

10Xpress

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10Xpress

- 2 Editor's Note & Staff
- 3 Creative Writing
- 4 Science
- 5 Technology
- 6 Business & Economics
- 7 Politics

- 8 Health & Lifestyle
- 9 Entertainment & Pop Culture
- 10 Sports
- 11 Reviews
- 12 School Highlights & Student Achievements
- 13 Bonus ☆



Page 5

Instagram: The Social Giant Everyone Wants to Delete



Page 10

Zion Clark: Legless Foster Child to Record-Breaking Athlete



Page 11

Movie Review: Dead Poets Society (1989)



Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

We're thrilled to introduce the long-awaited fourth edition of 10Xpress, the official student-run newspaper of 10X International School. This month's release takes a deep dive into a multitude of topics, shedding light on happenings around the world. Additionally, we bring you insights into recent events within our community over the past few weeks.

To start the new year, the 10Xpress team has put together yet another issue in a comparatively shorter time than usual, in alignment with our commitment to punctuality. This edition boasts engaging content, featuring intriguing topics such as "Turning a Black Hole into a Rechargeable Battery," "GTA 6 Trailer Viewed More Than 'Avengers: Endgame' Trailer," and a thoughtful movie review of "Dead Poets Society."

Lastly, we are delighted to announce that **you have the chance to become a writer and join the 10Xpress team starting this month.** If you're passionate about writing and eager to contribute, we invite you to express your interest by **sending us an email.**

If you have any feedback about this issue, fill out this form. If you have any queries or concerns, please get in touch with us at pranav.morisetty@indusschool.com and bharat.ambati@indusschool.com, and we'll address them.

Thank you, and have a fulfilling read ahead. Happy New Year!

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

The Botanist

They say that, when you're struggling, you should buy a plant and name it after yourself. The idea is that nurturing the plant version of yourself will motivate you to nurture your real self.

I bought a withering tomato plant, replaced the soil, and trimmed the dead limbs. I said "Hello" to her every day, calling her by name, my name, of course.

But within the first month, she shriveled and died. Dismayed, I sought professional help. I cried more than I spoke at the first session.

After listening so graciously, the woman replied, "Ma'am, I'm just a botanist."

The Weeping Willow

By Siddharth Mitra (10)

Each furrow in her bark told an age-old tale.
Each crevice and nook within her was a haven for
life.

For she was the greatest gift of Demeter.
For she was the mother of every child.
She was a tree.

Her branches once stooped down to the earth
With utmost grace. They bore a bounty of
Fruits and vibrantly green leaves.
And the luscious tresses of her foliage,
Swayed gently with each breeze.

But now, her branches droop to the ground,
Reaching out from a husk of a bark—like the hands
Of a broken mother.
Devoid of the gifts of life, she herself became lifeless.
Not an inch of colour nor a drop of grace.

It was now that she truly lived up to her moniker of
the
"Weeping Willow."

Bald Man

By Anonymous

Why man is bald has baffled him
For ages—many years—
And it has caused much querying
And sighs, even to tears.

Why he is bald? I know the why
And later will relate
The reason he is minus hair
On top of his bald pate.

It's not this here heredity,
Nor dandruff nor disease,
Because a hat band is too tight;
Tight scalp—no none of these.

A man is bald, I know the why,
And here I will declare,
He's bald because, he's bald because,
He's minus of some hair.

Turning a Black Hole into a Rechargeable Battery

By Chirag Gowda (12)

The idea of using black holes as a power source has been a point of discussion for scientists over the last century. The Penrose process, a very clever theory proposed by Nobel laureate Sir Roger Penrose, takes advantage of a spinning black hole's ergosphere, a region where spacetime itself drags along at near-light speed. It is theorised that a mass dropped into the ergosphere will return with more energy. As it dips around the event horizon, the black hole's spin transfers some of its rotational energy to the bag. This energised bag then slingshots out, carrying more energy than it went in with.

In a recent research paper, scientists Zhan-Feng Mai and Run-Qiu Yang suggested the idea of charging a black hole with electrons. Imagine feeding a black hole massive, electric particles until it builds a repelling force field. That's one way to "charge" it, and according to the study, this could unlock 25% of the black hole's mass as energy, which would be more than 250 nuclear bombs.

Mai and Yang suggested two methods to retrieve this energy:

1. Spinning it up: Black holes spin, dragging space-time around them. By sending in waves, a special process called "superradiance" could boost their energy and send it back out.
2. Particle pairs: Under the intense electrical field of a charged black hole, particles might spontaneously pop into existence. One of these, a positively charged positron, could be ejected and captured as energy.

While these ideas are far from reality, they offer exciting possibilities for understanding the universe's ultimate power source.



Bounty of the Ocean: Revival of Nuclear Energy

By Siddarth Mitra (10)



Global energy demands are projected to soar to an astounding 740 exajoules (10^{18} joules) by 2040. Astonishingly, fossil fuels are expected to supply approximately 80% of this immense energy requirement. It is unmistakably evident that these rampantly growing energy demands—fulfilled only by a polluting and unsustainable energy source—have the potential to destabilize the future world by putting a massive strain on resources.

To combat this problem, Rui Zhao, Guangshan Zhu, and many other researchers worked on an alternative and sustainable nuclear fuel source to increase the viability of nuclear energy to support the growing energy demands of the present-day world.

These scientists developed a special kind of electrode to extract uranium ions from ocean water, originating from the dissolution of uranium minerals like uraninite, coffinite, and carnotite. These ions are then converted into radioactive isotopes for energy generation. The team created a carbon fibre cloth treated with chemicals and polymers to trap these ions in seawater. Adopting this innovation could dramatically enhance nuclear energy's viability over fossil fuels. Not only does it increase uranium availability for nuclear power, but it decreases the need for hazardous and inefficient uranium mining. This advancement is also a significant step towards shifting from fossil fuels to sustainable energy sources, including nuclear energy.

This discovery could potentially lead to the revolutionization of energy usage globally and could be our first major leap toward a better future. Yet, as the usage of nuclear energy increases after the implementation of these specialized cathodes, governments must be conscious of taking adequate measures to improper management of nuclear power plants and radioactive waste.

Apple's Next Leap: Integrating Advanced AI into iPhones

By Yi Zou (9)

Despite being one of the major technological companies globally, Apple has been relatively quiet in the “race” of AI technology compared to other Tech Giants such as Google and Meta in the past year. However, this is now subject to change.



Apple's recent research paper, “LLM in a Flash: Efficient Large Language Model Inference with Limited Memory,” published on the 12th of December, demonstrated a breakthrough technique that can potentially run AI in upcoming iPhones. A Large Language Model is a type of artificial intelligence algorithm trained with massive datasets. They can understand, summarize, generate, and predict text. LLMs are usually run on PCs with high Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM) and are hard to include in devices such as phones with less DRAM. However, Apple's research addressed these limitations, suggesting a future incorporation of LLMs into iPhones and iPads.

There have also been numerous reports on Apple creating its own chatbot and exploring the application of generative AI in iPhones. Integrating these advanced language processing algorithms into iPhones can allow for several enhanced capabilities. For example, powerful LLMs can improve voice assistants like Siri, enhancing user convenience.

Additionally, Apple also discussed its research about the Human Gaussian Splats (HUGS), an advanced neural rendering technology that can make a digital human avatar from short user video footage. It could allow people to customize their online presence and represent themselves as avatars during activities such as FaceTime.

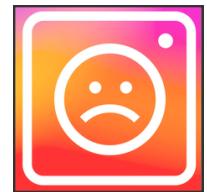
In conclusion, Apple's vigorous pursuit of AI advancements is not only promising but poised to revolutionize our interaction with devices like the next iPhone and the innovative Apple Vision Pro.

Instagram: The Social Giant Everyone Wants to Delete

By Ruhi Beri (10)

Despite being one of the largest social media platforms with over two billion users, Instagram is the app that most people want to delete, with an average of 1.02 million monthly searches on how to delete an Instagram account. Snapchat, a popular messaging app used most by Gen Z, was the 2nd highest, with 128,500 monthly searches, nearly eight times smaller than the searches to delete Instagram.

TRG Data Centers, a tech company headquartered in the United States, conducted a study on the frequency of deletions of the nine most widely used social media applications, namely Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Telegram, Snapchat, and X. The motivation behind this research stemmed from the significant decline in daily active users experienced by Threads, a Meta-owned app like Instagram, which saw an 80% decrease within just one month of its launch in July 2023. Users also spent considerably less time on the app daily, averaging only three minutes in November compared to the 21 minutes recorded during its initial launch.



This report by TRG Data Centers can be related to other Meta apps such as Instagram itself. Christianna Silva, a culture reporter for multimedia platform Mashable, wrote, “Hating Instagram is integral to its existence at this point.” Nonetheless, the social media scene is shifting away from Instagram. Research from Facebook, a Meta-owned company itself, alongside many other organizations such as the American Psychological Association, shows that Instagram is harmful to a significant amount of teenagers, especially teenage girls. The app is infamous for breeding body image issues and low self-esteem, especially in women and girls, a vulnerable sector of society who have long been targeted to have unrealistic and unfair beauty standards. With an increasing desire to delete the app and its inability to attract younger audiences as much as TikTok, a short video-sharing app with over a billion monthly active users, and Snapchat, Instagram may be dethroned by a competitor in the future.

India Soon to Become World's Third-largest Economy

By Suchita Agarwalla (10)

As a result of its tremendous growth over the past 3-4 years, India has gained the tag of the world's fastest-growing major economy. It is predicted to overtake both Germany and Japan as the world's third-largest economy in the near future. This is evident in India's 7.2% GDP growth in the 2022-23 fiscal year, which surpassed China's 2.99% rise in the same year.

While the Western economies are getting crushed under high-interest rates and high energy prices, India is slowly increasing its domination in the global market. The reason for this is the initiatives and programmes started by the government in the preceding years. First is the 'Make in India' initiative launched in September 2014, with the aim of increasing the share of manufacturing in the country's GDP. The next initiative, Digital India, was introduced in July 2015 with an aim to make India a society empowered by technology. This program boosted e-commerce development. Today, leading international corporations in e-commerce and technology are drawn to the Indian market as a result. The ultimate goal of each of these initiatives was to establish the nation as a hub for manufacturing, which is gradually taking place.



Prior to British rule, India was one of the wealthiest nations in the world and was leading the world in the manufacturing sector. Today, India is capable of returning to that position. However, as one of the world's most populous countries, India is facing difficulty in increasing GDP per capita and labour productivity. Nonetheless, India has the potential to empower its people to achieve a more significant economic output. This outlook is supported by India's booming middle class driving consumer spending and the brewing digital revolution. India will eventually surpass China and the United States to become the "world's largest economic superpower" probably no later than the end of this century (as per the Centre for Economics and Business Research)!

Indian Exports Gain Strength Amid Global Market Shifts

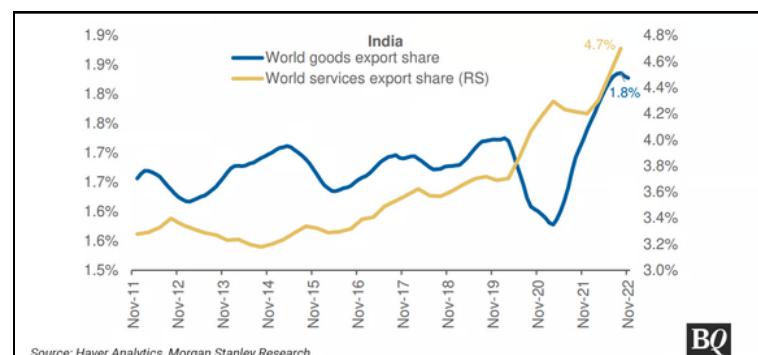
By Avani Radheshyam (10)

Indian exports are becoming less and less vulnerable to changes in world demand and exchange rates, according to the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA), V Anantha Nageswaram. His team published "Re-examining Narratives: A Collection of Essays" on Thursday.

The foundation of this assertion lies in the marked reduction of elasticity in Indian exports. From 1991 to 2008, the elasticity was calculated to be 5.67; from 2009 to 2022, it dropped to 3.44. Notably, elasticity decreased by a whopping 2.23 in just one year (2008 - 2009). According to the essays published, having low elasticity is advantageous, indicating that in the face of rising global demand or exchange rate fluctuations, the surge of exports from the country would be significantly lower. Furthermore, low-income elasticity is a key indicator of development, with lower elasticity often signifying a more developed economy.

This change in export elasticities is due to India's decision to increase the share of service exports, which has grown by 28%. Many other reforms India adopted, such as diversification of exports, quality improvement, currency management, and investment in technology, led to the country's share of the domestic product going from 15% to 50%.

This newfound immunity to global income fluctuations is a significant milestone and testament to India's rising dominance and economic resilience, propelling India towards becoming the preeminent power in Southeast Asia.



India's Democracy in Turmoil: Suspension of Opposition MPs

By Venkat Muralidhar (10)

Tensions flared in India's parliament as a staggering 141 opposition MPs, comprising 82 Lok Sabha and 45 Rajya Sabha members from the Indian Alliance group, faced suspension from both chambers until the winter session. The suspension, stemming from accusations of disrupting proceedings, follows their persistent demand for a debate on the recent security lapses at the legislature. In Lok Sabha, some Congress members notably scaled the speaker's podium, whereas in Rajya Sabha, opposition slogans created disruptions. The parliamentary state of affairs was lamented: "The house has been reduced to just being a shouting brigade." Notably, this marks the largest suspension of parliament members in the country's history.

Opposition parties decried the move as a mockery of democracy, accusing the government of dictatorial tactics and declaring it a death knell for democracy. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs defended the decision, asserting that the suspended lawmakers had defied the speakers and violated the rules of the house. Outside the parliament building, Opposition Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi led suspended MPs in demonstrations. Their primary demand remains a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the recent security breach. Additionally, they allege the government is downplaying the involvement of a BJP parliamentarian whose office allegedly facilitated entry permits for the accused, enabling them to breach the parliament premises.

While Home Minister Amit Shah has yet to issue a statement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during an internal party meeting on the 19th, criticized the behavior of opposition leaders. He labeled it unruly and suggested it was an expression of frustration over their defeat in the recent state polls. The standoff continues as opposition MPs persist in their calls for accountability and transparency.



US Anti-Corruption and Transparency Policies

By Bharat Ambati (10)

Corruption is a shadow that taints communities and societies worldwide and eats away at the trust we place in our systems. According to the US Department of State, corruption saps economic growth, hinders development, destabilizes governments, undermines democracy, and provides openings for dangerous groups such as criminals, traffickers, and terrorists.

Following this train of thought, the Biden-Harris administration has inducted anti-corruption as a national security interest and released the first-ever strategy on countering corruption in the US. To carry forward this strategy, the United States is working on strengthening investigation and prosecution against corruption and its associated activities. It decreases criminality, terrorism, and corruption, making it easier to implement such policies.

The US Department of State mentions that the Implementation Plan articulates activities to achieve five pillars of the strategy:

1. Modernising, Coordinating, and Resourcing Efforts to Fight Corruption
2. Curbing Illicit Finance
3. Holding Corrupt Actors Accountable
4. Preserving and Strengthening the Multilateral Anti-Corruption Architecture
5. Improving Diplomatic Engagement and Leveraging Foreign Assistance Resources to Advance Policy Goals

The comprehensive strategy to combat corruption intertwines five critical areas. Firstly, it emphasizes synchronizing anti-corruption efforts across various departments, prioritizing effective communication and coordination as key policy tools. This is coupled with a robust focus on combating money laundering, illicit trafficking, and related criminal activities that fuel corruption, ensuring efficient operations both locally and internationally. Additionally, the strategy calls for a reinforced enforcement of law and order, specifically targeting the reduction of avenues for corrupt individuals to exploit global markets. In parallel, there's a strong push towards strengthening multilateral systems, recognizing corruption as a pervasive global challenge, and aiming to dismantle 'safe havens' for corrupt figures. Finally, the plan involves leveraging foreign assistance to empower civil society. This pillar is dedicated to shining a light on corruption, fostering advocacy and reform efforts, and cultivating a culture of ethical behavior, forming a multifaceted approach to decisively tackle corruption.

These pillars will help reduce corruption worldwide, especially with bureaus such as INL, EB, DRL, ENR, and the TIP office coming together to support such an initiative.

Mental Health Apps: A Rising Saviour or Too Good To Be True?

By Siddarth Mitra (10)

Mental health and wellness apps have quickly risen in popularity after the quarantine during the pandemic by amassing more than 30 million new users worldwide. These included apps promoting meditation, self-care, exercise, psychoanalysis, sleep tracking, etc. The most popular apps in this category included Betterme, Bettersleep, Calm, and Headspace.

But the main question that arises is if mental health and wellbeing apps can help you become a better version of yourself or whether they're just another hoaxed social media trend.

To uncover the answer to this multifaceted question, the PMC (PubMed Central) surveyed the effects of mental health and wellness apps on patients struggling with depression, anxiety, and schizophrenia. Results showed that the apps that use cognitive behavioural therapy, mindfulness training, mood monitoring, and cognitive skills helped schizophrenic, anxious, and depressed patients in improving their conditions.

These apps bring many benefits to the lives of their users, especially in the form of promoting a more conscious lifestyle. Many wellness and mental health apps do this through features such as mood journals, diaries, sleep tracking, motivational features, breathing exercises, etc. All of these collectively help users become the best versions of themselves by encouraging them to live a more healthy, active, and fulfilling lifestyle.

However, almost every mental health and wellness app is locked behind a costly subscription. This barrier dramatically limits the scope of these applications' impact due to their unaffordability. Furthermore, due to the lack of specialization and scientific certification behind them, they cannot reliably be used as treatment methods for individuals with severe mental health conditions.

To answer the original question—even though these apps were the last resort for everyone to deal with their deteriorating mental and physical health, these apps are not a hoax. They have been proven to positively impact the lifestyles of people struggling with their wellness; however, they are often locked behind overpriced subscriptions.

The Health Impacts of Nutrient Tablets

By Bharat Ambati (10)

In our burdensome and busy lives, time constraints hinder our ability to focus on our health, fitness, and lifestyle, leading to deficiencies and the insufficiency of nutrients in the body. This problem has rendered a rather convenient and effective solution to promote overall health: nutrient tablets and supplements. These tablets are packed with essential vitamins and minerals crucial in supporting our body.



For individuals who struggle to consume a diverse range of foods or have specific dietary restrictions, these tablets help provide a concentrated dose of vital nutrients to consume on a timely basis. Moreover, these supplements act as a nutritional safety net, offering a convenient way to meet daily requirements. The advantages do not stop there; for individuals engaged in physical activity, such as athletes and fitness enthusiasts, these supplements can be a great way to replenish their bodies during exercise. The enhanced nutrient intake supports optimal recovery, helps prevent fatigue, and contributes to improved athletic performance.

However, it's essential to approach the consumption of nutrient tablets with a balanced perspective. While they can serve as valuable supplements, they should not replace a wholesome and varied diet. Excessive consumption can lead to absorption issues, can lead to the use of other medication, can give a false sense of security, and, most importantly, the issue of quality and purity is always present.

Furthermore, seeking guidance from healthcare professionals is imperative to establish a safe and health-conscious lifestyle, guarding against the risks of supplement overconsumption. Regardless of the decision to incorporate such supplements into one's regimen, it is important to acknowledge the potential repercussions stemming from their design and usage. With this in mind, ensuring the safe and responsible consumption of supplements becomes imperative.

GTA 6 Trailer Viewed More Than Avengers: Endgame

By Pranav Morisetty (11)



The entertainment world has witnessed an exciting development as the official trailer for "Grand Theft Auto VI" (GTA 6) has surpassed the view count of the "Avengers: Endgame" trailer on YouTube. This achievement is significant given the widespread popularity of the Avengers franchise.

Released in December 2023, the GTA 6 trailer quickly garnered immense interest, amassing 158 million views and an impressive 11 million likes in just two weeks. The trailer's rapid surge in popularity eclipsed the Avengers: Endgame trailer, which had accumulated 157 million views and 3.4 million likes over four years since its release in March 2019.

The success of the GTA 6 trailer is a clear indication of the anticipation surrounding the game, especially since it has been over a decade since Rockstar Games released a main instalment in the Grand Theft Auto series. The overwhelming response to the trailer reflects the pent-up demand and excitement among fans for the next chapter in this iconic gaming franchise.

However, the trailer's soaring success isn't merely a matter of impressive numbers. It's a game-changer, literally and metaphorically, reshaping how we perceive the sheer influence of video games in the broader entertainment universe. It's not every day that a video game trailer steps into the spotlight and racks views at a staggering speed, truly underlining a seismic shift in how we consume media today. Gaming is no longer a niche hobby; it's a cultural powerhouse, uniting people worldwide and fostering vibrant communities.

As we look to the horizon, the buzz around GTA 6 raises some tantalising questions. Will future trailers continue to shatter viewership records? How will this unprecedented excitement shape the strategies of video game and movie marketers alike? There's also a curious suspense in the air—could GTA 6 dethrone the reigning YouTube champion, the Avengers: Infinity War trailer, with its 261 million views?

Kanye West Teases Upcoming Album With Ty Dolla Sign

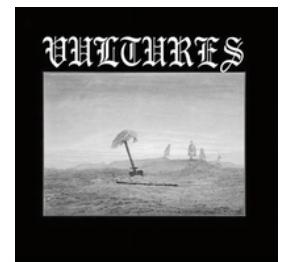
By Nivedita Saboo (10)

After midnight on Tuesday, Kanye West, the controversial artist and provocateur better known by his stage name Ye, made an appearance on stage in Miami, Florida, to preview his new album. This announcement follows a series of offensive and antisemitic remarks he made in the past year, which have nearly ruined his career in music and fashion. The musician was dressed in a pointed black hood that resembled a Ku Klux Klan robe, matching the artwork from the song "Black Skinhead" from his 2013 album "Yeezus."

Kanye West & Ty Dolla \$ign, collectively known as ¥\$—the two signs for the Japanese currency Yen and the American currency Dollar. Making it YenDollar, further broken down to Ye 'n' Dolla. They began making joint music in 2014 while working on Ye's seventh studio album: "The Life Of Pablo." Following the album's release, Ty Dolla \$ign became one of Ye's most frequent collaborators, contributing to some of his most prominent modern works — both released and unreleased — including "Ye" and the unreleased "Yandhi."

Ye and Ty's solid relationship blossomed into a unique musical collaboration, with Ty being one of the select few invited to join Ye for recording sessions in Tokyo, Japan, and later in Italy in 2023. During the recording sessions for Kanye West's eleventh studio album, they decided to set aside some of their music and create their first collaborative album, set to release in January, 2024.

The version of "Vultures" that was played in Miami early Tuesday included appearances by Charlie Wilson, Lil Baby, Freddie Gibbs, Chris Brown, Young Thug (who is currently imprisoned), and Ye's oldest daughter, North West, who rapped on one track, "It's your bestie/Miss, Miss Westie."



Ye has remained largely silent in public this year, performing only once with Travis Scott, but continued to push buttons, rapping in vulgar terms on the song "Vulture" and hinting at controversy. He also wears a logo that resembles the German coat of arms, including a double-headed eagle and the word "vultures."

Sports Authority Suspends WFI's New President

By Nakshath Venkatesh (11)

In a stunning turn of events, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) revealed that the newly appointed Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president has been suspended through a press report. This news has shocked many and raised queries and questions regarding the governance and stability of an important sport for India. WFI is responsible for taking care of the sport by managing the financial, economic, and social aspects involved in the sport. Their play also promotes the sport to other citizens. The suspension of WFI's leadership committee president has impacted the wrestling community to a great extent, leaving them in a state of uncertainty and starting a conflict about the instability of the government party.

SAI, the primary body overseeing the functioning of all the sports federations in the country, has cited gaps and reasons for suspending the newly appointed body members. The primary reason for the suspension was allegations of financial instability, mismanagement, and gender inequality. Additionally, the WFI has not taken any initiative in conveying the important competitions to the athletes prior to the competition, raising the problem of communication gaps and transparency.

The competitions, training programs, and overall development have been disrupted due to instability in WFI. Sources reveal that the complaint contains evidence of financial losses taking place after the appointment and that there was short notice given to the athletes before nationals were to take place. Sources also indicate that there were some gender biases taking place.

Amidst these tumultuous developments, the wrestling community, including athletes, coaches, and fans, has expressed disappointment and concern over the recent developments. Many are calling for the reallocation of all WFI officials and request a thorough investigation into the decisions and evidence. They are also emphasising the need for swift action to resolve the issue and restore confidence in the leadership of WFI.

The suspension of the recently appointed leadership of WFI by SAI marks a significant setback for wrestling and its athletes, with far-reaching impacts on the entire community. Media reports suggest that athletes and coaches are advocating for new leadership with strong financial acumen, effective communication skills, and a commitment to transparency as they strive for improved governance within the sport.

Zion Clark: Legless Foster Child to Record-Breaking Athlete

By Neil Daga (10)



Zion Clark is an inspiration to us all. Born in 1998, Zion suffered from a condition known as caudal regression syndrome. The rare congenital disability left Zion without legs, but that didn't stop him from taking bold steps toward victory.

As a child, Zion was dealt a rough hand. He was given up for adoption, switched between several foster homes, and was coined as a "problem child" in the foster system, practically leaving him to fend for himself until he was 16 years old.

In those 16 years, he faced a tumultuous journey, suffering both mental and physical abuse. He didn't let any of this stop him: he picked up skills such as wrestling and music early on, which became escapes for him, allowing him to grow even further.

One day, wrestling coach Gil Donahue saw the passion in this young man and offered his help with training. Over the next few years, with professional training assistance, Zion Clark became a dominating athlete, nearly qualifying in the Ohio high school state wrestling championships.

In more recent times, Zion has achieved incredible feats. He delved into the world of MMA, winning his first fight against a professional athlete in 2022. Zion also holds the Guinness world record for the fastest 20-meter hand walk, the highest box jump with only his hands, and the most diamond pushups (a notoriously difficult form of a pushup) done in 3 minutes. Currently, Zion is training to participate in the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics simultaneously. He hopes to compete in wrestling at the Olympics and in wheelchair racing at the Paralympics.

Zion has his motto, "NO EXCUSES," tattooed across his back. He says, "This tattoo is a representation of how I live my life, regardless of how the cards have been dealt."

Movie Review: Dead Poets Society

By Saachee Moholkar (11)

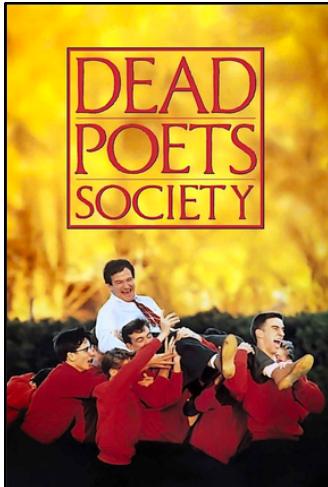
In the venerable halls of Welton Academy, where tradition echoes louder than footsteps, there lives a masterpiece that breaches the shackles of regularity and inspires minds to break.

In an era where film and media have become so forgotten and replaceable, Dead Poets Society transcends generations with its exploration of individuality and passion. Set in the 1950s in Welton Academy, a conservative educational facility, the film follows the story of an English teacher, John Keating, portrayed by Robin Williams, who inspires his students to explore the charm of literature through unorthodox and evocative methods.

At its core, "Dead Poets Society" is a celebration of the metamorphic power of passion and education. Keating encourages his pupils to break free from expectations and pursue their own paths, as seen with his student, Neil Perry. The movie was mainly regarded as a protest against parents and their virtues. Still, as you understand the film, everything revolves around how students regard society and what falls they take for their guardians' wellbeing.

Keating's mantra, "Carpe Diem," which translates to "seize the day," becomes a rallying exclamation for the minds under his guidance. It inspires and changes these once two-dimensional characters into people.

The film skillfully addresses the tension between conformity and individuality in a harrowing exchange between different generations, with an underlying theme that resonates across time periods. Keating's vehement teachings ignite a glimmer of zeal in his students, urging them to question everything and discover their undisputed selves. This message is as relevant today as it was in the 1950s, as individuals continue to struggle with societal presumptions and the pursuit of individual fulfillment.



Modern Family: A Story of Fun, Friendship, & Fiasco

By Tia Padival (9)

"Family is family, whether it's the one you start out with, the one you end up with, or the family you gain along the way."

Several T.V. shows have successfully captured the unity, camaraderie, and discord within families, but none do so better than the Netflix series "Modern Family." The show follows a family consisting of gay partners, a young woman who married an old man, and a couple who have three "interesting" children. This multifaceted and complex family tree includes members who have a variety of ethnic backgrounds, sexualities, and perspectives. It accurately depicts the drama and sacrifices we make in our lives to help our loved ones.



All the actors in the show were perfectly cast; it was evident that they all had strong connections with each other, which made interactions between them feel more heartfelt. It's evident that a great deal of thought had gone into crafting these characters, their dynamics, values, and personalities. The characters are quite relatable, which makes it all the more captivating. I especially enjoyed the role played by Sofia Vergara (Gloria Pritchett). The humour, culture, and feminism that this character portrayed were fascinating and unquestionably relevant to modern times.

It challenged the societal expectations of genders, sexualities, and the roles within a family. Learning to put yourself before others, to persevere, and to be honest are only some of the lessons that 'Modern Family' has taught its viewers. Personally, I believe younger children should watch this show (even if they don't understand the jokes yet) because these life lessons are crucial for building members who contribute to society.

The wit, humour, and relatability of this series managed to keep me hooked throughout all eleven seasons. I guarantee the same for you, too!

Celebrating the Christmas Cheer at 10X

By Syshasri Raghavan (9)

As December neared, the Christmas spirit and the jolly mood took hold at our school as we all began to spread the holiday cheer. To mark the occasion, we adorned the campus, organized a Christmas celebration, and engaged in a variety of games, all aimed at capturing the joyful essence of the season.

Although students in grades 9 and 11 were in the midst of their half-yearly exams this month, the holiday spirit prevailed. Undeterred, students persistently decorated their classrooms to elevate the festive atmosphere. Adding lights, Christmas trees, and crafting decorations from paper and cardboard, the classrooms transformed into our miniature version of a Winter Wonderland, emphasizing the joyous occasion.

To enhance the holiday spirit even more, the teachers created a small competition for all grades to see which classroom had the best overall decorations. The 11th-grade classroom was the winner, and the 9th-grade classroom earned runner-up.

Furthermore, we marked the winter festivals with an eagerly anticipated class party! On the final day before the holiday break, each class united, bringing an abundance of snacks and games. We celebrated the holidays collectively, indulging in a feast and enjoying various sources of entertainment, encompassing music, games, and engaging activities.

Last but certainly not least was the Secret Santa activity that almost all grades participated in. As we all gave each other our gifts, after a full week of not knowing who their Secret Santa was, this activity bonded the classes together and resulted in a joyous mood for everyone.

The efforts from both the students and the teachers resulted in an incredible and festive atmosphere during the Christmas season. With the classrooms decorated with lights, ornaments, and handcrafted decorations, as well as a class party and a variety of activities and games such as Secret Santa, 10X became a special place of joy during what some consider “the most wonderful time of year.”

Student Achievements: December

By Sanvi Kurade (9)

FEI World Challenge Competition

Nakshat Venkatesh (11), the equestrian of 10X, has received 4th place in the FEI World Challenge competition held at the Embassy Riding School in Bangalore.

AIME Qualification

Ashwat Prasanna (10) qualified for the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) upon taking the AMC 10 test.

American Mathematics Olympiad (AMO) 2023

Sayan Dahiya (12) secured Silver in the Grade 12 category.

Arjun Garg (12) earned Bronze in the Grade 12 category.

Ashwat Prasanna (10) won Gold in the Grade 10 category.

Yi Zou (9) achieved Bronze in the Grade 10 category.

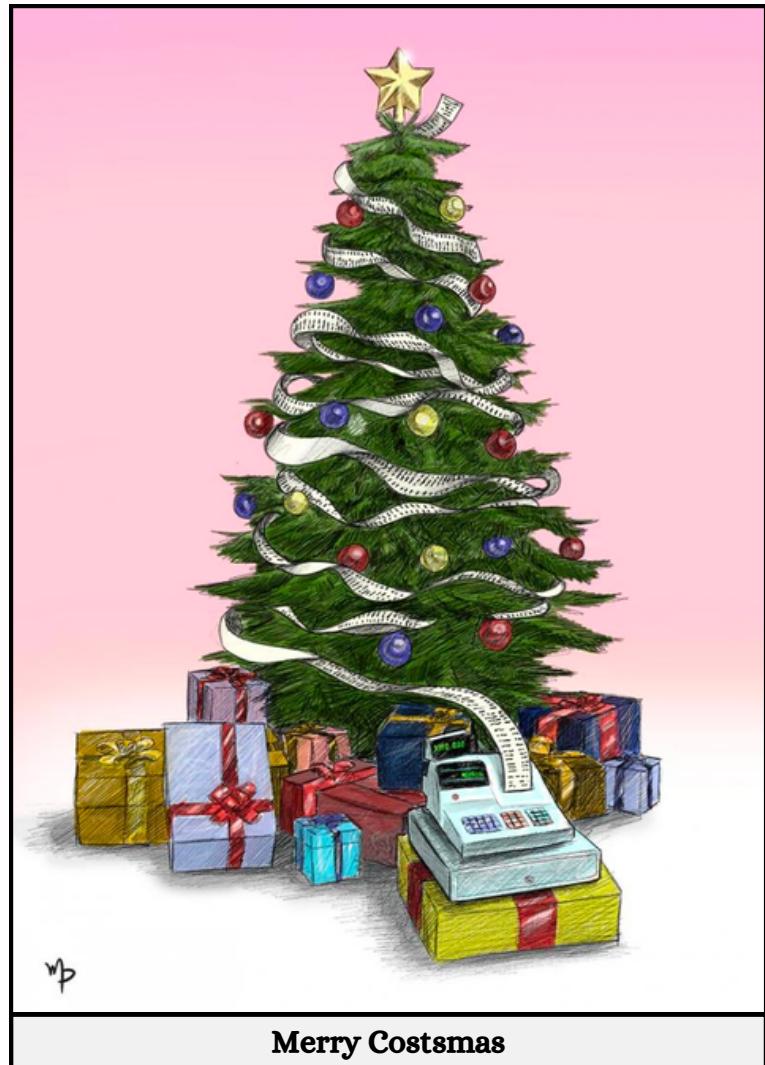
CR and RK Shuttle Competitions

In addition to taking home the gold medal, Avani Radheshyam (10) placed as a runner-up in the RK and CR shuttle competitions.

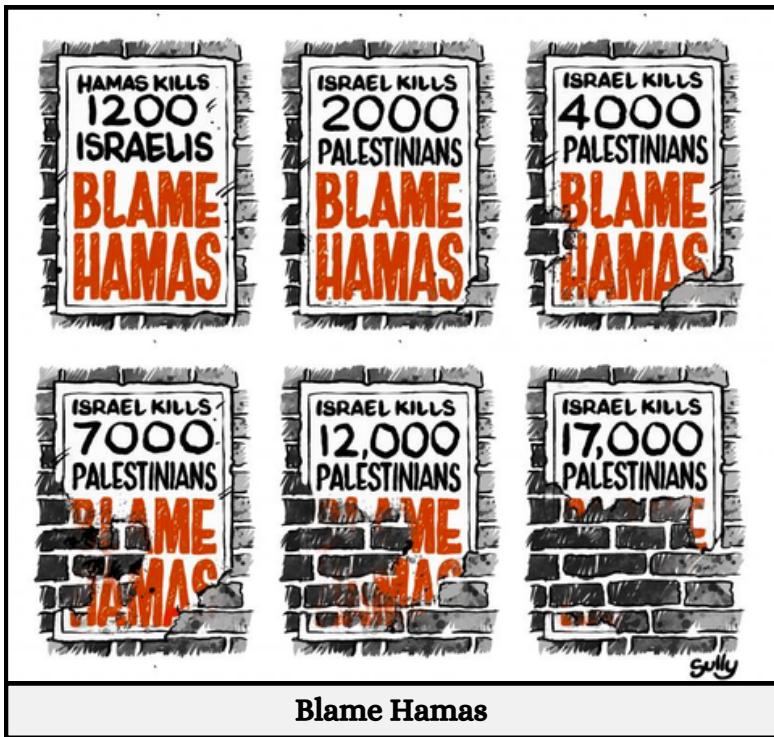
Cartoons



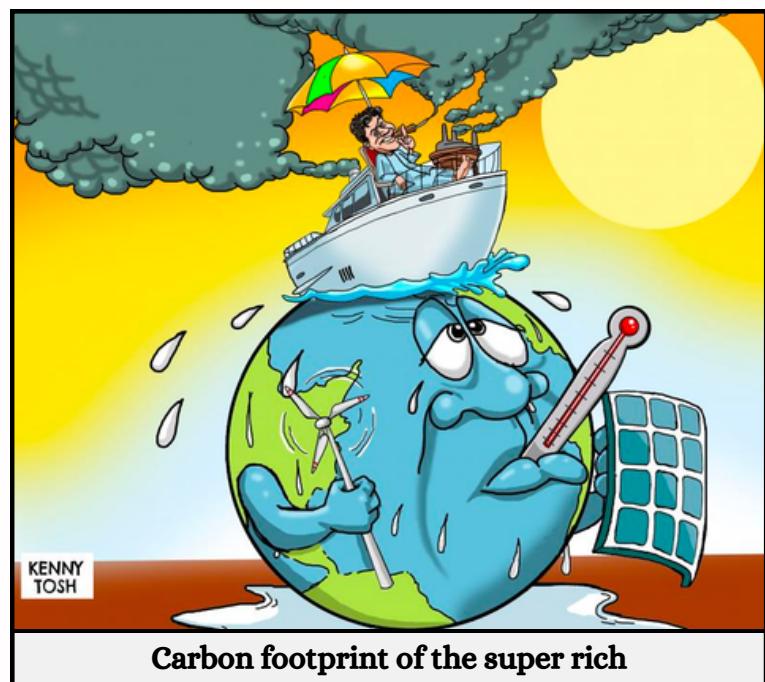
A year of hope



Merry Costsmas



Blame Hamas



Carbon footprint of the super rich

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Puzzles • Riddles**EASY**

**What is
always in
front of you
but can't be
seen?**

MEDIUM

**I can be
cracked,
made, told,
and played.
What am I?**

HARD

**What can fill a
room but take up
no space, can be
felt but not
touched, and gets
louder the more it
is ignored?**

Puzzles • Sudoku

				4				
6		9						
5	2	8			9		1	
		9	1		3	7	8	6
8				9	5			
3			6		8			2
7	1		3	6				9
		5			2			
			8			1	7	

		3	8	9	5			
5			2			4	3	
8			3					5
1	7	4		8				
3	8	2				5	4	
5	6		1			7		
	9	6	4			3		7
		8	6				1	4
	1		7		9	8		6

Answers

Riddles Answers

Easy

What is always in front of you but can't be seen?

Answer: The future

Have Feedback?

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Medium

I can be cracked, made, told, and played. What am I?

Answer: A joke

Hard

What can fill a room but take up no space, can be felt but not touched, and gets louder the more it is ignored?

Answer: Light

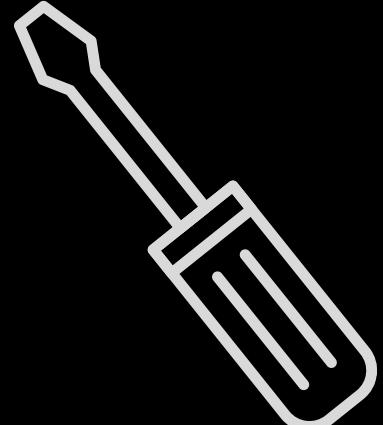
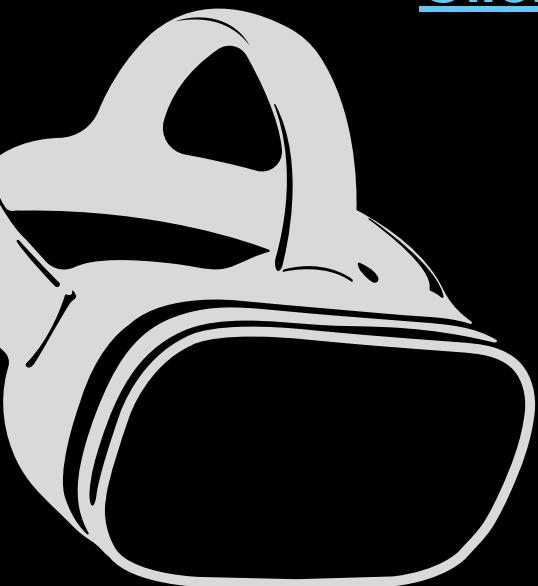
Sudoku Answers

9	8	7	2	1	4	3	6	5
1	6	3	9	5	7	8	2	4
4	5	2	8	3	6	9	7	1
5	4	9	1	2	3	7	8	6
8	2	6	7	9	5	1	4	3
3	7	1	6	4	8	5	9	2
7	1	8	3	6	2	4	5	9
6	9	5	4	7	1	2	3	8
2	3	4	5	8	9	6	1	7

6	4	3	8	9	5	1	7	2
9	5	1	2	7	6	4	3	8
8	2	7	3	4	1	6	9	5
1	7	4	5	8	3	2	6	9
3	8	2	9	6	7	5	4	1
5	6	9	1	2	4	7	8	3
2	9	6	4	1	8	3	5	7
7	3	8	6	5	2	9	1	4
4	1	5	7	3	9	8	2	6

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