

10Xpress

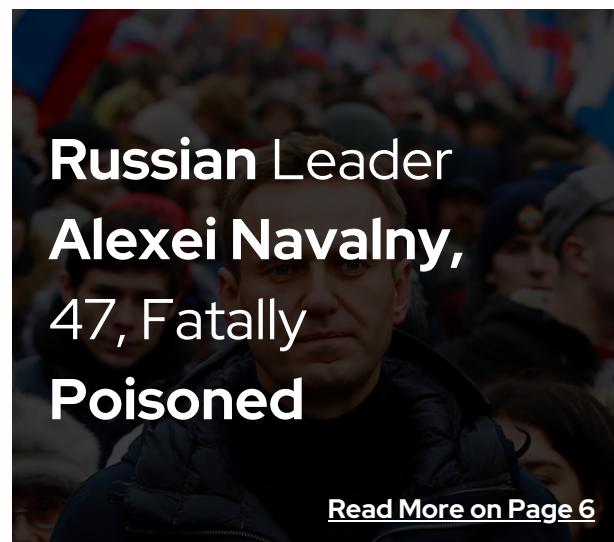
Volume #1, Issue 6
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10Xpress

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Become **Curable**
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Editor's Note

Greetings!

We're thrilled to introduce the sixth issue of 10Xpress, the official student-run newspaper of 10X International School. This month's release takes a deep dive into many topics, shedding light on happenings worldwide while also bringing you insights into events within our community over the past month.

In this edition, you can expect high-quality, informative articles spanning a broad range of relevant topics. Some headlines include:

- The New Apple Vision Pro: Innovation or Impracticality?
- The Fall of Byju's — India's Biggest Ed-tech Startup
- Love the Art, Not the Artist: Kanye West's Controversy
- Exploring Innovation: The STEAM Exhibition at 10X

This issue is the second last for this academic year, so if you have any feedback, do fill out this [form](#). We strive to set and maintain high standards for our staff so that they and 10Xpress can continuously grow and improve. For this, we require your feedback.

Additionally, If you have any queries or concerns, please contact us via email and we'll address them.

Thank you, and have a fulfilling read ahead.

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Tree fossil gives us a glimpse at forests during the Paleozoic era

By Chirag Gowda (12)

In a groundbreaking discovery shedding light on Earth's ancient past, the discovery of uniquely preserved 3D tree fossils in Canada's New Brunswick province has sparked a wave of excitement among scientists. These fossils, unearthed from a quarry, offer a rare glimpse into the early stages of forest evolution, enriching our comprehension of tree architecture throughout history. The study, published in *Current Biology*, unveils the findings of five tree fossils buried alive by an earthquake 350 million years ago. The research team, led by paleontologist Robert Gastaldo, describes these fossils as "time capsules," providing valuable insights into paleozoic era landscapes and ecosystems.

The initial discovery, made in 2017 by Olivia King and Matthew Stimson during fieldwork, was remarkable. Unlike typical tree fossils, these specimens retained their branches and crown leaves attached to the trunk, a rarity in the plant fossil record spanning over 400 million years. Named "Sanfordiacaulis" in honor of the quarry owner Laurie Sanford, these ancient plants bear a striking resemblance to modern ferns or palms, despite pre-dating their emergence by 300 million years. What's particularly astonishing is the abundance of leaves preserved around the trunk, some extending up to 5.7 feet. The fossilization process, attributed to a catastrophic earthquake-induced landslide in an ancient rift lake, offers a glimpse into a moment frozen in time.

Peter Wilf, a paleobotanist from Pennsylvania State University, hails these fossils as a milestone in understanding early forest structures. To the researchers' amazement, the *Sanfordiacaulis* presents a unique architectural design reminiscent of Dr. Seuss's whimsical illustrations. Beyond enriching our understanding of the past, these fossils hold clues about future life on Earth. Gastaldo highlights the importance of studying how plants adapt to different environments, hinting at broader implications for ecological studies.



Can Alzheimer's Become Curable One Day?

By Siddharth Mitra (10)

Alzheimer's is a disease infamous for being the leading cause of dementia around the world. Due to its incurable nature, it is a fearful prospect every family with an elderly member faces. Yet recent developments in medication to address this incurable disease highly alleviate its progression.

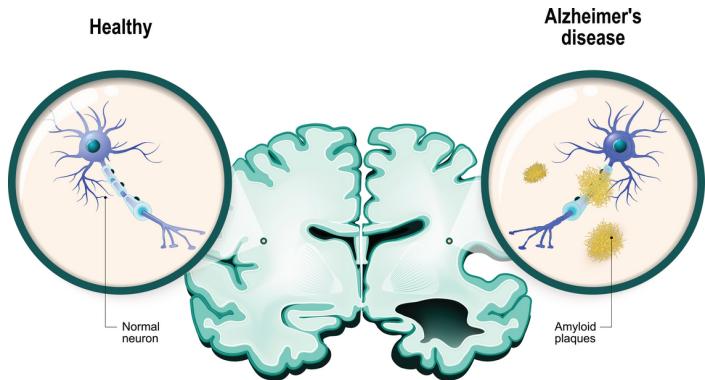
On July 17th, 2023, the introduction of the new drug *Donanemab* proved to slow cognitive delay and loss of memories by 35% in elderly Alzheimer's patients. Just weeks after, another supplementary drug, known as *Lecanemab*, was introduced, playing an equally important role in slowing down the progression of Alzheimer's.

Both these drugs target the abnormal Amyloid depositions formed due to this disease and address the elimination of the same. The amyloid protein depositions are called **Plaque** and form outside the cells, resulting in the nervous tissue that makes up our brain dying out. This results in patients undergoing brain atrophy, where the brain slowly shrinks while they lose memories and their cognitive abilities start decaying.

Donanemab and *lecanemab* end with the suffix 'mab', an indicator of their function. These drugs are artificially manufactured monoclonal antibodies. They attach themselves to specific parts of the plaque depositions, helping the immune system recognize these amyloid accumulations as harmful; this prompts an immune response from the body to clear these damaging protein depositions.

The introduction of these drugs has led to a significant reduction in the progression of symptoms of this disease. This advancement enables families to spend more time cherishing moments with their loved ones who suffer from Alzheimer's before they begin losing core memories due to dementia. Additionally, it enhances survivability rates for patients afflicted with Alzheimer's and lays the groundwork for discovering long-term cures for this disease.

All of this begs the question: with enough research, can this seemingly 'incurable disease' be curable, one day?



The New Apple Vision Pro: Innovation or Impracticality?

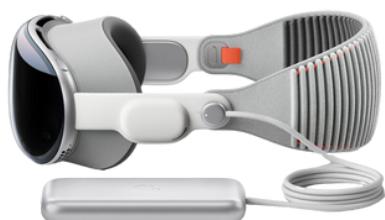
By Yi Zou (9)

Apple's new product, Apple Vision Pro, went viral on the internet after its initial release towards the beginning of February. Receptions of the product were mixed, with multiple factors coming into play, such as its features, convenience, and price. Does it deserve all the hype?

According to Apple, "The Apple Vision Pro is a spatial computer that integrates digital content and apps into your physical surroundings, allowing you to navigate using your eyes, hands, and voice." The headset is designed to incorporate digital and virtual objects into the user's real-world vision. Resembling a typical VR headset in shape, it provides an environment where users can interact through hand gestures and eye movements. Furthermore, the Apple Vision Pro offers access to various apps such as Safari, Mail, Photos, and immersive entertainment options.

This innovation incorporates several premium materials, including a curved laminated glass display on the front, an aluminium frame on its sides, five sensors, six microphones, and twelve cameras. Additionally, dual-driver audio pods are near the ears on the headband. However, these advanced materials and functions come with a hefty price tag of \$3,500 (approximately 3 Lakh Rupees). Furthermore, the device weighs around 600 grams, and its battery supports approximately two hours of general use, which may become inconvenient during prolonged usage.

The question of whether the Apple Vision Pro is worth it depends on the consumer's motives. For those interested in technological advancements, especially in the field of Spatial Computing, the Apple Vision Pro stands out as one of the leading products, offering significant value. However, for the average customer, the device may be considered overpriced, with its functions being difficult to justify. Ultimately, the future of the device remains uncertain as it continues to evolve and adapt to consumer needs.



Israel Uses AI-enabled Military Tech in Gaza

By Ruhi Beri (10)



The Israeli Defense Forces have incorporated artificial intelligence into their military technology for combat in Gaza. Israel is using its AI system, namely the Gospel, to rapidly identify targets to decrease civilian casualties. It makes targeting recommendations that human analysts then review. Taking on a role similar to intelligence officers, the Gospel can suggest around 200 targets in 10-to-12 days, a rate 50 times faster than that of their human predecessors.

Despite the expeditiousness of Gospel, many have raised concerns about using AI algorithms for a task that is as serious and consequential as targeting humans in a combat zone. "The nature of AI systems is to provide outcomes based on statistical and probabilistic inferences and correlations from historical data, and not any type of reasoning, factual evidence, or 'causation'" said Heidy Khlaaf, Engineering Director of AI Assurance at Trail of Bits, a technology security firm. Critics worry that Israel is using AI technology to justify the indiscriminate killing of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Significantly so, the death toll in Gaza from October 7th onwards has surpassed 30,000, shocking many. In January, the Israeli military killed Palestinians at an average rate of 250 people a day, surpassing death rates in every other major conflict in the 21st century, including the daily death rates of Syrians and Ukrainians: 96.5 and 43.9, respectively.

Data from US intelligence assessments suggests Israel has dropped more than 29,000 bombs in Gaza, with 40-45% of them being unguided bombs. The high death toll in Gaza and the imprecision of the Israeli Defense Forces have caused speculation on whether the Gospel is reducing civilian casualties.

Regardless, Israel's usage of AI-powered intelligence analysis marks a new era in military technology, pointing towards increased usage of autonomous technology in the future.

The Fall of Byju's – India's Biggest Ed-tech Startup

By Suchita Agarwalla (10)

Byju's was valued at \$22 billion at its height in 2022, then fell sharply and is currently worth \$200 million as of January 2024. Byju's is a leading Indian startup that uses interactive videos and technology to provide a unique approach to teaching. With the use of outstanding marketing tactics, such as bringing onboard brand ambassadors like Shah Rukh Khan and Lionel Messi and sponsoring the Indian Cricket Team, the brand earned a great reputation, especially in India. This start-up, founded in 2011, could not sustain its market popularity and started experiencing a downfall. Matters majorly escalated for the company mainly after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The primary factor contributing to the company's diminishing success was a substantial burden of debts. Byju's extensively borrowed from various sources like banks, private equity firms, and venture capitalists, to fuel its rapid but poorly planned expansion. Unfortunately, they struggled to generate adequate cash flow, leading to difficulties in timely loan repayments. In 2021, Byju's encountered a default on a \$300 million credit, followed by another default on a \$500 million credit from the same fund in 2022. Rather than focusing on improving quality or marketing strategies during the business downturn, Byju's steered away from its core mission of delivering quality education. Instead, the company shifted its focus to selling electronic devices like tablets and laptops, frequently resorting to aggressive and unethical sales tactics. This shift in strategy led to multiple resignations from the board, leaving the company devoid of effective leadership.

Legal troubles and a tarnished reputation posed significant challenges for the business, leading to a decline in both revenue and consumer loyalty.



Byju's case illustrates how a promising business can suffer loss when it deviates from its core values, engages in unsustainable expansion, and ignores warning signs of financial distress.

Third Largest Economy Goes Into Recession

By Avani Radheshyam (10)

Japan's economy has recently taken a large hit, losing its spot as the third-largest economy in the world after it unexpectedly contracted in the last quarter of 2023.



In the October–December period, Japan's gross domestic product fell by 0.4% after a 3.3% slump in the July–September quarter. Germany took the long-awaited opportunity and stole Japan's spot as the third-largest economy in the world. Japan's nominal GDP totalled \$4.2 trillion last year, while Germany was at \$4.4 to \$4.5 trillion.

Initially, in the 1970s and 1980s, Japan experienced significant economic growth. Despite the challenges of World War II, Japan managed to recover swiftly and emerged as the world's second-largest economy, following the United States. However, since then, its economic growth has been steady rather than exponential. In 2023, Japan faced a sudden economic downturn due to high inflation, which constrained domestic demand and private consumption, impacting its economy adversely.

Something odd about this recession is that when inflation went up, GDP went down. Typically, when inflation goes up, GDP follows. The reason for this is that Japan spent a large sum of money promoting tourism; however, that did nothing to offset the sluggishness in domestic private consumption. All it did was take more away from the already suffering economy.

Recent data suggests that Japan's economic influence may be waning, leading to a diminished presence in the global arena, reinforced by the shrinking gap between developed and developing nations. It is projected that India will surpass Japan's nominal GDP within the next 2–3 years, indicating a potentially challenging future for Japan's economy.

Russian Leader Alexei Navalny, 47, Fatally Poisoned

By Sanvi Kurade (9)

The most prominent opposition leader, Alexei Navalny, was found collapsed and unconscious at the penal colony north of the Arctic Circle on Friday, February 16th, while serving a long-term sentence. His sudden deterioration in health raised concerns and questions regarding the circumstances leading to his condition.

The cause of his reported death remained unclear, prompting international scrutiny and condemnation. "What has happened to Alexei Navalny is yet more proof of Putin's brutality," stated US President Joe Biden, placing the blame on Russian President Vladimir Putin. This statement intensified the ongoing tensions between Russia and the international community.

On August 20th, 2020, during a 6-hour flight from Siberia to Moscow, Alexei Navalny was poisoned with a nerve agent, resulting in an emergency landing in Omsk where he fell into a coma at the hospital. The incident drew widespread attention and sparked outrage both domestically and internationally.

This initial incident sparked controversy when Alexei Navalny was later transferred to Germany for medical treatment. Laboratories in Germany confirmed it was a Novichok nerve agent (a special class of chemical agents developed in the Soviet Union), further fueling condemnation of the Russian government's alleged involvement. Despite the accusations, the Russian government continued to deny any responsibility.

During the Munich Security Conference, Yulia Navalnaya, Navalny's wife, remarked, "I want them to know that they will be punished for what they have done to our country, my family, and my husband." Her statement underscored the gravity of the situation and the determination to seek justice amidst uncertainty surrounding Navalny's condition. Amidst the commotion at the conference, she also mentioned that she had not received any confirmation of her husband's death, adding to the ongoing uncertainty and speculation surrounding the case.

Buying Votes in Karnataka State Elections

By Syshasri Raghavan (9)

One of the comforts of a republic is the ability to vote for a representative that suits the interests of a country and its citizens, but what if individuals could buy their way through votes? Unfortunately, this is not an imaginary scenario but is happening in the recent Karnataka State Elections for 2024.

According to the Association for Democratic Reform, which conducted a study on the same topics, money and muscle power have a significant impact on the outcome of election results to date. However, this problem is not recent; it has been occurring for the past decade. The BJP allegedly has the most number of corrupt votes, followed by Congress and JDP.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajeev Kumar stated that he will be putting extra emphasis on preventing the influence of cash flow on voters. However, it can still be difficult to catch foul play in the field of politics-distinguishing true opinions from pressure and incentives is often a blurred line. Citizens have the right to vote for their preferred representative, and it is a tricky and sometimes futile task to identify when they choose a party due to incentive or money.

This year, about a thousand crores were seized from individuals during elections in five Indian states, and while this is a huge success, cash incentives will not be stopping anytime soon. For this reason, transparency from political parties and citizens is essential. Educating citizens about the problems that can occur with corruption and with representatives buying their way through elections is a must. Another significant step is reporting illegal activities and corruption in our government systems, to prevent similar instances from happening in the future.

The recent Karnataka State Elections have become plagued with corruption due to political parties paying citizens to vote for them. It is important to identify when this occurs, report it and educate citizens to not fall for these traps.

Stanley Cup Lead Lawsuit: Is There A Lead Poisoning Risk?

By Nivedita Saboo (10)

To be an American is to fall in love with something that has the potential to kill you. Cigarettes, fast cars, hamburgers — the country has a history peppered with love affairs and death. This month was no exception. Stanley Quenchers, indestructible water bottles that promise health, hydration, and ideal-temperature beverages, contain lead.

The primary allegation was that the company did not publicly confirm the use of lead in its manufacturing processes until January 2024. The lawsuit against Pacific Market International was filed in February 2024 as a potential class-action case by a Seattle-based firm.

In January, Stanley responded to claims that its products contain lead in a statement to TODAY.com. A spokesperson clarified that while lead is used, in the manufacturing process, it is only exposed if the product becomes damaged.

According to the company and experts, consumers should be relatively safe, provided that their Stanleys suffer no damage. That's good news because lead exposure and poisoning are linked to some extremely nasty health conditions — heart disease, kidney disease, birth defects, etc. These Quenchers are largely responsible for Stanley going from a reported \$73 million in revenue in 2019 to \$750 million in 2023.

Patty Davis, press secretary for the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, says that while she can't comment on the lead in Stanley products, similar products from other companies with "excessive levels of lead", such as a kids' cup sold on Amazon by Klickpick, among others, have recently been recalled.

Posting whether a Stanley leeches metal poison has become a trend within a trend online; TikTok has become Stanley central, with influencers pushing big cups on their followers and Stanley collectors showing off their multiple Stanleys in varying colours.

A potentially scary message that these bottles contain lead, complete with the suspense of a live test, is going to be wildly popular, even if the result is safe. Stanley owners are no doubt concerned but are also getting massive amounts of attention by posting videos of their concerns.

Is traveling to Maldives actually worth it?

By Tanush Panigrahi (9)

The Maldives, with its stunning sandy beaches, turquoise lagoons, and lush coconut palms, stands as a picturesque paradise, drawing visitors from around the world. The gentle caress of the serene waves provides a memorable experience, making it an ideal destination for couples seeking romantic getaways or families looking to unwind amidst nature's beauty.

However, beneath the surface of this tropical haven, it's essential to consider certain aspects for a well-rounded perspective. The Maldives, an Islamic country, has experienced isolated incidents of terrorism, with Male', the capital, being the most populous city. Notably, a political figure, Ali Solih, faced an unfortunate knife attack while riding his scooter through Male'. While such incidents have occurred, it's reassuring to note that there have been no recent attacks, and the Maldivian government is actively investing in bolstering the security of tourists, recognizing their significant contribution to the nation's economy.

Despite the idyllic setting, recent tensions with India have led to a decline in the number of Indian tourists visiting the Maldives. Potential visitors must stay informed about the current geopolitical climate and adhere to any travel advisories. The safety of tourists remains the utmost priority for the Maldivian government, striving to ensure a secure environment for all visitors.

In conclusion, the Maldives continues to stand as one of the world's best tourist destinations, offering unparalleled natural beauty and a peaceful ambience. However, as with any travel plans, being aware of the current situation and government advisories ensures a safe and enjoyable experience in this tropical paradise.



"Love the Art, Not the Artist": Kanye West's Controversy

By Tisha Sehrawat (9)

As Kanye West dropped his much-awaited album in collaboration with Ty Dolla Sign featuring daughter North West, the compilation was met with confusion and discrepancies between various music streaming platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music. Despite these challenges, listeners hung on to each word of Ye's, stunned by the quality of his music once again, confirming that it was worth the wait.

However, the album drop coincides with a heated debate surrounding accusations of anti-Semitism involving West, as his Christian faith, high-profile marriage to Bianca Censori, and mental health have been recent topics of media attention. Reports suggest that comments made by West during a recent interview sparked outrage among some listeners, particularly within the Jewish community. In addition to this controversy, West has courted constant controversy for comments on numerous celebrities—ranging from Shaquille O'Neal to Taylor Swift and Beyoncé—and angered a few others for allegedly sampling their songs without permission.

As fans eagerly anticipated West's newest musical offering, the controversy surrounding his alleged remarks threatened to overshadow the release. Social media platforms became battlegrounds, with heated discussions unfolding over the ethical implications of supporting an artist whose personal beliefs are under scrutiny. For many, the dilemma boils down to whether it's possible to appreciate West's creative output while condemning his alleged behavior. Supporters argue that art should be evaluated on its own merits, separate from the actions of its creator. They point to West's influential contributions to the music industry and the cultural significance of his work.

On the other hand, detractors contend that by consuming West's music, fans are implicitly endorsing his alleged anti-Semitic views and other controversial issues with the rapper himself. They argue that artists have a responsibility to use their platform responsibly and that turning a blind eye to problematic behavior perpetuates harm. It encapsulates the notion that while individuals may admire West's musical talents, they are not obligated to support him as a person. As listeners grapple with where to draw the line, one thing remains clear: in an age of increasing scrutiny and accountability, the days of separating the artist from their art may be numbered.

Female Dominance at the 2024 Grammy's

By Venkat Muralidhar (10)

It was certain that Taylor Swift and SZA were the winners, but other women also picked up the wins and the roles in the male positions of rock and remixing.

Women dominated the awards: Only one male artist, Jhon Batiste, was nominated in the top 3 categories; the most striking performances on the night came from SZA, Joni Mitchell and Billie Eilish, the latter taking home her 19th Grammy at the age of 22.

This marked a significant departure from the situation a few years ago. In 2018, no women won top categories at the Recording Academy's ten chairmen Neil Portnow made a controversial statement, lamenting the "brick walls" faced by women in the industry. He had placed blame on female artists themselves, suggesting they needed to "step up" and make themselves more prominent.

The commercial domination of Taylor Swift in 2023 was nearly absolute, with her Eras tour and numerous endorsements. She garnered an impressive 26 billion streams on Spotify alone. Meanwhile, Miley Cyrus's song "Flowers" took home the title of Song of the Year and emerged as the biggest song of 2023.

What made the awards particularly noteworthy, however, was not just the victories of artists like Taylor Swift, SZA, or Billie Eilish—though, truthfully, their absence would have been surprising—but rather the remarkable dominance of female musicians across various categories. In genres typically dominated by male artists, such as rock and alternative, Paramore and Boygenius emerged victorious. Additionally, the remix category, traditionally male-dominated, saw an unexpected win by Wet Leg.

The 2023 Grammy Awards signalled a dramatic change in the music business, with female musicians emerging as the unquestionable forces guiding its course. This triumph was a monument to the female musicians who have long been disregarded and underappreciated, not merely about getting acknowledged at an awards ceremony.

Indian Women's Badminton Team Wins Championship

By Neil Daga (10)

India achieved a historic victory by winning a gold medal at the prestigious Asia Team Championships 2024. The Women's team, comprising renowned players including the two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu, Ashmita Chaliha, ranked 472 in the world, Anmol Kharb, and others, clinched the inaugural title for India.

The Indian team encountered a formidable opponent, Japan, in the semi-finals of the tournament. As the top seed, Japan was considered the favourite to win. The match against Japan began with uncertainty, as PV Sindhu suffered a defeat against Japan's Aya Ohori in the initial stages.

PV Sindhu then played a doubles match alongside Ashwini Ponappa against Rena Miyaura and Ayaka Sakuramoto. They lost 21-14, 21-11. Things were looking bad for the Indian team, but the other members stepped in - Tanisha Crasto and Gayatri Gopichand.

They played an intense match, winning 2-1 against Japan's team. Ashmita Chaliha then beat Nozomi Okuhara, 2-0. All pressure laid on 17-year-old Anmol Kharb - Anmol faced Natsuki Nidaira, world number 29, and shocked the world by winning 2-0. India had made it into the finals.

India then faced the formidable team of Thailand. PV Sindhu set off the match by beating world number 17, Supanida Katethong 21-12, 21-12. Teresa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand then won 2-1 against the 10th-ranked pair in the world, Jongkolphan Kititharakul, and Rawinda Prajongjai. India was now 2-0 against Thailand.

Despite the match coming to an end, Thailand fought back - Busanan Ongbamrungphan played Ashmita Chaliha in singles, beating her 2-0. In women's doubles, Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra lost 2-0 to Benyapa Aimsaard and Nuntakarn Aimsaard.

At 2-2, the final player from the Indian team was the 17-year-old Anmol Kharb, once again in a position that could decide the results of the tournament. She played against Pornpicha Choeikeewong, and in a high-stakes battle, came on top with unwavering determination, winning 21-14, 21-9. A brilliant win by the Indian team that resonates with proud Indians all around the world. We hope to see sensational performances in upcoming tournaments as well.

India enters in dressage for the 2024 Paris Olympics

By Nakshath Venkatesh (11)

The 24-year-old from Kolkata, who won the gold medal in the team and an individual bronze medal at the Asian Games last year, started riding at the age of 3.

He moved to Germany as a 17-year-old to chase his Olympic dream; Anush is filled with gratitude after becoming the first-ever Indian to secure a dressage quota place in this year's Olympic games.

He secured a Paris Olympic quota in dressage based on the performance of 4 FEI events - Wroclaw, Poland (73.48%), Kronenberg, Netherlands (74.4), Frankfurt, Germany (72.9), and Mechelen, Belgium (74.2).

The celebrated Fouaad Mirza represented India at the 2020 Tokyo Games, preceded by Imitaaz Anees (Sydney 2000), Indrjit Lamba (Atlanta 1996), and many more.

However, other athletes from India participated in eventing, while Agarwalla will compete in dressage, in which both the horse and the rider perform a series of movements in a bordered arena of 20x40. The horse is required to remain within the enclosed arena while performing.

In the past few years, there has been a significant improvement in equestrian sports (in India), especially in dressage. Facilities have emerged, and more people are taking up the sport seriously," he said in a press meet.

He described the Asian Games, where he contributed to a team gold, as a pivotal moment in his career and a transformational event for the sport and the country in general. "The medals at the Asian Games have given a huge push, especially to younger generations. They now see that achieving success in dressage is not impossible," he said.

In conclusion, the win in the Asian Games and selection to the Olympics has caused a tremendous change for the country and made each country's citizens proud.



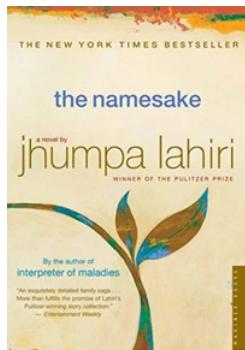
A Book Review: The Namesake

By Saachee Moholkar (11)

Jhumpa Lahiri's debut novel, *The Namesake*, narrates the lives of Ashima and Ashoke Ganguly as they leave India and settle in the US.

The book focuses on their firstborn, Gogol. The name, Gogol itself, is inspired by Nikolai Gogol. The value and impact of that name are shown through Gogol's experiences.

This novel focuses on identity and Gogol's experience as an Indian-American. The idea of conflict, especially the hatred Gogol has towards his name, is portrayed beautifully through personal anecdotes.



This novel also shows love and hatred as two ends of Gogol's spectrum. Gogol begins to reject and detest his Indian culture, pushing it aside so that he can be recognized for the American that he is.

Reading the exchanges between Gogol and his parents is truly upsetting because we see nuances in the differences in upbringing, and his parents struggle to portray empathy.

Love also serves as a significant vessel for portraying Gogol. His love for his significant other is depicted through various elements: the circumstances of their meeting, the qualities they see in each other, the factors that draw them together, moments of lust and passion, and ultimately, experiences of heartbreak and dissociation. This portrayal illustrates the struggles of individuals with mixed identities as they strive to define themselves, a theme intended to resonate with readers.

This novel doesn't attempt to conceal its intentions; it is a gracefully told family story that explores universal themes such as love, teenage angst, the sense of resonance with different worlds yet not entirely belonging to either, the unpredictability of life and relationships, and the reality of endings that are not always happily ever after. The influence of Lahiri's immigrant background is evident throughout the narrative, portrayed robustly and authentically.

A Navigation Through "Community"

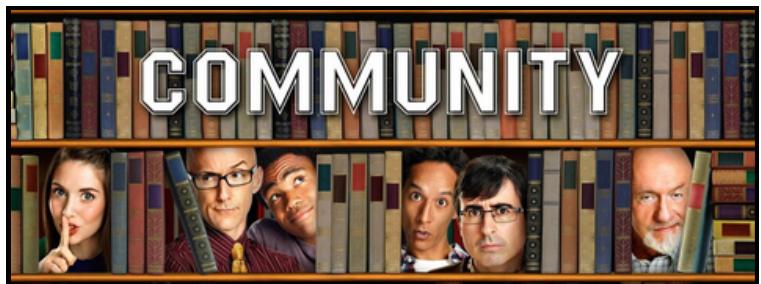
By Tia Padival (9)

Heartwarming, memorable, and humorous are just a few words to describe the sitcom show, *Community*. After Jeff Winger fakes his bachelor's degree and gets caught, he returns to a local community school, where he forms a study group, to reconnect with his former friend, Britta Perry. To his surprise, the group quickly expands to include a diverse array of individuals from various backgrounds and perspectives. The show centres around the dynamics within this eclectic friend group, highlighting their highs and lows and emphasizing the significance of companionship.

I thoroughly enjoyed the first three seasons of the show. The storyline was flawless and always kept me on the edge of my seat. Danny Pudi, the actor who played Abed, did a remarkable job portraying an introverted, intelligent character on the autistic spectrum. He was one of the few characters to inspire laughter.

However, the show has garnered a reputation for featuring racist and stereotypical jokes. In one particular episode, a white character named Pierce makes a remark implying racial bias: "We all know what we're thinking. If, and I mean 'if' the culprit is among us, statistically speaking it's Troy." Troy, in this context, is a black man. Humour containing hurtful messages like this should not be encouraged, especially on public television. The primary goal in the present era is to ensure that children grow up with a non-judgmental mindset, and displaying such behaviour only hinders this progress. Despite claims that the show promotes inclusivity, it falls short of doing so.

The controversy among viewers is a huge issue. Ignoring the poor choice of jokes, I believe that this show is worth watching. I found myself immersed in the different emotions that were portrayed on the screen. If you have a little time on your hands, you might as well give it a go.



Exploring Innovation: The STEAM Exhibition at 10X

By Syshasri Raghavan (9)

The recent visit from General Arjun Ray, Ms. Sarojini Rao, and the trustees of 10X has allowed our school to display our innovation and creativity by demonstrating our unique projects and ideas. As we know, one of the core elements of 10X is nurturing entrepreneurship, innovation, and how we apply knowledge, and this shone through for all of the students as we exhibited our unique designs and creations.

The exhibition lasted for two days, on February 13th and 14th. Students from grades 9, 10, and 11 showcased their STEAM tasks, personal projects, internship opportunities, creations from competitions, and their original ideas to the trustees who invested in our school. We demonstrated our abilities in AI and technology and applied our knowledge, engineering, research skills, and more. We also exhibited our understanding of experiential learning, walking them through how our innovations can make a bigger impact by effectively utilizing STEAM to solve problems.

We showcased the applications of AI in subjects such as English, history, and mathematics. In addition to this, we primarily focused on presenting the integration of engineering, technology, mathematics, and science into practical projects shown through our projects.

Our project showcase featured diverse STEAM innovations, including a firefighting drone, a dust-free window, and the CardioPro device. We also presented ChoiceX designs from the Plaeto Internship, along with VR headsets, crumple zone models, fuel cells powered by hydrogen and microbes, and even AI-generated art. General Ray provided valuable feedback, emphasizing the importance of applying our knowledge to create impactful STEAM innovations.

Overall, this month at 10X, we displayed our innovative projects to the trustees of the school and exhibited how we use STEAM to increase the performance of students and enhance the learning process. Lastly, this diverse program fosters creativity, teamwork, and knowledge application, equipping us for the future.



Student Achievements: February 2024

By Editors-in-Chief

Bretton Woods International Economics Championship

Aryan Hegde, Jai Rishik Anumalisetty, and Nakshath Venkatesh from Grade 11 won the award for Best in Microeconomics at the Bretton Woods International Economics Championship held on February 11, 2024. They will participate in the next round of the competition in Mumbai soon.

University of Berkeley: Business Academy for Youth Summer Program

Jai Rishik Anumalisetty (11) has been selected for the University of Berkeley—Business Academy for Youth summer program. Out of 2000 students from India, he is one of the two students to be selected for the program.

Junior Academy, New York Academy of Sciences

The Junior Academy is a selective, passionate community of problem solvers made up of talented students, STEM experts, and industry leaders from around the world.

Grade 9: Tanush, Prakul, Sanvi, Tisha, Sonakshi, Syshasri, Riya

Grade 10: Ruhi, Siddharth, Bharat, Vihaan

Grade 11: Saachee, Pranav, Akshay

American Math Olympiad (AMO)

AMO is an international math competition jointly organized by SIMCC and Southern Illinois University (SIU), USA.

Grade 10 Exam:

- Ashwat Prasanna (10) – Gold
- Yi Zou (9) – Bronze
- Bharat Ambati (10) – Honourable Mention
- Tanush Panigrahi (9) – Certificate of Participation

Grade 12 Exam:

- Sayan Dahiya (12) – Silver
- Arjun Garg (12) – Bronze
- Pranav Morisetty (11) – Bronze

Conrad Challenge

Avani, Venkat, Nivedita, Suchita, and Aarush, all in Grade 10, made it to the innovation phase of the Conrad Challenge.

The Knowledge Society (TKS)

Syshashri Raghavan (9) has been accepted to The Knowledge Society's 10-month prestigious internship program.

Blue Stamp Engineering Summer Program

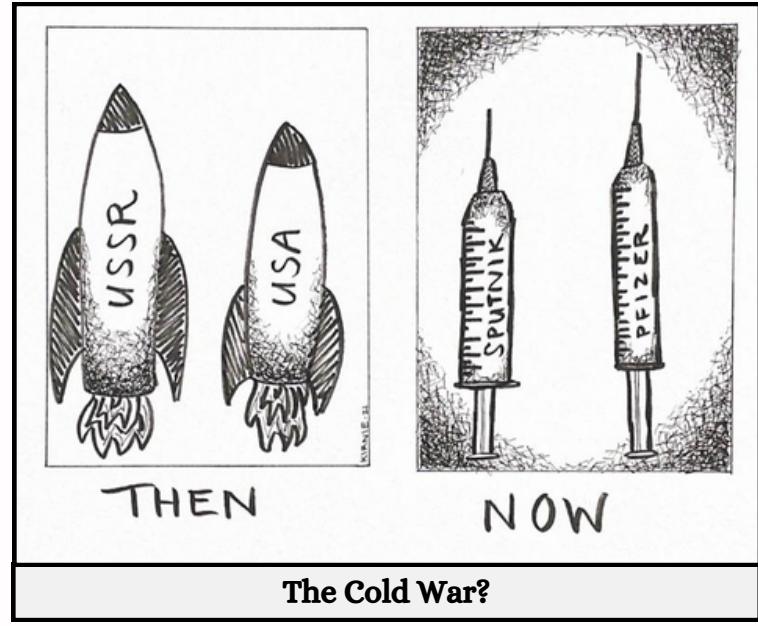
Sonakshi Dutta (9) has been accepted to the Blue Stamp Engineering Summer Program.



Cartoons



UK Economy



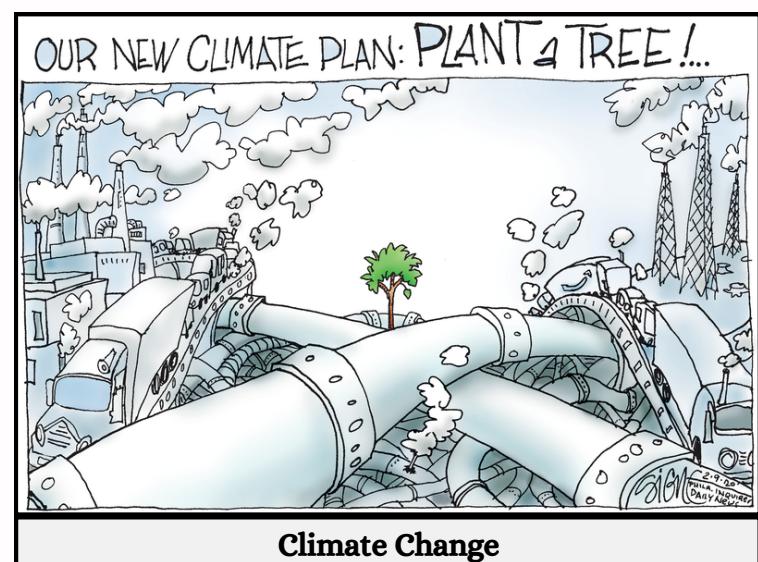
The Cold War?



Life on a Daily Basis



Law and Order

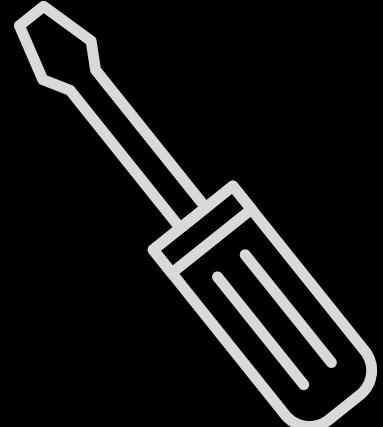


Climate Change

Cartoon Submissions

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