find the answer.

A Small Change – A Gallon of an Impact by *Vihaan Agarwal, G4A*

2.24 billion Tonnes of Solid Waste got generated in 2020, which means 0.79 kg per person per day. This is going to be doubled by 2050.

Take a deeper look at the statistics, we will find that Plastic Cups, bottles, and Disposable Paper Cups account for more than 50% of the total dry waste found in landfills. Humans use about 1.2 million plastic bottles per minute in total. Approximately 91% of plastic is not recycled.

A common misbelief is that Disposable Paper Cups are bio-degradable and compostable, which isn't true at all. Polyethylene and Polystyrene (commonly called Styrofoam) layer up these paper cups and lids making them non-compostable.

In addition, there are two major fallouts – first, the environmental effects caused by cutting off approximately 20 million trees to cater to this disposable industry and second the harmful chemicals and hormone disruptors that ooze out when hot coffee is poured in to create long-term effects on our health.

We are standing at such a precarious position that even finding space to dump this much waste is an enormous hassle. Can we change this atomic habit of convenience, with practicality and sustainability...?

If we all, at Neev and individually at home, can replace disposable cups and glasses at each available drinking outlet by reusable steel glasses, steel bottles and mugs, this small step alone can reduce everyday waste generation by a huge amount and will create a big impact towards a greener future and better health.



Achievement

Sanjana Dravid (G3B) was a semifinalist in the Under 11 Girls category at the badminton tournament conducted by Leo Sports.



Reportage

'Where We Are' on the Sports Map by *Anvit Anand, G11B*

Our nation has progressed a long since our independence 75 years ago in terms of development. Over the years, we have created an identity for ourselves in various sports, especially Cricket. Over the past decades, we have witnessed the rise in awareness and popularity of various other sports such as Football, Hockey, Kabaddi, Badminton, and to an extent Tennis. But otherwise, how far have we developed in terms of being a sporting nation? In what sports have we created an identity for ourselves, and how popular are they?

Cricket

Ever since India's victory in the 1983 World Cup, Cricket in the country has been turned upside down. It is the main identity of India in the sporting world, and a sport that the country clearly dominates and controls to a certain extent. The introduction of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2008 has shot the popularity levels of the sport to unimaginable heights. It is every young kid's dream to represent the Indian team in cricket. Till date, India has won 2 ODI world cups and 2 T20 world cups. They are ranked #1 as per the current ICC rankings.

Hockey

Although the "National Sport" of the country, the sport has not enjoyed much popularity outside regions such as Punjab. There was a time during the 1960s to 1980s where India and Pakistan enjoyed complete dominance over the sport. However with the surface being changed to astroturf, European nations such as Belgium, Netherlands, and even Australia occupy the top spots in rankings. Now with an increase in advertising and awareness of the sport, it is gaining popularity in other regions across the country such as Odisha and other metro cities. India's recent bronze in Olympics and performance in the Hockey World Cup 2023 reflect the increase in popularity of the sport. India is currently ranked #4 in the world according to FIH.

Badminton

Badminton is quite a popular sport throughout the country. India has its fair share of dominance in the sport, along with others such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and China. The country has produced some of the world's finest such as Srikanth Kidambi, Lakshya Sen, Pulela Gopichand, PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, and countless others. Being a sport accessible for the common man, it has given many opportunities to people across the country to play and pursue the sport.



Vidya + Uma Suravarapu

Vidya (4D) and Uma Suravarapu (3C) got selected to perform in the prestigious Tyagaraja Aradhana in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. Their concert got huge applause and Indian express covered a half-page story in their South India edition, Sunday express.



Vidya won second place in International Carnatic competitions conducted by Veenadhari Institute of fine arts.



Reportage

Football

Football has always found success in certain pockets of the country such as West Bengal, Kerala, Goa, Punjab, and the Northeast. Now with the introduction of the Indian Super League (ISL) in 2014, awareness about the game has been spread around the country. It is now a viable career option, unlike before. In the 1960s, India dominated Asia, and was known as the “Brazil of Asia.” However, due to a lack of infrastructure, and overall a lack of interest, India has really fallen behind. We are currently ranked 102 according to FIFA. There is still a VERY LONG way to go before we can dream of qualifying for the World Cup, something everybody keeps asking about. For that, the government has to invest a lot more in infrastructure around the country, and mainly more people should take up genuine interest in Indian football.



Tennis

Although India is not really known for tennis, the country has produced a select few, especially in the women's circuit that have gone on to play in the ATP circuit. Stars like Sania Mirza, Ankit Raina, Sumit Nagal, Prajnesh Gunneswaran, and others. In the metro cities, especially Chennai, the sports is gaining popularity with more and more people interested in playing and pursuing a career in the sport.

How VAR transformed football by Aarush Gupta, G9A

In the past, days after a football game, arguments over difficult referee rulings used to rage. However, since the introduction of VAR (Video Assistant Referee) in 2016, those disputes are a thing of the past.

People think that being a referee in a football game is really easy. It's not. A referee has to run an equal distance as the players, sometimes even more which on an average is 10 - 12 km per game. While doing this, the referee must pay attention to all events happening in the game, as well as try to make split second decisions over possibly crucial events, with the added pressure of making the right one.

However, referees are human, which means they can and will make mistakes, which could change the course of an entire game. One of the greatest mistakes made by a referee in football is in the 1986 world cup quarter finals, between Argentina and England. In the 51st minute, the ball was kicked high into the air, both Maradona and the England keeper rushed to the ball, Maradona then used his hand to get the ball past the keeper and score the game winning goal.

All the England players swarmed the referee in protest, because the goal was given. To them, and most of the fans, who saw the event clearly, this was shocking, because it was clear that Maradona used his hand, which is clearly not allowed, meaning the goal should have actually been a kick for England. However, the referee thought Maradona headed it in, hence he let the goal stand. Argentina then went on to win the world cup. However, if VAR had been there, the goal would have instantly been disallowed, and the story of the 1986 world cup may have been different.



Reportage

How sportsmen look at where they are in a realistic way to ensure they grow effectively by *Yohan Sunny, G5B*

There are many globally known sports players today. Some of them could be much taller, stronger, or better than another group of people. That others will then look at where they are in a realistic way to ensure they grow effectively. This is what everyone should regularly do. Sports players worldwide today don't ask, How good am I compared to others? They ask where I am as a player. They look at this in a realistic kind of way.

The first thing sportsmen would do is benchmark themselves against their own performance through Practice. This way, sportsmen get a lot better at what they do. Next, they will measure against other people. That will be very helpful for them. They also will benchmark their performance with their Competition. For example, Lionel Messi benchmarks his performance with competition (Christiano Ronaldo, Neymar). These people are competition. Lastly, you can measure your performance against a National or any other record

In conclusion, the goal should be for you to move from where you are to where you want to be. This could be to win for your school, your state, or even your Country.



So the point that I'm trying to make here, is that referees are only human and can make mistakes, which is why the introduction of VAR has completely transformed football into what it is today. Thanks to VAR, such controversial moments like Maradona's 'hand of god' will never happen again.

The impact that VAR has brought to the game has been hugely beneficial. One of the key impacts is that due to VAR, (according to data from FIFA) referees' sensible decisions increased from 95% to 99.32% thanks to VAR. Additionally, the total playing time, as well as that of the first and second half, increased between 30-120 seconds on average. This allows for more action, as well as time for teams to possibly score vital match winning goals.

VAR has had a massive impact in the game today, but what impact can it have in the game tomorrow? With the revolutionary development of AI recently, it could be utilized in VAR and potentially replace human referees entirely, allowing for absolutely no controversy. However, if VAR completely replaces human referees, they will do so with complete accuracy, and this may lead to an excessive amount of intervention in play, which would reduce what's most important about the sport to us viewers - the drama.

However, at the end of the day, the impact and importance of VAR cannot go unnoticed and its interesting to see what role it might play in the future.



Multimedia Content Alert!

In the spirit of navigating 'Where We Are', we found out what the Neev Community is the proudest of achieving this year. Scan the QR code and find out yourself!

Classroom Culture

Grade 4



Grade 5

At the start of the year, all the classes were very mixed, as in third grade and fourth grade, we weren't changed, so in the beginning of fifth grade, we were a little apprehensive about friendships: During our Where we are in place and time unit, we went for a field trip to Bylakuppe to learn about the Tibetan migration, and we also formed stronger bonds with each other, as we interacted with people out of our friend group. We also visited a monastery to learn about the Tibetan migration, a temple to learn about the Tibetan culture, and a school for a personal experience on migration. Lastly, our class culture. In our class, we have certain class calls, which sets the expectation for the class. *Baruni Dass, G5A*

Grade 4 has been an entertaining and lively year. I have learned many life lessons and built countless new friendships! Throughout the year, I have always felt like my teachers were there for me. The lessons were fun, they taught us the subjects through exciting activities! We learned how to face our problems and respect others feelings through it. We were able to understand and comprehend what was taught. Furthermore, we developed our research skills through every unit. In group task, we faced difficulties when taking decisions and choosing ideas. We collaborated and found a solution together. We improved our creative thinking skills with every unit, as we had to come up with innovative ideas for many tasks. The summative challenged us with real concerns and how to find a solution by collaborating. The LOI assessments have helped us showcase our understanding by analyzing case studies, writing news articles making concept maps, and many more. Overall, this year was a breathtaking experience and I can't wait for the next one!

Ishika Mehta, Class Representative, G4D

Grade 6

This year was the start of new beginnings as we had, new subjects, new friends, new opportunities, new schedules and new teachers. It was a new way of learning all together. We're now "students of MYP"... we now had more responsibility and had to be self directed individuals, and manage ourselves better. This was one of our most important years as it was a transition from PYP to MYP. This year was one to look forward to! None of our work was graded till now, as we only received feedback in PYP. It was our learning year and we spent it learning how to work in a diverse environment and how to adjust to different things. The whole of 6A has had multiple great experiences together and all of us have made many new memories as a class (like the time our science teacher, Ms. Manju played us a song about potential and kinetic energy), we had our own inside jokes and fun moments. Overall, the school year has been a rollercoaster ride of emotions and experiences, and it has also brought many new opportunities where we got to be a part of new things that were not there before like having our ICL or being apart of school teams (although these opportunities are there for the grades below, this was the first time anyone from this batch had these experiences.). We are all looking forward to seeing what the rest of the year holds and all the new things that we are yet to learn.



(Credits - Ruhaan Nishant, Aadhya Chopra, Samaira Gupta and Devangshee Khemka of 6A)
Parthavi Shekhawat, Class Representative, G6A

Classroom Culture

Grade 7

Grade 7C, a new addition to Grade 7 IB this year, is truly a diverse class. Each student brought a new set of skills and ideas to the classroom, and built relationships with their teachers and students. They all changed the atmosphere in the classroom and developed a collective perspective designed for excellence. We all had their strengths and weaknesses that, with the help of our peers and teachers, were further understood and built upon. During the course of this year, 7C bonded with each other and collaborated in a way that would make everyone feel valued. We were all able to improve on ourselves and understand ourselves and understand each other better. Although no class is completely perfect, we feel we were able to make the most of this year and create a good experience for all the members of our class. We have taken away a lot from each other, and we hope that the next year will be as productive and healthy as this one.

Dhruv Krishnan, Class Representative, G7C

Grade 8

This academic year 2022-23 was the first complete offline year without any scares from COVID. As our cohort entered 8th grade we were all nervous yet looking forward to how things would go this time around with new teachers, making new friends, higher level of studies, but most importantly our Rajasthan trip. At the beginning of the year, we were all very closeted into our own groups and not very discursive during classes, and there was a level of disunity that

could be felt. However, thanks to our homeroom teachers Ms. Surbhi and Ms. Jyothsana, and our subject teachers, we were able to burst out of our bubbles and be more open with each other. Especially during our Rajasthan trip, we were able to form precious bonds with our friends and teachers, as well as make some memories that we will never forget. Towards the second term we were able to be more transparent with others and understand concepts taught in class better. Although in the second term we faced a few obstacles regarding discipline and trust, we were able to learn from our mistakes and move forward to become the best versions of ourselves. In all, from the teachers, the new learnings, the friendships, the challenges, the memories, and everything else, 8th grade has served as a truly memorable foundation for us to transition into the next academic year.

Anoushka Johnson, Class Representative, G8A



eachers' expectations. For the first time, we've tackled three sciences along with other subjects with the increased workload. The spirit and ingenuity of our class thrived with talents ranging from music, literature, basketball, art, and more. Our classroom is our habitat, where we've built strong relationships over the year – through collaborative tasks, class discussions and impromptu debates. The Ladakh learning journey allowed us to discover more about each other and our teachers.

Aadya Garg, Class Representative, G9A

Grade 9

"Systems" has been a key concept throughout our years at MYP. It's been a crucial lens to analyze a multitude of topics across disciplines. Systems provide structure and order in human environments.

9A is a system. When a part of a system fails, the entire structure fails. We'll always have each other's back like we did this year. We've depended on each other throughout our first year of high school to manage our academics and extracurriculars along with our social lives. Each of us, as a part of this system, have worked together to fulfill t

Classroom Culture



Grade 10

As we embarked on our grade 10 journey, the pandemic led to the formation of smaller groups and cliques among us. We have all come together as a unit in order to support one another and lift one another up during this crucial year in our lives. Our personal project journey, e-portfolio, and the boards that we will be taking in a month serve as milestones that let us see this. We traveled to Chikmagalur at the beginning of the year and engaged in team-building exercises and discussions to strengthen our relationships. We also learned how to utilize each person's unique skills and limitations to the best of our ability in order to prepare for our E-assessments. There was a lot of pressure on all of the grade 10 students because this was our first submission to the IB. But, the countless jokes that Chetan sir would make was a big source of inspiration for us to achieve the end result. The personal project exhibition and portfolio submission were the next steps, and during these, we participated in activities and workshops to support our peers in demonstrating their best capacity to write high-quality reports. We had the chance to participate in the E-portfolio that assisted us in exploring the problems faced in the 21st century. We put in a lot of time and effort to ensure that our reports were of the best quality and to display our talent in our performances and artwork. We can proudly say that our Art X exhibition was a huge success! Overall, our 10th grade experience was unforgettable and enlightening. We thank our teachers for their constant support and guidance, which enables us to navigate through this year seamlessly. We eagerly look forward to the next phase of our lives. **Kaira Gupta and Anaaitha Jain, G10**

Grade 11 For many Grade 11 students, the past year was a pivotal one in their academic journey. With higher expectations and increased academic rigor, the year was often seen as a stepping stone toward one of the most important academic years of high school. This came with its own set of challenges, such as adjusting to new subjects, harder papers, and a heavier workload. But we were able to support each other as a cohort. Class culture played an important role in the grade 11 experience. As students adjusted to new teachers and classmates, a positive class culture helped foster a supportive and engaging learning environment. Extracurricular activities and learning journeys provided opportunities for new experiences and memories, which brought us closer together. Despite the challenges, grade 11 was also an exciting year of growth and development. We discovered new passions and interests, deepened our understanding of chosen subjects, and started to plan for our future aspirations. Now that the year is coming to an end, we can reflect on our experiences and look forward to the next stage in our academic journey. While the challenges may have been tough, the skills and knowledge gained will undoubtedly serve us well in the future. **Aryan Varma and Amulya Kumar, G11**

Grade 12 The journey of Grade 12 is a significant milestone in one's life. While it brings school life to closure, it is also the beginning of the next phase of their lives. Students transition into adulthood and get ready for college life ahead. This journey was vivid with a range of emotions, from stress and uncertainty to excitement and anticipation. The year was filled with academic challenges of DP world, social events, in-person school after 2 long years and inundated with so much action. It is a time to reflect on one's achievements and learn from their mistakes. Looking back on the journey of Grade 12, it is a time of growth, self-discovery, and new beginnings, and one that will be remembered for years to come.

Ananya Singla, Class Representative, G12



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