

10Xpress

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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to introduce the inaugural issue of 10Xpress, the official student-led school newspaper of 10X International School! The 10Xpress staff will grace the beginning of every month with a compelling compilation of exceptional journalism authored by the student community for students, parents, and teachers to enjoy.

Each issue will cover some of the events and affairs in the current world, spanning a myriad of dynamic topics. These include Science, Technology, Business and Economics, Politics, Health and Lifestyle, Entertainment and Pop Culture, and Sports.

10Xpress is the epitome of creative expression and student collaboration, both of which are fostered at 10X International School, where students are actively encouraged to pursue their innovative endeavours. We strongly believe that 10Xpress will be a successful medium for students to display their talent and passion for writing and journalism.

Before we sign off, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the diligent members of the Writing and Design staff, whose involvement has been instrumental in bringing this issue to fruition.

If you have any feedback or queries, don't hesitate to reach out to us at pranav.morisetty@indusschool.com or bharat.ambati@indusschool.com.

Thank you, and have a good read ahead!

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Note: This issue's best staff members have a star (☆) beside their name.

Taking a Stab at Cancer: UK's NHS Speeds Up Treatment

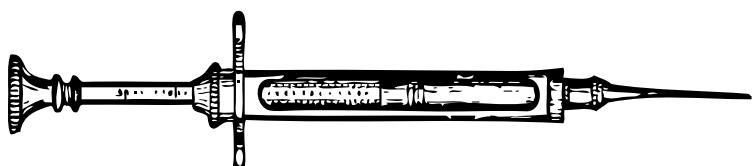
By Chirag Gowda (12)

The UK's National Health Service (NHS) has begun to administer life-saving vaccines to reduce cancer treatment by up to 75%. The miracle drug being used is Atezolizumab under the brand name Tencentriq. This medicine was already being administered in hospitals worldwide; however, it could only be injected intravenously (via veins) through drug transfusion, which was tedious and time-consuming.

A modification of this drug allows it to be administered subcutaneously (under the skin). While this change may seem minor or insignificant, it drastically reduces the time required to administer the medication—from thirty minutes to only seven. Furthermore, subcutaneously injecting Atezolizumab saves healthcare professionals a lot of time when handling many patients. It allows Atezolizumab to have a more significant impact on several cancer patients in dire need of treatment.

The mechanism of this drug is genuinely fascinating, and it is considered one of the most impactful drugs in immunotherapy, which is the amplification of the immune system to combat cancer. Atezolizumab acts as an inhibitor, blocking the interaction of the Programmed death-ligand 1 (PD-L1) and Programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1) proteins. The interaction between these two proteins prevents the killer T-cell from killing the cancerous cell. Usually, PD-L1 is present on the membrane of healthy cells to prevent T-cells from killing them by allowing the PD-1 protein on the membrane of a T-cell to interact with it, which alerts the T-cell to prevent hostility towards the cell. However, the protein PD-L1 can also occur in cancerous cells, avoiding extermination by killer T-cells. Atezolizumab prevents that from happening.

This is not the first time an alternative subcutaneously administered drug has been successfully introduced. Back in 2021, Pertuzumab/trastuzumab/hyaluronidase (PHESGO) was adapted to be injected under the skin, which reduced breast cancer treatment to just five minutes. Likewise, several more adaptations are being made to shorten treatment costs and time in the near future.



How Does The Brainless Box Jellyfish Learn?

By Bharat Ambati (10)

While creatures without a brain might seem simple and primitive, they continue to fascinate scientists worldwide. Recently, researchers published a report in the Journal of Current Biology indicating that a species of brainless box jellyfish—the Tripedalia cystophora—can learn from previous experiences. Given jellyfish's ancient divergence from our animal lineage, studying their cognitive abilities and behaviours offers insights into our origins and evolution of learning.

Scientists have realised that the most challenging aspect of interpreting jellyfish's actions and cognitive abilities is pinpointing an everyday behaviour the jellyfish could be trained to perform in the lab.

Anders Garm, a biologist researching this matter at the University of Copenhagen, stated that box jellyfish have a much more refined ability to learn and can modify their behaviour based on past events. Garm's team will focus on an 'about-face' that box jellyfish make when they are about to hit a mangrove root. Coming into contact with these roots can be jeopardising for soft-bodied jellyfish. However, the jellyfish feed off the copepods on the roots, so they need to approach the roots without touching them. To accomplish this manoeuvre, they need to assess distances. But how exactly do they do this without a brain?

The team observed how box jellies utilise the contrast to determine the distance between them and the root. They found that as the hunting for copepods began, the box jellyfish learned from unsuccessful evasive manoeuvres by combining visual inputs and sensations based on current contrasts. Following multiple wall collisions, the jellies adapted, swimming 50% farther from the wall pattern and quadrupling their about-faces in under eight minutes. The cells of visual neurons of box jellies showed striped images while receiving a small electrical pulse to represent collision. Within about five minutes, the cells started sending signals that would make the entire jellyfish turn around.

According to Michael Abrams, these results suggest that box jellyfish have short-term memory because they can change their behaviour based on past experiences. This could be because they have a complex structure of 24 eyes, which can assist in recognising objects. According to the BBC, they learn from past experiences from the process of associative learning.

Post G-20 Summit: Future of Technology

By Yi Zou (9)

The mantra, "One Earth, One Family, One Future", served an essential role in the recent G20 summit held in India, which proved to be a momentous occasion with significant implications for global politics, economics, and especially technology, shaping the course of worldwide technological advancements.

Cybersecurity is evolving into a global concern as cyberspace becomes a platform for terrorism and tax evasion. Consequently, one of the primary objectives of this G20 summit was to establish a secure framework for digital currencies and cryptocurrencies. The result is the development of the Crypto Asset Reporting Framework (CARF), which aims to regulate crypto transactions with increased scrutiny and transparency. Nevertheless, challenges persist, and the future significance of cryptocurrencies remains uncertain, with potential impacts that could sway in various directions.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed establishing a framework for "responsible human-centric AI governance." This proposal marked a pivotal shift in the summit's focus, prioritising a human-centric vision over a GDP-centric one. The aim was to emphasise global human development rather than the economic growth of individual countries in the field of artificial intelligence.

Climate change remains a pressing global concern, and at the conference, India introduced the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA), involving more than 15 countries worldwide. This alliance aims to promote the widespread use of biofuels and renewable energy sources on a global scale. The GBA has the potential to significantly transform current technological and energy production industries, considering that renewable energy currently constitutes just 12.3% of global energy production.

The summit also delved into the role of AI in addressing climate change and its potential impact on climate change mitigation efforts. The technological implications of the G20 summit are far-reaching and directly pertinent to our current global situation. While the exact outcomes remain uncertain, challenges are undoubtedly ahead, particularly in the field of renewable energy. However, the united efforts of the global community offer hope for overcoming these obstacles and ushering in a more sustainable future.

SpermSearch: Using AI to Detect Male Infertility

By Ruhi Beri (10)

The multifaceted application of novel technologies has grown tremendously in recent times. For example, the use of AI has increased because of its human-like intelligence and computer-like speed. There is limitless potential for the intersection between technology and medicine.

Dr. Steven Vasilescu and his team have proven that an AI model that detects sperm in a severely infertile male is a thousand times faster than a trained individual. SpermSearch, an Australian AI tool led by IVFAustralia's embryologist Dale Goss and CEO Vasilescu from NeoGenix Biosciences, is capable of detecting sperm in a testes tissue sample of a male with non-obstructive azoospermia (NOA), the most severe form of male infertility. SpermSearch can find sperm in NOA carriers in mere seconds, a process that usually takes six to seven hours for multiple staff to do. Dr. Vasilescu marvels, "It can highlight a potentially viable sperm before a human can even process what they're looking at". At the same time, Goss asserts that SpermSearch is a pioneering project blazing a trail in surgical sperm detection.

30% of infertility issues in couples arise in males, with 10-15% completely lacking sperm. SpermSearch aims to help couples who opt for IVF due to infertility and decrease the time taken for the process. When female eggs' gametes are collected, there is only a small time window to fertilise them, making the efficiency of the assistive AI tool advantageous.

In addition to its speed, SpermSearch boasts enhanced accuracy. After meticulously training the AI models to identify sperm by utilising tissue sample images with highlighted sperm, testing was conducted against a highly regarded embryologist, considered the gold standard with a presumed 100% accuracy rate. The results were astonishing, as the AI model detected 611 sperm, surpassing the embryologist's count of 560. Furthermore, SpermSearch circumvents potential human errors and mitigates various conditions that can impact accuracy, such as contamination, exhaustion, fatigue, and the possibility of overlooking sperm.

The expansion of AI usage in the medical field is thrilling, but the anticipated project is still undergoing the clinical trial stage to reach proof-of-concept status. Embryologists and the SpermSearch team are hopeful for the results of the clinical trial and the assistive tool's overall role in helping men with infertility.

How Do Geopolitical Risks Threaten Businesses?

By Suchita Agarwalla (10)

In our contemporary world marked by widespread uncertainty, major global powers are vigorously vying for supremacy, taking geopolitical risks caused by both ambitions and actions undertaken by international actors.

The year 2022 proved very significant regarding major events shaping our future. The globe witnessed the largest armed conflict in Europe since WWII, the Russia-Ukraine war, and escalating tensions between the United States and China. Businesses in these nations are the most severely hit since they encounter difficulties with raw material imports and dealing with overseas consumers. Companies that import or export items to or from these nations face challenging times. Businesses that had previously become used to free international commerce now confront new hurdles, such as export limits and the growth of penalties.



Numerous businesses, from consumer brands to law firms, have recently left Russia or reduced their operations due to the ongoing war. In 1990, McDonald's opened its first restaurant in the Soviet Union and hit a record of 30,000 customers on its opening day. This American Chain exited Russia in May of 2022. The 62,000 workers in the company were left unemployed, becoming an added stress for the country's economy. This was done because keeping the chain functioning would oppose the company's values. The same issue can and is being faced by other smaller Western businesses as well due to geopolitical issues.

The United States and China have business, supply chain, and economic ties. However, in recent years, these relationships have gotten increasingly complicated. Trade tensions rose in 2018 as the United States imposed tariffs on Chinese goods to lower its trade imbalance with China. Since then, the United States has imposed limitations on exports to China.

Geopolitical risks will remain a big issue for businesses in the coming years. Cyberattacks are growing more common and severe, causing damage to organisations and corporations. Due to such harmful geopolitical risks being introduced worldwide, governments and businesses must grow more cautiously.

Reliance Starts World's Largest Carbon Fiber Plant in India

By Avani Radheshyam (10)

Reliance Industries stands as India's biggest corporate giant, reigning supreme in both market capitalisation and revenue. Its presence contributes a substantial 7% to India's overall revenue, firmly securing its status as the nation's premier exporter and the top private taxpayer.

Chairperson Mukesh Ambani has recently unveiled an ambitious plan for Reliance Industries, signalling the construction of the world's most extensive carbon fibre manufacturing facility in Hazra, Gujarat. A carbon fibre plant is a specialised establishment dedicated to the production of carbon fibre materials; carbon fibre is a lightweight, exceptionally robust substance known for its widespread applications in prominent sectors such as aerospace, automotive, and sports. These plants, to be erected in Gujarat, are set to be using a formidable capacity of 20,000 MTPA (million tons per annum), leveraging Acrylonitrile feedstock as their foundation.

Reliance Industries is embarking on a substantial investment journey, planning to invest 75,000 crores over the next five years for the development and expansion of the facility. This substantial commitment not only strengthens the foundation of the plant but also catalyses the creation of new value chains, including a Polyester value chain, a vinyl chain, and the production of innovative materials.



In a recent interview, Ambani stated, "We will commence with the production next year and aim to complete the first phase of the plant in 2025. This will provide expansions that will allow Reliance to rank amongst the Top producers of PVC globally."

This ambitious venture that Reliance has embarked upon will reshape India's industrial landscape by increasing revenue, improving technology, and strengthening global trade. This is a very significant & noteworthy moment in India as it launches India forward in terms of technology, innovation, and sustainability, reinforcing an advanced future for the country.

Karnataka and Tamil Nadu Cauvery water dispute

By Aryan Hegde (11)



The Kaveri (Cauvery) River dispute, which has spanned over two centuries, remains a contentious issue between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, rooted in historical, geographical, and agricultural factors. Originating in Karnataka's Kodagu district and flowing for 765 kilometres into Tamil Nadu, the river holds significant importance for both states. Karnataka, situated upstream, asserts its claim to a substantial share of the river's water for agricultural purposes. The Kaveri River and its tributaries play a crucial role in supporting the cultivation of various crops, including rice, sugarcane, and cotton. Additionally, it holds hydropower potential, with several dams and reservoirs serving this purpose.

Conversely, Tamil Nadu, as the downstream state, heavily depends on the Kaveri's waters for its agriculture. The efforts to resolve this long-standing dispute trace back to the 1800s, with agreements such as the 1924 accord shaping the ongoing conflict. Even after the state reorganisation in 1956, which allocated 75% of Kaveri water to Tamil Nadu, tensions continued to simmer.

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) was formed in 1990, and in 2007, it allocated water shares: 30 tmc to Kerala, 270 tmc to Karnataka, 419 tmc to Tamil Nadu, and 7 tmc to Puducherry. In 2023, Tamil Nadu sought Supreme Court intervention, requesting Karnataka to release 36.76 TMC of water as per the CWDT award. Karnataka cited lower rainfall in the Cauvery catchment area as the reason for reduced inflow into its reservoirs, making compliance difficult.

On September 18, the Cauvery Water Management Authority issued an order directing Karnataka to release 5,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for 15 days, reaffirming a previous mandate. Thus, the Cauvery River dispute continues, fueled by the intricate interplay of history, geography, and the agricultural needs of both states.

The Alarming Rise of Putschism in Africa

By Nisvi Sood (10)

The political landscape in Africa has been experiencing an alarming rise in putschism in recent years. Putschism, which refers to attempting to overthrow a government by force, has become a recurring theme in many African nations. Unfortunately, it poses a significant threat to the stability and progress of the continent.

There are several reasons why putschism is on the rise in Africa. Firstly, political instability and conflicts that have been ongoing for years have contributed to the issue. In addition, the failure of democratic institutions to deliver on their promises has resulted in widespread disenchantment among the population. The lack of trust in democratic processes has created a fertile ground for the emergence of putschism.

The consequences of putschism are severe and can have serious implications. Putschism often leads to widespread violence, displacement of people, and economic disruptions. It can cause a breakdown of social order and destroy societies, infrastructure, and economic systems.

A united effort is required by all stakeholders to address the issue of putschism in Africa. Governments must promote stability and create political environments that nurture democracy and respect for human rights. This can be achieved by establishing solid institutions that can provide a framework for democratic processes. Civil society organisations can also play a vital role in promoting democracy and advocating for the rights of citizens.

In conclusion, the rise in putschism in Africa is a cause for concern, and urgent action is required to address the issue. By working together, all stakeholders can promote stability, democracy, and respect for human rights, thereby creating a brighter future for Africa.



Cosy Cardio: The Intersection Between Fitness and Comfort

By Samridhi Jangid (9)

A recent study showed that adults who exercised at least 150 minutes per week had a lower risk of death from other causes than those who did not. The health risks were even lower for those exercising longer and more intensely. As the number of people wanting to work out augments, so do the different exercise types. One such innovative exercise trend is 'cosy cardio.' A term coined by TikToker Hope Zuckerbrow in 2022, the cosy cardio trend has taken the internet by storm.



First and foremost, cosy cardio is a low-impact cardiovascular workout performed in a comfortable and relaxed environment. It does not involve activities like jumping or running at a fast pace. This trend makes exercise more accessible and enjoyable, placing less stress on rugged physical activities and providing a more lenient option for individuals.

Furthermore, cosy cardio promotes both physical and mental well-being. Because this type of exercise can be done at home, it may be an excellent approach to overcome any trepidation or fear of working out in front of others or being body-shamed. "Society puts so much pressure on women to look a certain way, and because of that, many of them have turned exercise into a punishment," said Zuckerbrow. For her, engaging in cosy cardio has become a form of "meditation" and "self-love."

Finally, cosy cardio is a terrific complement to someone's daily or weekly regimen if they aim to increase movement, reduce tension, and conquer fitness phobia. However, to achieve more significant gains in strength and fitness, people must challenge themselves and engage in higher-intensity workouts. As a result, balance is vital.

Minimal-impact exercising offers a gentle and accessible entry point into regular exercise, which is beneficial to many people. Those returning to exercise after a long time, beginners, or people who find normal gym environments daunting may find cosy cardio appealing. It is also seen as a form of self-care and a way to reconnect with your body.

Cracking the Code: Techniques and Tricks to Ace Your Studies

By Siddarth Mitra (10)

As we dive into a thrilling school year at 10X, we must equip ourselves with the tips and tricks to shine academically. These study techniques will surely set you on the path to academic excellence.

1. Study Rituals

Developing a study ritual can build a focused mindset and positive attitude toward studying. This unconventional technique is for students struggling to get into the right headspace to study or prepare for a test. Start by selecting an enjoyable activity to do before every study session for the next 21 days consistently. Doing this activity before studying will become your "study ritual", wherein, every time you perform this activity, you passively start associating it with getting into the right mindset for productivity and studying.

2. Buddy System

The Harvard Division for Continuing Education recommends the buddy system, connecting other students studying similar subjects or topics to review material, quiz each other, and deepen your mutual understanding. The buddy system makes studying more bearable, along with fostering lasting friendships.

3. Pomodoro Technique

The Pomodoro Technique, developed by Francesco Cirillo, is perfect for those who struggle with procrastination or those subject to boredom during study sessions. This technique involves setting a 25-minute timer to focus solely on your task, followed by a 5-minute break. Every fourth break is an extended break, lasting for 15-30 minutes. This technique provides you with regular gaps from mundane tasks while ensuring productivity.

4. The 'Getting Things Done' method

This technique offers a straightforward solution for individuals grappling with the daunting task of navigating an ocean of assignments. It starts with a "Capture" phase, where you list all tasks to gain a comprehensive view of your workload. Subsequently, the "Clarify" stage involves crafting detailed action plans for each assignment to facilitate completion. The "Organise" step arranges these tasks into a prioritised calendar. Next, the "Review" process helps you track and mark completed tasks on your calendar. Finally, you "Engage" directly with the assignments, tackling them individually.

Remember to explore each of these study methods to identify which one suits you best. Cheers to a fruitful school term!

"This Barbie" Joins The SAG-AFTRA Strike

By Nivedita Saboo (10)

SAG-AFTRA is a union representing over 160,000 media professionals, including actors, journalists, stunt performers, and hosts. It advocates for fair wages, working conditions, and residuals through collective bargaining. For instance, it negotiates with AMPTP and collaborates with various entertainment entities like movie theatres, TV networks, and streaming platforms such as Netflix, Disney, and Paramount.

Recently, SAG members started campaigning for improved compensation and working conditions as they contend with a labour landscape altered by streaming and threatened by AI.

The culture of watching television and movies has changed due to streaming services like Netflix, Hulu, and Max, impacting the way actors are paid. In addition to dealing with diminishing residuals and incomes that have not kept up with inflation, actors can no longer rely solely on royalty payments based on how many times a show is rebroadcast. Moreover, streaming has made career chances more difficult, with actors claiming they have fewer employment opportunities because many shows now have shorter seasons spread over extended periods.



Margot Robbie had been on her *Barbie* publicity tour when the SAG strike was first announced in July. In response, she promptly ceased her promotional activities for the film. On September 14th, Robbie actively joined the march organised by the Union and the Writers Guild of America, which stretched from Netflix Studios to Paramount Studios.

At the London premiere of *Barbie*, Margot Robbie openly expressed her backing for the SAG strike. During this event, she unequivocally affirmed her commitment to the cause, stating, "I'm very much in support of all of the unions, and I'm a part of SAG, so I would stand by that" to Sky News.

"At some point, the jig is up. You cannot keep being dwindled and marginalised and disrespected and dishonoured. The entire business model has been changed by streaming, digital, and AI. This is a moment of history," said the SAG-AFTRA president, Fran Drescher, during a press conference in July. "If we don't stand tall right now, we are all going to be in trouble."

Streaming Wars: A Decade of Transformative Entertainment

By Saachee Moholkar (11)

Over the past decade, the entertainment industry has experienced a transformative shift, leading to the emergence of what is commonly referred to as the 'Streaming Wars.' The landscape of media consumption has changed profoundly, marked by intense competition among Over-The-Top (OTT) services competing for supremacy. This article explores the origins, examples, and impact of the 'Streaming Wars' on traditional media and OTT services.

OTT services are an evolved form of conventional media, which have been redefining the method of delivering film and TV content over the Internet while being accessible without reliance on traditional broadcast and cable TV providers. We can trace the origins of the Streaming Wars back to the early to mid-2000s when Hulu and Netflix first became prominent. These OTT services challenged cable television by enabling content streaming on devices through an internet connection.

As the Streaming Wars intensified, traditional media companies were scrambling to adapt. Many cable providers have launched their streaming platforms, while others formed associations to ensure survival in this rapidly evolving landscape. Some, like HBO Max, have opted for a hybrid approach, offering both traditional cable channels and a streaming platform.

Considering the same, many studios have experimented with direct-to-streaming releases, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, where it wasn't feasible for audiences to go to theatres. This shift challenges the traditional model of more comprehensive, more grouped releases.

The Streaming Wars show no signs of slowing down, with new members joining the bandwagon. Paramount and Discovery+ are just a few examples. The competition is driving innovation and content creation to unprecedented levels, delivering consumers with a plethora of choices.

The Streaming Wars have ushered in a new era of entertainment, offering consumers more options than ever before. However, the battle for dominance will continue to shape the industry, making it an exciting time for viewers. As technology evolves, so will the way we consume and enjoy our favourite shows and movies, making this inevitable.



Houston Dynamo Triumphs Over Messi-less Inter-Miami

By Vivaan Sharma (9)

The US Open Cup of 2023 ended after 191 days, starting on the 21st of March and ending on the 27th of September this year. Having provided 99 teams with the opportunity to lift the prestigious US Open Cup, the tournament ended with the Houston Dynamo emerging as champions. The now two-time champions won the final to a Messi-less Inter Miami side, winning by one goal, because of Messi's leg injury, rendering him to miss three matches in the past two weeks. The effect of the Argentine's absence could be seen on the ground. The loss to Houston Dynamo showed the magic Lionel Messi had brought to the Inter Miami side. To add to the club's misfortune, another celebrated mid-season acquisition, Jordi Alba, suffered from an injury and was consequently absent from the big stage.

The champions are the first team since Sporting Kansas City to emerge as champions while being the visiting team. George Dorsey and Amine Bassi scored goals during the first half for the victors. The team backed by NBA superstar James Harden was stealing the final. However, Josef Martinez from Inter Miami scored during half-stoppage time, but unfortunately, it wasn't enough, and the team couldn't keep up. Messi's absence could have led to a pricey anticlimax in the crowd. With ticket prices ranging from \$125 to \$4000 (an hour before the match), many fans were expecting a cracker of a game from Messi and Inter Miami. In fact, despite heavy rain in the Fort Lauderdale area late Wednesday afternoon, thousands of Messi fans were visible outside the venue before the final was open to all spectators. On a lighter note, Inter Miami is still very likely in the race to make the MLS playoffs.

To sum it up, the favourites, a depleted Inter Miami, were met with immense disappointment because the Houston Dynamo triumphed over them. The latter's triumph brings them their second championship win, their first coming in 2018. The champions went home successfully with a grand prize of \$300,000.



India Secures Impressive Victory Over Sri Lanka in Asia Cup 2023

By Nakshath Venkatesh (11)

Cricket enthusiasts witnessed a thrilling final match on Sunday, September 17th, as India played against Sri Lanka for the Asia Cup 2023 final. This highly anticipated match, a showdown between the two best Asian teams, did not disappoint! Throughout the game, fans were on the edge of their seats.

The Asia Cup has thrived as the breeding ground for intense competition between countries, with no exception for the finals. This final took place at Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Sunday.

In a nerve-wracking encounter, India used their tactics and plans to defeat Sri Lanka by a whopping 41 runs! This performance would be engraved in the memory of millions of cricket lovers for years. The Men in Blue, led by Rohit Sharma, displayed exceptional prowess in both batting and bowling. With their excellent batting lineup, featuring Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, and Prithvi Shaw, they achieved a commendable total.

Following this, the Sri Lankan bowlers Wanindu Hasaranga and Dushmantha Chameera fought tirelessly to keep up with the pace. Nevertheless, in the end, India had a respectable total, setting the stage for an exciting finish.

The commencement of the final match faced a delay because of rain, but when the game finally began, the Indian seamer Bumrah wasted no time, taking just three deliveries to make the initial breakthrough.

Sri Lankan opener Kusal Perera fell for a second-ball duck as he edged Bumrah's beautifully executed outswinger to wicketkeeper KL Rahul. Rahul displayed exceptional skill, making a low and clever catch to dismiss Perera.

Siraj's bowling masterclass began in the fourth over, dismissing Nissanka and Samarawickrama quickly. He went on to take four wickets in one over, earning him accolades as the Asia Cup's second-best performer. He was also named the Player of the Final, receiving praise from Indian fans and viewers.

After the match ended, both sides shook hands, exhausted. The Indian team was filled with pride, whereas the Sri Lankan team was filled with disappointment. The Asia Cup 2023 final set a benchmark for future cricket events, showcasing the epitome of the sport. Congratulations to Team India for their remarkable victory!

Book Review: The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida

By Saachee Moholkar (11)

The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida, a stellar novel by Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka is a piece of literature you've most likely never encountered before. The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida follows a photographer (Maali Almeida) who cryptically ends up dead and sets out to solve the mystery of his own death and is given 'seven moons' (one week) during which he can travel between the afterlife and the real world. The main character is self-described as a photographer, gambler, and closet gay, which perfectly transcribes into a humourous, sardonic, and daunting novel.



The story unravels amidst the mayhem of the Sri Lankan civil war and acts as a peephole into Sri Lanka's regimes in a satirical manner. It represents Sri Lankan history, but all interworked into a thriller, an existential fable. We see Maali maintain a facade, an intricate tapestry woven with lies and secrets about the government, trust and his sexuality that slowly unfolds as the story progresses.

The beauty of the novel, however, remains in Mali's realisation of the value of human life. The author grows this theme by developing brutal characters and a nihilistic tone. This examination of nihilism delves into existentialism and ultimately expresses human life as valuable as how one perceives it.

We see Maali spiral into the nuances of his life as the narration stays in a second-hand point of view. This perception allows the reader to feel personally connected with Maali. Seven Moons Of Maali Almeida is laced with off-beat humour, and the author adds conviviality to heavier, more absurd moments.

This novel will always remain one of a kind, and it's tough to find a work of fiction with so much complexity while still being entrancing and impish. Shehan Karunatilaka has written this, word for word, letter by letter, shows how he is imbued with passion and devotion to his art.

Is The Mario Movie Truly Worth Watching?

By Tia Padival (9)

We have all heard of Mario before: the exuberant little man with a moustache. From his appearances in Donkey Kong (1981), Mario Kart (2014), and Bowser's Fury (2021), he and his brother Luigi are known all around the world. Moreover, they are a part of the best-selling video game franchise of all time, and it's no wonder Nintendo decided to release The Super Mario Bros. Movie in 2023!

The whimsy and nostalgic movie follows an exciting plotline. Firstly, Mario and Luigi invest their savings into their commercials, and a mysterious pipe transports them to the Mushroom Kingdom, where they meet Princess Peach and Donkey Kong. They then begin their journey to defeat Bowser, the antagonist.

Right off the bat, the animation and graphics in this movie are striking. The vibrant colours and attractive sceneries are sure to grab the viewer's attention (especially that of younger children). However, the film is rapid-paced; considering children's relatively short attention span, they likely wouldn't understand or get bored like I did.

While the company asserted that the Mario Movie would cater to both dedicated fans of the game and the broader audience, it included numerous references to the video games that might only be comprehensible to fans. A case in point would be the Mushroom Kingdom scenes and the character of Donkey Kong, which were introduced with little to no contextual explanation. Consequently, this left many of us desiring a deeper connection with the characters and the overall storyline.

The characters were well thought out, and Princess Peach is no exception. Her attitude, optimism, and subtle sarcasm truly did add spice to the movie, especially during the fight scenes. On the other hand, Luigi played a minor role in the film and remained an underdog. I would have liked to see a more co-dependent relationship between the brothers.

Although this movie had a couple of missed opportunities, it is still worth watching. If you are a fan of the franchise, you would have a much more enjoyable experience since you'd have greater context as to what is happening in the story. This movie isn't serious or emotion-evoking, but it would be a great flick to watch with friends and family.

A Turning Point for Affirmative Action: How Students are Affected

By Rishan Reddy (11)

The U.S. Supreme Court's recent 6-3 ruling, issued on June 29, 2023, has fundamentally reshaped affirmative action in higher education. This decision, driven by a supermajority, has raised concerns about its consequences for students of all backgrounds.

Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA), opposing affirmative action, argued that race-conscious admissions violated the Fourteenth Amendment. Chief Justice John Roberts, a vocal critic of affirmative action, asserted that universities had unjustly reduced identity to skin colour.

While the immediate impact may appear to disproportionately affect racial minority students, who historically benefited from affirmative action, the reality is multifaceted. Affirmative action aimed to level the playing field for underrepresented groups, including Black Americans, Latinos, Hispanics, and indigenous populations. The removal of race-conscious admissions may hinder access to elite institutions and limit opportunities for upward mobility and high-quality education.

Conversely, some argue that the ruling may create a more level playing field for White and Asian American students. Critics of affirmative action contend that such policies disadvantaged these students in the admissions process. The decision might lead to less competition for college admissions, fostering an environment based solely on academic achievements and qualifications.

Campus diversity enriches the educational experience by exposing students to varied perspectives and backgrounds, fostering critical thinking, and preparing them for a diverse workforce. With the removal of affirmative action, institutions may need alternative strategies to maintain diversity and ensure a well-rounded educational environment.

The consequences extend beyond academia. Businesses benefit from diverse graduates who bring varied skills and perspectives. A decline in racial diversity among college graduates may affect innovation, problem-solving, and global competitiveness.

In conclusion, the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision has shaken affirmative action and raised complex questions about its impact on students from diverse backgrounds. While effects may vary, the long-term consequences will shape education and the workforce. The evolution of affirmative action remains a pivotal and evolving issue, sparking conversations about diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity.



Empathy in Action

By Syshasri Raghavan (9)

In our safe, comfortable, and almost spoiled lifestyle, have you ever stopped to wonder what goes on beyond the bubble we live in? How the lives of villagers, slum dwellers, or autistic or visually impaired individuals may be? Empathy is one of the most crucial qualities that we must develop in ourselves, and during recent visits to villages and organisations supporting underprivileged slum children and individuals with special needs, we not only grew this essential quality but also understood the lives of individuals who are struggling, to find a solution.

During our trips to the villages, we engaged with the residents and learned about their daily lives, entertainment/pastimes, and more. We learned about some of the issues they experience, for which we can create solutions. On the other hand, at the NGOs, we built our awareness, compassion, and insight towards a global perspective of issues that people face. We saw how children with autism, down syndrome, and physical disabilities were affected and how the organisations aimed to help them live a comfortable life.

These trips increased our empathy and gratitude for the lifestyle we lead. It was an eye-opening experience to see people who are far less wealthy or have a special condition still be content and appreciative of their lives. We gained more humility for what we have and learned to value it more. We also saw the resilience of those who were struggling and their determination and optimism in the face of adversity. Unlike us, they do not have a safety net or a cosy lifestyle. Their hard work and persistence are the reasons for their success, and this is something that all of us can learn from.

Our journey to various villages and centres for the specially-abled and underprivileged has afforded us valuable insights into their way of life, identified areas where we can make a positive impact, heightened our appreciation for the privileges in our own lives, and showcased the remarkable resilience and optimism displayed by those less fortunate than us. This experience has not only deepened our capacity for empathy but has also fostered significant personal growth within us.



Student Achievements: August-September

By Sanvi Kurade (9)

Hypatia Competition

Hypatia is a mathematics contest conducted by the Centre of Education in Mathematics and Computing at the University of Waterloo. Arjun Garg (12) ranked second, and Ashwat Prasanna ranked third amongst students from South Asia and the Middle East. Ms. Nupur Gupta (mathematics facilitator) actively mentored the students.

New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS): The Junior Academy

Five students from 10X have been selected to be a part of The Junior Academy (NYAS), an international cohort of STEM-passionate student problem solvers. Members of the Junior Academy from around the world will work in teams and collaborate virtually on the Launchpad platform as they compete in a project-based challenge focused on the Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the United Nations. The students that have been selected are Arjun Garg (12), Pranav Morisetty (11), Ashwat Prasanna (10), Riya Kaulwar (9) and Syhasri Raghavan (9).

National High School Debate League of China British Parliamentary Debate (NHSDLC)

Advaith Datta Reddy, of grade 9, was ranked the fourth-best speaker in the junior category and the best speaker in the open category at the NHSDLC competition. He made it to the open quarterfinals against university teams.

Regional Equestrian League

Nakshat Venkatesh of grade 11 was awarded a Gold medal in the 105 cm jump event at the regional equestrian league held in Chennai. He has qualified for the Junior National Equestrian Championship (JNEC) to be organised by the Equestrian Federation of India. Horseback riding is a sport of great trust and patience of both the rider and their horse, and in this competition, Nakshath demonstrated these traits and showed immense skill!

VANDA International Science Olympiad

The VANDA International Science Olympiad, based on the Singapore School Syllabus, tested students on reasoning, analysis, decision-making and effective problem-solving. At VANDA, Sayan Dahiya (12) was awarded a gold medal and ranked 1st in India and 3rd globally. Ashwat Prasanna (10) was awarded a silver medal, receiving a country rank of 30 and a global rank of 68. Arjun Garg (12) received a bronze medal and was ranked no. 10 in India and no. 37 at the global level. Finally, Chirag Gowda (12) received a country rank of 19 and a global rank of 92.

Published Paper

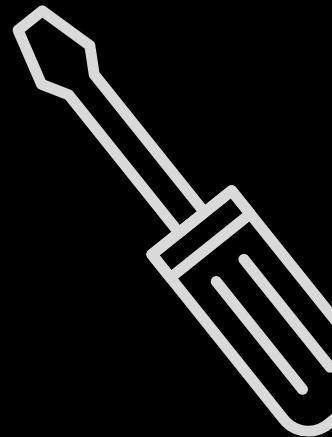
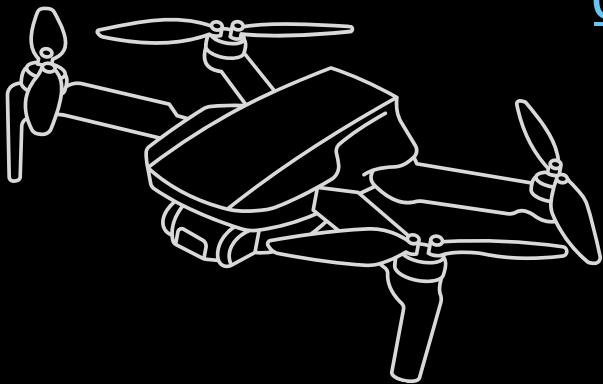
Avani Radheshyam (10) recently had her paper on “Rogue States-Current Approaches” published in the Ox Journal. She co-authored the papers with several students. This paper was the culmination of a summer programme she participated in with Oxford Scholastica. <https://www.oxjournal.org/revisiting-rogue-states-current-approaches-and-critiques/>

Singapore & Asian Schools Math Olympiad (SASMO)

SASMO aims to develop students' interest in mathematical problem-solving and expand their critical-thinking skills. At SASMO, the students Ashwat Prasanna received a gold medal, Arjun Garg received a Bronze medal, and Suchita Agarwalla received an Honourable Mention.

Congrats to all the students mentioned!

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