

THE CROSSROADS

03

Ode to the Indian
Woman - Matr Devo Bhava

Leadership Lessons
from a Tea-bag

Comfort and Beyond

Colours of CIRS
Creative Corner

Editorial

India that is Bharat

75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



THE CROSSROADS
नित्यम् सत्ये प्रतिष्ठितम्
Ever rooted in the truth

KHEL MELA ISSUE

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'The most effective way to destroy a people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.'

George Orwell

Ed. INDIA, THAT IS BHARAT

- Adhavan Diwakar Vidya

75 years ago, on August the fifteenth, the tricolour flew high above the nation as India became a free nation. A country of a little less than 350 million people was finally free from the clutches of the British. A tremendous achievement, no doubt, but behind the celebrations and the parades, an evil being lurked. It hid amongst the people, disguised itself so very cleverly, and attacked the very pulse of human existence – the mind.

On the first page of the Constitution that would go on to govern a billion people, the founding fathers of our nation wrote; "India, that is Bharat, is a Union of States. It is a...". Why was there a mention of the word "Bharat"? After all, the newly-free nation was the Republic of India. What, then, did "Bharat" have to do with any of this?

Calling this land merely a 75-year republic is but a stain on its ten-thousand-year-old history. Generation upon generation of great rulers have strengthened the values of this land, and a mere three hundred years was all it took to bring them down.

The kings and queens of this land travelled the length and breadth of the Earth, were welcomed as guests of honour across the world, all while proudly upholding and displaying their culture and belief systems. Fast forward to today, and how many of us are comfortable going to a popular city mall in Indian wear? How many of us would wear traditional clothing to a late-night party?

This monster of the Indian mind, rotting away the minds of our people goes by the name coloniality. While colonialism involves the physical oppression of colonized people, coloniality involves something much more potent – colonization of the mind.

Its effect can be summed up in the words of Thomas Babington Macaulay, the man who brought English education to India; "The aim is to create a class of people, who are Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, morals, opinions and intellect".

Has seventy-five years of colonized minds in our nation paved the way for the realization of Macaulay's dream? When the British came, the ancient Indian system of education was razed to the ground, and replaced with English learning systems.

All these years later, the chilling truth in Macaulay's words can be seen ever so clearly – Indian youth are drifting apart from the value systems and culture that have enabled this civilization's survival for aeons. Western elements are infiltrating every element of our society, all the while pushing out Indian ones.

Why are we so reluctant to practice our very own traditions? An Indian, rooted in our customs, and Indian in morals, opinions and intellect is the precise antithesis of Macaulay's aim. At the occasion of our seventy-fifth Independence year and our seventy-fourth Republic Day, we must ask ourselves a question.

Do we want to be subjects of Macaulay's haunting vision? Or do we want to be Indians, proud of their heritage and values, yet citizens of this ever-connected world? As the flag is hoisted atop the post yet again, the reigns of Bharat's chariot are passed on to today's youth, and with it, a great responsibility.

The responsibility to live up to those who gave their lives for this land. To those who sent their kinsmen to die for the country, and to those who tirelessly served this country every minute of their lives. The choice, as well as its consequences, lie with you.

Jai Hind!

01

MATR DEVO BHAVA

- Thrisaanth Senthil Pandian



Modern Feminism has scapegoated Indian society in such a way that criticism of traditional customs and practices of feminine worship have become an everyday thing. Self-styled pseudo-feminists eagerly wait for occasions like Navaratri and Durgotsava to slander Indian virtues. But to what extent does this criticism of our traditions, which are accused of persecuting women hold ground, is a matter of debate that needs to be addressed.

There exists more than one stigma in society that women, especially in India, were always subject to oppression and misogyny. However, what is often overlooked is that this entire narrative about the underhanded social standing of women in India ever since the olden days, has stemmed mainly from the application of western notions of feminism to the Vedic civilizational practices. This has led many to believe that women are brutalized and denied any type of opportunity as a result of an inherently patriarchal culture.

However, this could not be farther from the truth. Centuries of foreign invasion, indoctrination and cultural erosion have led to society forgetting the root values of Indic feminism. A loss of cultural identity and neglect towards the depth in our belief systems has led the general populace to openly embrace foreign notions of so-called “progressiveness”.

Indic feminism is exceptionally unique mainly because of the era in which it prevailed. Feminism became the common ground for popular revolt all over Europe and the rest of the ‘Modern World’ due to the existence of an intrinsically patriarchal social hierarchy. In this time frame, laws were specifically made to inhibit female participation in society. They were restricted access to knowledge, rights to essential freedoms such as thought, expression and even movement.

To overcome these unjust inequalities and to gain social status, women sought domination, which could only be granted by political and economic authority because these were the pillars of the western society, where economy and political hold were considered its supreme aspects, and those who possessed these supreme aspects were held in high regard.

However, the scenario in Bharat was completely different. Our ancestors put the forging and upholding of a just, egalitarian society over conquest and paramountcy. There was strong emphasis on the importance of female presence in society.

They understood that men and women were different and subsequently had different roles in society, and that their needs, behaviour and aspirations were different, but they were to be valued and favoured equally in the interest of prosperity.



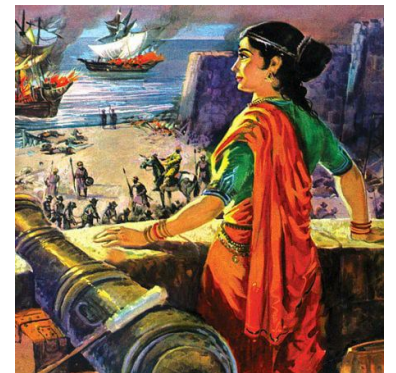
Inadvertently, the feminist movement in the rest of the world eventually began growing as a race to prove that females can be the dominant section of society by subduing the opposite gender. This went on for quite a while, until gradually modern thought and ideology has changed this concept and made feminism more about equality, not dominance.

Another factor that contributes to the prominence of the Indian concept of feminism is its relevance to the modern day despite its concoction millennia ago. It talks about how women are crucial in upkeep of fundamental ideals in human society.

For example, a woman is the expression of a goddess who teaches passionately, showers blessings generously, always wishing for the good of the world and corrects the wrong relentlessly. It praises her as the pivotal piece who holds together the fragment of social order. Most importantly, all this utopian philosophy wasn't just talk. All throughout history, we find examples of powerful women who have even been acknowledged and lauded for their contributions towards society at large. Be it in politics, economy, warfare, art or education, there was never a dearth of influential and inspirational female personalities in Bharat.

From the Gurumathas like Sati Anasuya in Ramayana to the Shishyas like those depicted in Valmiki Ashram of Uttar Ramayana and from Rishikas like Urvashi, Lopamudra, Apale, Shishyasi, Vishwavaraa and Ghosa, who co-authored major parts of Rigveda to Bramha Vadinis like Vedawati, who spent most of their lifetime in search of Wisdom, scholarly women held an elevated position in the Vedic civilization. It is impossible to have not heard of the legendary Indian scholars Gargi and Maithreyi, who engaged in Shastrarth (debates) filled with renowned intellectuals who held discussions about deep philosophy.

The political status of women was nothing short of spectacular either. Their inherent differences from men and the subsequent difficulties did not hinder them from holding critical positions in administration and warfare. The Vedas are filled with references of warrior queens like Bishappala and Bharut and ranks in the army with women. Rulers like Rani Abbaka Chowta of Ullal and Rani Rudrama Devi of Kakatiya Dynasty were powerful influencers of administrative affairs too.



All this just goes on to prove that the degree of social, cultural and economic liberty granted to women made Indic Civilization a greatly progressive society. The social status of women and the respect they were guaranteed in society, elements that are worthy of reverence even today and need to be incorporated in modern civilization.

Considering the sheer amount of evidence, it would require a highly ignorant and prejudiced mind to apply western notions of feminism to the Indic Civilization and label it as misogynistic or patriarchal.

One must accept the fact that the society has witnessed drastic change over centuries of desecration by foreign occupiers, inevitably resulting in the erratic deterioration of a woman's status in Indian society, an undesirable side-effect which we need to undo not by shaming traditional practices but by propagating and reinstating the glory of age-old Indic Civilization.



Jai Hind!

02 IMAGINAIRE THE WORLD WITHIN

- Yash Baisya

With the growing popularity of online services such as Netflix, I find it important to introduce those doing something unique - watching Anime. By analyzing different aspects of this undiscovered yet entrancing strain of entertainment, my aim is to answer many peoples' critiques, which argue that anime is unrealistic, childish, or plainly stupid. I also wish to open new avenues to those uninformed about the topic, which in return can allow them to try out a new long-lasting hobby.



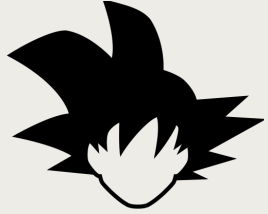
From an outside perspective, anime is ordinarily perceived as yet another form of cartoon. This is a widely spread misconception- Cartoons are usually intended to induce laughter; thus revolve around humorous concepts, generally targeted towards toddlers and kids. For starters, Anime shows don't always follow a general concept. Their stories range from humanity's last stand against unfathomable titans to a tale of a prodigy pianist devastated by the demise of his mother. The majority of anime shows differentiate themselves by creating a plot that stays in place throughout the entire series, showing viewers morals and a certain level of complexity. In short, Anime is aimed at people with longer attention spans who like to see a plot unravel over multiple episodes.



It still does not answer the question, why you should consider watching anime. You must have watched many series of West or never-ending Indian series which drag on for generations. With these large spans of telecast and shooting, the series often loses its plot and often deviates from what it actually is. Anime takes a clear edge in this. Most of the popular anime series have 1-2 seasons. That makes the plot right on point and it never deviates from the actual plot. This provides us, the viewers, the right experience and leaves us in awe, with unprecedented character work and timely plot twists, lifting our spirits and plying our imagination and creativity.



There were those days when I didn't feel like dealing with life at all and all I wanted was something to take my mind off it all. Then, there was anime. Anime has many genres - Some are lighthearted, slice of life while others are mysteries and thrillers. What do you do when you are in distress? Try Anime!



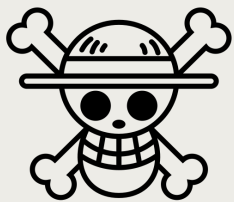
A fresh and very different approach to TV series will totally divert your mind away from all the problems and you would feel a lot better. Find inspiration to satisfy your mood as there is a lot out there that will do the trick. Just when you would think it can't get any crazier, there comes another dose of it. Most of the shows feature really amazing concepts and alternate universes that are really hard to imagine otherwise.



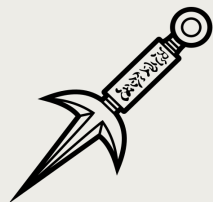
Complimenting the spectacular plot, Anime is visually appealing and hooking. Most anime is brightly colored and beautifully drawn and you don't have to worry about the boring background or lack of facilities like in other series. In Anime, there is no limit up to which your eyes can be pleased. From the use of color and shading to the sheer detail and clarity, everything is created meticulously and thoughtfully. When you're immersed in anime you're immersed in continuously active frames and scenes that manage to keep you completely engaged with what is being presented through it. And while live action movies and TV shows can be visually pleasing, the escapism presented with the details in anime make it more relaxing to watch. The fact that it's far from reality can trigger a blissful tendency to enjoy its surreal appeal. Imagine being engrossed in breathtaking art, colors, animations and transitions for twenty minutes. It'll feel like 5 minutes and leave you wanting more!



The best accompaniment to the visual treat of an anime is its audio accompaniment. It's quite mysterious and almost miraculous how music can transform something into a powerful echo of emotions. So when it's paired with a visual companion that is so stunning and intricate as anime, music truly delivers. From deeply moving soulful compositions such as Kansetsu Ki from Kaguya Sama Wa Kokurasetai to highly energetic blaring compositions such as Shinzou wo Sasageyo! from Attack on Titan, music in anime is a rejuvenating element to the work that it belongs to.



Ultimately the most rewarding thing about being an anime fan is the escapism. Regardless of what the story is about, each time, it takes you on a different journey. The content of anime is so diverse that if you don't discriminate based on the genre it can slowly build an entire universe around you, that will constantly offer inspiration, consolation, motivation and so much more! So in case you have now changed your mind about what this medium actually entails, there's a myriad of excellent shows and movies waiting for you.



03 A COMPELLING MYSTERY

- Amaira Krishna



It's funny how a man's life can change in one day. It was the day of Christmas Eve and Stan barged restlessly into the office of James Breveers, a world-famous detective. He yelled

"I need your help, sir, it's an emergency!"

James was in the process of consulting another client. He was surprised but he was experienced enough to have gone through this before and he replied with a smile

"Sir, it's Christmas - After this meeting, I have one more and I'm off"

Stan yelled, unable to hide his fear and eagerness yelled,

"Sir, do you not hear me saying it's an emergency?!"

James - maintaining his calmness and poise stated,
"Sir if you do not show yourself out, I will have my security do it for you"

Stan said nothing more but walked out reluctantly holding his head back, tears welling in his eyes. He sat in front of the door and couldn't control it anymore and began weeping uncontrollably. He sat there absentmindedly throwing pebbles at a nearby puddle like a little schoolboy. James came out about an hour and a half later surprised and curious about the poor man waiting for him. He told the man to come inside and explain his situation.

Stan went inside, feeling hopeful for this second chance but needed a couple of minutes to gather himself. When he was ready, he told the detective that his name is Stan Bradley and then started recounting his story:

"All I remember was on that on the night of 23rd December I had prepared a surprise for my wife, Brittney, as the 24th would be her birthday. She was out picking up our son, Owen from his tutoring lessons but was running late since the car broke down."

"And how do you know this, sir?" asked James

"She called me." replied Stan

"So she had a phone?"

"Yes."

"What else did she tell you on that call?"

"She told me her battery was low and that I shouldn't be worried because she knew the way home."

"And why would she tell you that?"

"She usually had a bad memory for places and routes."

"Okay, continue."

"Yes, as I was saying, the car broke down and after that, I don't know what happened. My messages aren't reaching them and they both haven't been seen or heard by anyone ever since. Sir, please help me, you're the only one who can do anything. I tried calling the police but they searched for a day and put up a few missing posters or so they say. They said that the search hasn't ended yet but that the possibility of finding them is very unlikely."

James pondered over this for a few seconds before asking, "Sir, can you tell me a little bit about your wife?"

Stan hesitated for a few seconds, skeptical about the question but ended up informing James about his wife and the usual route she takes to pick Owen up. James asked Stan to return in an hour and while he was gone, James checked some cameras and saw the car. He checked the camera in front of the tutor's house; however, it wasn't clear as the view was blocked by trees and it kept glitching. James could make out the figure of the car through the camera but when nothing happened for a few minutes, he decided to slow it down and replay it as he had done for most of his other cases. As he did this, he could barely make out anything in the dark. Only a blurred figure of someone near the car was seen, the screen started glitching again and the figure was gone.

He was just brainstorming about the baffling and weird case when Stan returned and knocked on the door. Stan had a ray of hope on his face and waited for James to bring him up to speed.

James said, "Sir, I checked many cameras and couldn't see clearly. Could I please get the tutor's number to ask him if he saw anything?"

Surprised, he replied, "Yes, yes of course!"

James told Stan what else he saw only to be greeted by anxiousness. He called the tutor whose number was sent by Stan and a meeting was arranged for 7:00 the next morning. When Stan heard this, he would have been happy had not been for his missing wife and son. The next morning all of them met at Robert the tutor's house. Stan, of course, had come early and looked as if he had gotten no sleep.

To be Continued...



04 LESSONS FROM A LIPTON

- Adhavan Diwakar Vidya



A simple teabag. What could possibly be special about it? You open it up, dip it in, and enjoy a cup of tea. Simple and straightforward. Well, as always, you're mistaken.

Since you're here anyway and we have a lot of time on our hands, here's lessons on leadership from the one thing you definitely did not want lessons on leadership from – a humble teabag. Let's go.

Enjoy life sip by sip,
Not gulp by gulp



1 What counts is what's inside the teabag – whether the teabag is from a big-branded corporation or your local supplier, what eventually matters is the tea, not the clothes, qualifications, titles, etc. are the labels and strings. However, it is our beliefs and attitude which truly defines us.

The real flavour comes through only when the teabag gets into hot water – A teabag in the box or in freezing cold water simply won't be effective. To show its true potential, it needs hot water. Any person can navigate easy times. A true leader shines only when the going gets tough.

3 Good teabags look forward to getting into hot water – When a teabag sees hot water, it doesn't run away. A teabag knows that it was made for hot water, and that the hot water will allot it to show its true worth. Leaders don't shy away from challenges. They welcome them with a big smile, open arms, and a truckload of determination.

2



A teabag must be porous – If a teabag is impermeable, tea cannot be made. For the bag to be effective, it must be porous. A leader cannot live in isolation and build walls around themselves. They must work with other people, teams and society at large.

4

5 Tea bags work, no matter where in the cup you put them – When was the last time you put a teabag in the left side of your teacup and it refused to make tea? No matter where you dip the teabag in, it will always work. Leadership is not about the top position. Regardless of where they are, leaders find ways to be dynamic because their strength comes from within – not from a title or position. Truly great leaders invoke their inner leader in any corner of an organization.

Sometimes one teabag isn't enough – if you have a large pot, one teabag isn't going to be enough. What's the solution? Simple. Add another teabag. A leader doesn't feel inadequate or incompetent if more leaders join their team. An enormous task can't get accomplished by one person, no matter how hard they try. Asking for assistance isn't a sign of weakness, but one of great confidence and strength.

6

7 It's all about how good the tea is, not the teabag – All said and done, the praise is for the tea, not the teabag. Nobody ever said, "Wow! That was a great teabag!". A leader knows that it's never about one person. It's about the organization, team and society.

Eventually, teabags have to make way and get out – once the brew is ready, the teabag is removed. Removing it doesn't turn the tea back into hot water, nor does reduce the tea's flavour. In fact, if the teabag is kept inside the cup, it gets in the way of the person drinking the tea! Too many leaders see themselves as indispensable and overstay their welcome. A leader should trust their teammates, and step back when their work is done.

8

Who could've thought. We've heard sermons from Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Michael Jordan and Neil Armstrong, but from a teabag? Bet you didn't think of that. Next time you throw away a teabag, or anything we take for granted, stop. Stop, take a look at it, and think about all the things we can learn, even from things as menial as that used teabag.



05 ...OF BLOOD AND SACRIFICE

- Manassa V



FREEDOM



Who is a true martyr? Can anybody be called a martyr? Do you think the youth can be martyrs?

Young or old, Hindu or Buddhist, weak or strong, anybody who fights for the nation to uphold and strengthen its values and culture, he or she who died fulfilling their duties to Bharat is called a martyr. India has an astounding number of martyrs, valorous men and women, who gave up their lives for the independence of Bharat.

Bhagat Singh was a martyr who died at the age of 23. Young Bharat Singh had visited the Jallianwala Bagh the day after the horrific massacre of innocent Indians. He took in his hands the blood-soaked soil and told himself that he would not rest until India had regained its freedom. This devoted youngster along with Raj Guru and Sukh Das succumbed to the noose on the 23rd of March for the murder of a British officer. His death had a huge impact on millions of Indians as Bhagat Singh was one of the most prominent leaders at that time. People still talk about his dedication and courage to date. Another inspiring example of a martyr is Tirupur Kumaran who held the tricolor high in the air and refused to put it down. Even when his life was ebbing away, the bloody and bruised Kumaran didn't let the flag touch the ground.

Now let's talk about Rani of Jhansi and Velu Nachiyar, 2 lion-hearted widowed women who led their armies into wars against the British. Rani Lakshmibai dies fighting in battle, her infant son strapped to her chest. Velu Nachiyar had led India's first-ever suicide mission and had given up her life in order to destroy the British ammunition. These women could fight just as well as men.

The list of martyrs is endless. Every person who died, who fought till death will remain in the hearts of Indians forever, their fires of bravery will never cease to die.

Even the mighty soldiers who die fighting at our borders are turned into martyrs. Every drop of Indian blood spilled for the protection of our country, every life lost while defending our land, and every sacrifice made for the betterment of our nation, we honor and salute that.

To the comrades who left the luxury and warmth of their homes, their wives, and their children to fight for our country. To the brave souls who gave their blood for India.

Jai Hind! Jai Bharat!

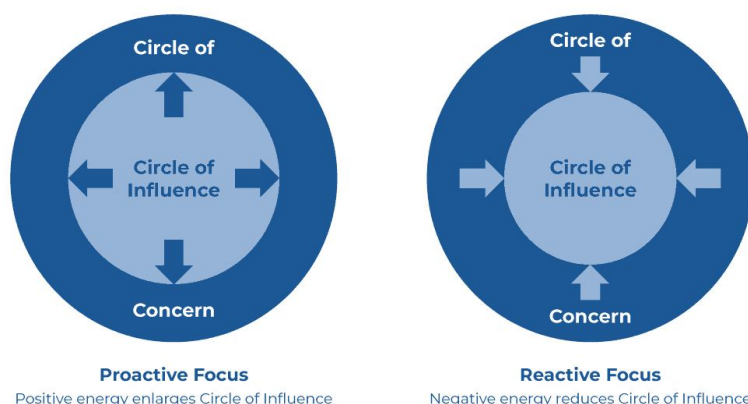
06 CIRCLE OF CONTROL

- Charuvi Agarwal

This is one of those things that is so ridiculously obvious it's hard to understand why anyone would try to explain it. If you simply can't change something why ever spend time on it? However, here we are fretting over things incredibly beyond our control. We spend a disproportionate amount of time stressing, worrying, and getting worked up about things fundamentally outside of our influence or control. This tendency of humans is highly distracting and inconvenient. As intellectual beings - as humans, we have the ability to focus our energy and time on things that we can do something about, or we can choose to while away our time on things we have no control over.

This is where I introduce to you the circle of control. It is a schematic concept that conveys the distinction between proactive people - who put their time and energy into things they can influence - and reactive people who focus on things beyond their control, this group of people sustain a mindset of victimisation and blame, by focusing on things outside of their control and putting themselves in a passive state, of things happening to them.

The diagram is based on two concentric circles. The larger circle consists of things of your concern. These include the items that may concern you, that you can do nothing to influence. This list of things depends on you, but, the takeaway here is that no matter how much you worry about it, or want to change it, devoting your time to it proves to be a waste of time, pretty much equivalent to screaming at the TV. Time and energy are two very precious things that cannot be reused.



Our circle of influence and control will be much smaller. It includes the things we can do something about, things we can influence. The key is to dedicate yourself to the things that fall in this category. This enables you to make decisions with quick and effective thinking without irrelevant bothers troubling you.

Now think, which category do we fall in? Where do we focus our energy? The only thing which is certain in life is uncertainty. Understanding this, we march ahead in life facing challenges as they come and enriching ourselves in the process.

07 THROUGH HIS LENS

- Mr. Arun Muraleedharan
(Audio Engineer)

What made you take an interest in this line of work?

My journey to where I am right now has never been a smooth one. I was not the only one who had a say in what type of career I could choose. At first, my family did not support this type of career. Due to this, convincing my family was a big task for me.

After 10th grade, I wanted to get my sound engineer diploma because as a child I was interested in shows, physics, and electronics. When I spoke to my family about my career choice, they said they wanted me to get a doctorate or go to an IT firm. They didn't want me to become a sound engineer. However I liked it, so I decided no matter what happens I should pursue it.

After I finished 10th grade, I went to work at a sound company. I learned a lot about high-end systems and got so many opportunities. However, to obey my family, I decided to join an institute along with 11th and 12th. After I completed it, I realized: what now? I knew I couldn't just join a job after my 12th grade as my family would not approve unless I got a degree. On the other hand, I couldn't live my life with the regret of not doing what I want. In the end, I convinced my family to send me to the institute of sound engineering in Kerala.



With so many high-profile events just finished and one around the corner, what keeps you going every day?

What keeps me going every single day is my passion. For example when you look at an event such as TEDx, every year it gets better and better. It is always amazing to see that whenever I share an idea with the students, they are always ready to learn.

Every single day, I'm always working on a new thing. I'm always questioning. I still get stuck sometimes, so that's when I contact my old professors and teachers for ideas. I'm always looking for fresh ideas and the quest for questioning. I'm a perfectionist; I always want everything to be right. For example, for last year's masquerade, I was very happy when I was able to implement their fresh idea of showing just the character not the face, with the help of lighting. So, the students' creativity really keeps me going.

It's common knowledge that anyone working with you will be grilled until the results are spot on. Why do you expect this level of perfection from the students?

Whenever someone enters the recording booth, they are either really prepared, or not prepared at all. The moment I tell the director how the scene is, my view for the person is entirely different. My question is, if the person can do it exactly the way the director wants it, why can't they do it better on their own? I give them leverage to do it on their own because if that take is better, then I will definitely use that. At the end of the recording, people are either thrilled or scared, but at the end of the day I'm just looking for perfection.

For instance, a few years ago, the background music for one of the house's masquerade was not working at all. It was the day before the masquerade, so I decided to take care of it myself. I stayed up the whole night and changed the entire background music. The students were so amazed when they heard it during the run through because it was really good. So, at the end of the day, I try my level best to make it perfect.

How many ever times they practice, when the recording time comes, they draw a blank. So, that's when the retakes come because my job is just to get the best out of everyone.

Has working closely with students changed anything in you?

Yes, it has. Working with students always sparks my curiosity on how they think like that. Sometimes when I'm doing projects, I think to myself, should I do this like how a 28 year adult would do it? Or should I dive deep into a student's mind and see what they like it? I just want to see them smile when they see any event. I've actually learnt a lot from working with students; how you write, how you organise things, how you handle working with others. It always makes me curious how they keep with everything. So, time management is one major thing I have learnt. This helps me to handle my work better. I put in a lot of hard work for the students to make sure they enjoy the show.

What is your favourite movie and why?

I enjoy aspects of different things. For example, take movies. I categorise it. If you ask me which movie has the best background music, I would have to say 'Bom-bay'. If you ask about the best director, I would give it to Priti Raj. When I watch movies, it makes me question how they do it. In Batman where the joker burns down the hospital, the entire crew had to set the scene and the explosions had to happen at once in one take. However, the explosions in the shot weren't executed properly but the scene still had to continue. So, the actor improvised on the spot, he saved the entire shot. That was the best part of the film because the actor did so great under pressure. The direction and the creativity of the type of shot always create a curiosity for me. So I categorise everything based on background music, lighting, the actor's character, direction, camera angle. I think I have almost 100 favourite movies based on different categories. When I go to the theatre, I notice everything from the sound designing to the sound quality. For me, the visual and sound is what creates an effect. I always think about the techniques used after watching every movie. For me, Batman is mostly the best movie in terms of most of the categories.

In your opinion, what is the best production you've ever put out in CIRS?

I think in terms of the shows I created with swami ji, I think 'the lion king' and the show the following year was really good. This year's Tedx and all the masquerades are really special to me.

08 TIME THE FINAL FRONTIER

- Rishi Suresh Iyer

Creation of this universe is still a mysterious phenomenon which vexes and intrigues people across the world. Various studies have gone to great lengths to ascertain the nature of the universe. In the process we have left out perhaps one of the most important aspects of the known world, the human mind. It is an entity of phenomenal power which is right at the centre of our understanding of the universe.

Seemingly ordinary, yet complex in reality, the human mind has the true essence of the very force which governs and controls all natural occurrences. Each and every person has a sliver of this infinite elixir right within themselves. Every mind is naught but a reflection of the whole.

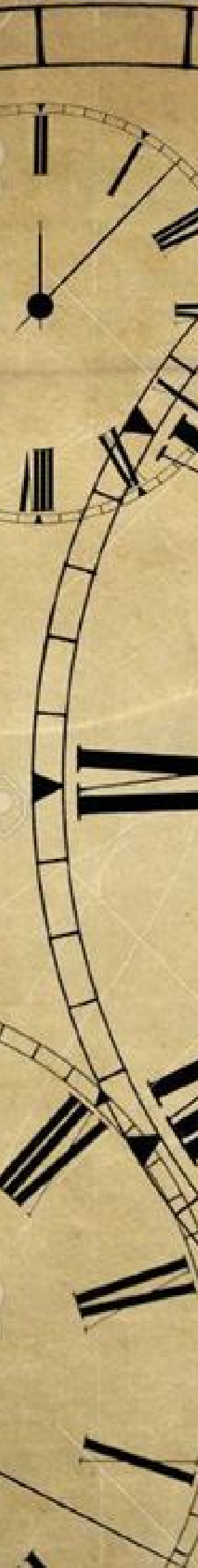
The human mind perceives many things in the world in very distinct and unique ways, one such aspect of this universe is time. What is time? When did time begin? How was it created and who determined the length of one second? Does time have an end? Even the greatest minds of our era do not have the perfect answers for these questions.

Our mind interprets time based on our experiences. We possess a neural clock that organizes the flow of our experiences into an orderly sequence of events. This activity gives rise to the brain's clock for subjective time. Experience, and the succession of events within experience, are thus the substance of which subjective time is generated and measured by the brain.

Objectively, the perception that time follows a universal, tick-tock rhythm has been proven faulty by Einstein himself. In his Special Theory of Relativity, Einstein said that time is relative - in other words, the rate at which time passes depends on your frame of reference. A second in one reference may be slower or faster than a second in another reference.

The faster a clock moves; the slower time passes according to someone in a different frame of reference. To explain this bewildering result, physicists point to a thought experiment involving a clock that uses light to mark time.





Although this "light clock" experiment is a hypothetical one, the same effects are true for any timepiece, from old-fashioned grandfather clocks to atomic clocks, the most accurate time-keeping devices available. Time is relative even for the human body, which is in essence a biological clock.



Time has no beginning and no end. Time is a constant force which is completely rooted in perception, yet it is a variable at all times. Time is a figment of the mind, yet the governing force of nature. Time has been interpreted differently since its discovery. Different cultures have understood time in various ways. The western interpretation of time is linear and unending. The Indian interpretation depicts time as cyclical.

Hinduism views the concept of time in a different way, and there is a cosmic perspective to it. Hindus believe the process of creation moves in cycles and that each cycle has four great epochs of time, namely Satya Yuga, Treta Yuga, Dwapar Yuga and Kali Yuga. The process of creation is cyclical and never-ending,

According to the Hindu theory of creation, time itself is a manifestation of Bhagvan. Bhagvan is timeless, for time is relative and ceases to exist in the Brahman which is consciousness without any limiting adjuncts. The past, the present and the future coexist in the Brahman simultaneously.

"It begins to end and ends to begin".

The concept of time is fundamental in the functioning of this universe. The past stays etched in history, the future stays unknown till we flow to reach it, the present is all we can define right now. Time is all but a fickle figment of the human mind which is unique to each and every one of us. Time has no end, the same way the all governing power within us has no bounds. The power within us is the same as the power of Bhagvan.

The power within us is the same as the power of Bhagvan.

On the relative plane though, we all have the wealth of time in the same amount. The same 24 hours each day, the same 86,400 seconds but then, how do we spend it ? How much value does each second have?

When one has been given a massive amount of wealth and told to spend without saving, one always comes up with innovative and enriching ways to spend the wealth. On a similar note, let us see how we use our time ? Do we spend it on long term gain ? or do we waste it seeking short term fulfillment and end up wasting away possibly the most important resource, we which we have been endowed with.

It was a great observation by the Italian economist Vilfredo Pareto that around 80 percent of the sales or profit of companies came from around 20 percent of their products. Hence, the best way to improve profits is to focus on that effective 20 percent.

Applying the same principle in our scenario, '80 percent of the effectiveness will be from 20 percent of the tasks we perform. So, identify the vital few 'Many people may be busy and yet not productive. By identifying and prioritising tasks and completing the top 20 percent tasks, we could become 80 percent effective.

In conclusion, Time is both a concept beyond our mental comprehension yet at the same time it rules and governs every aspect of our thought and action in this world of hours, minutes and seconds.



BED, BATH & BEYOND

Did You Know? Our scriptures on Dharma have indicated seven ways to bathe for a beautiful body and mind.	Cleansing ourselves with water is the most joyful and elevating experience of our daily routine. With a fresh water bath we get ready to face the world once again and can instantly get out of our lethargy and sleep. Invoking the holy waters while bathing washes away our sins. Water bath	Applying holy ash (Bhasma) from the sacrificial fire serves as a raksha i.e. protection. Great yogis are able to bear the freezing Himalayan region with just holy ash smeared all over the body. Bhasma also acts as a reminder to burn all our karmas. Fire bath	Mud bath Application of mud on the entire body detoxifies. Mud packs are used not only to enhance beauty of the skin but is used also as a cure for many ailments.
Fresh air is most essential for both physical and mental well-being. Daily walks taking in the fresh cool breeze in the early morning is an effective air bath that both refreshes and helps rejuvenate our minds. Air bath	Sun bath Soaking in the Sun provides Vitamin D and nourishes the body and spirit. World over people apply lotions or oils to sun bathe for both physical and mental nourishment.	Mantra bath Chanting mantras is an act of purification during the dawn and dusk prayers.	Mental bath Meditating and invoking the form of Lord within is the most joy giving form of purification.

COLORS OF CIRS

UYASA VALMIKI VASHISHTA VISHVAMITRA



The Vyasa house this year has undergone an immense transformation. We have worked long and hard to get where we are. A stag stands for stamina, grace, experience, regeneration, maturity, and instincts. Taking inspiration from our predecessors, we have chosen to manifest the spirit of our house through a magical stag.



Our banner depicts the renown F1 racer Lewis Hamilton who pays his tribute to the late actor Chadwick Boseman after winning the Belgian Grand Prix, it is our way of showing our respects to the actor and also our yearning to win



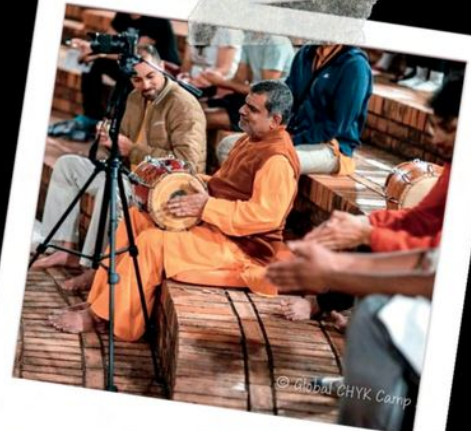
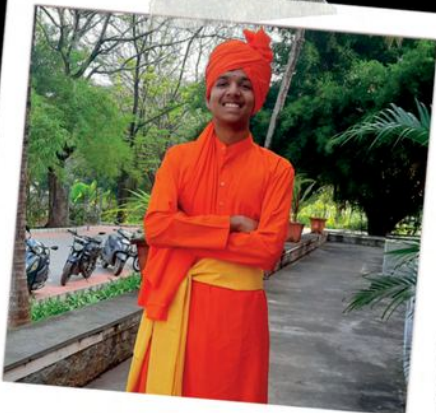
Fear is a choice, and our choice is to be fearless. We find our echo in the spirit of the lone boy, rooted in his stand facing the ever-daunting storm ahead. We exist as paragons of courage and strength, unfazed by the weight of the world, burning through our burdens and conquering the indomitable.

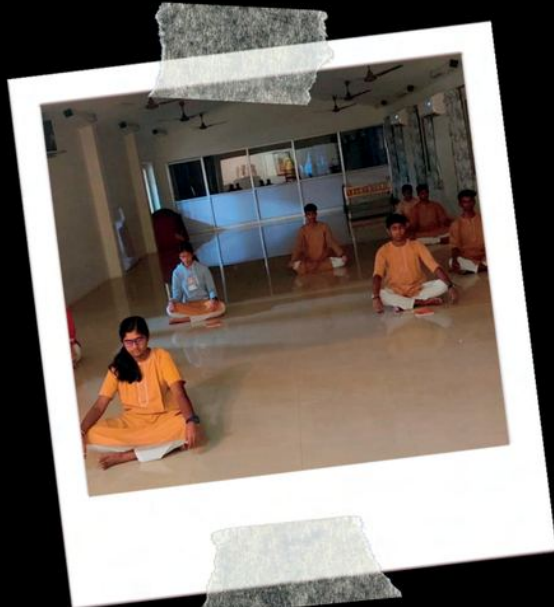


Embedded with traces of incomparable determination and grit. The Vasishta banner portrays the culmination of staying true to our morals while also equipping our strengths to lead our house in the path of victory. This ferocious Indian warrior represents the primordial strength of the ancients standing at whose feet we yearn to conquer the future.

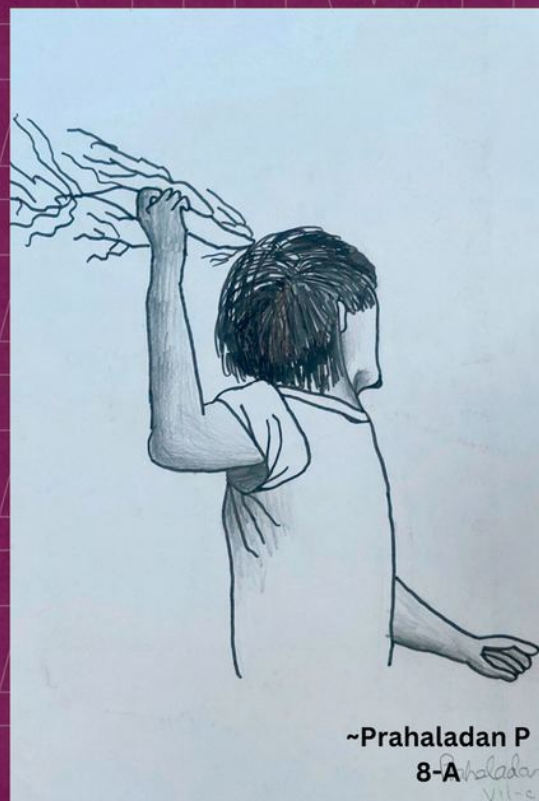
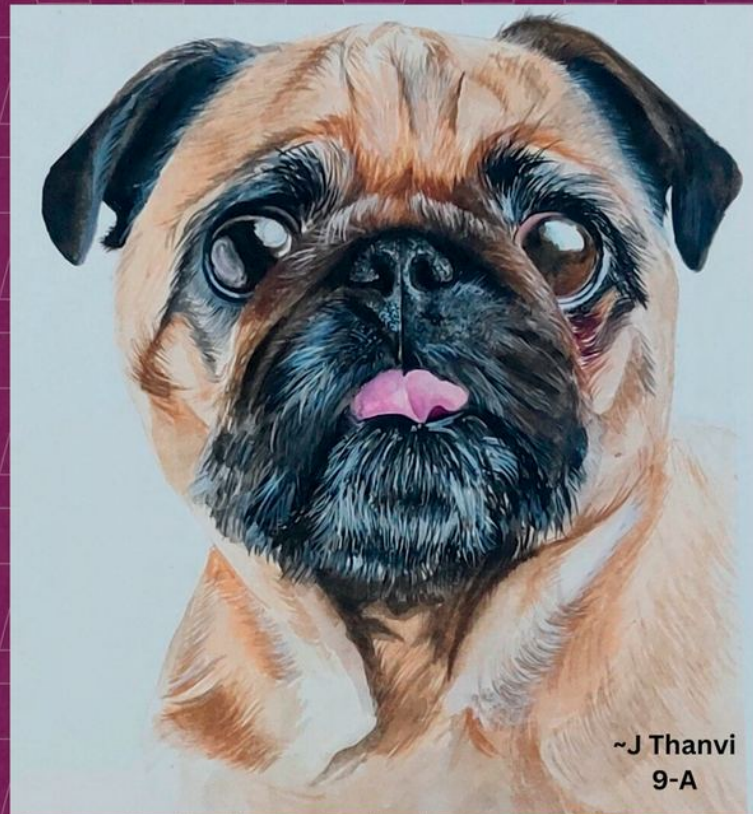
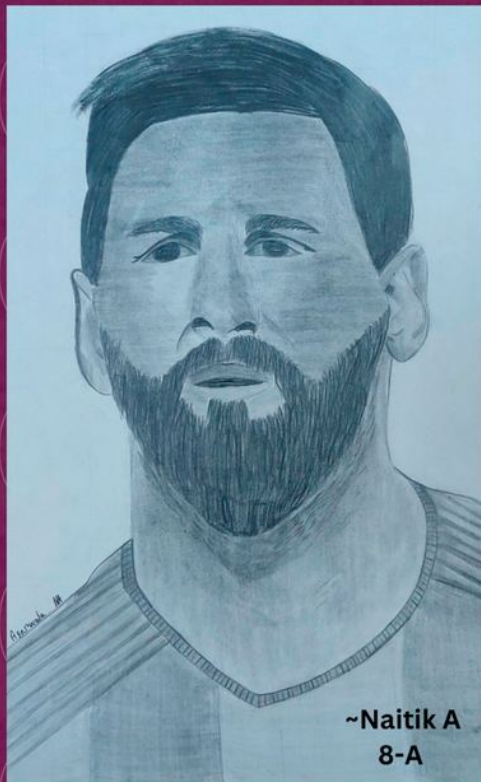


10 CIRS CAPTURES





CREATIVE CORNER!





~Vivaan Jain
9-D



~Aryaman Bansal
7-C

WE CAN'T BE PRETTY ALL THE TIME

*We cry when we're hurt,
we scream when we're in pain,
we put up a smile sometimes,
but we can't be pretty all the times.*



*Happy smiles cover our ugly scars,
just in front of our own selves,
we remove that deceiving mask,
cause we can't be pretty all the time.*



*Our hearts embedded with knives,
knives of agony and regret,
expressing it might portray us weak,
but we can't be just pretty all the time.*



*Anxiety engulfing the whole of us,
pressure crumbling us down,
even in those moments we might smile,
but we can't be pretty all the time.*



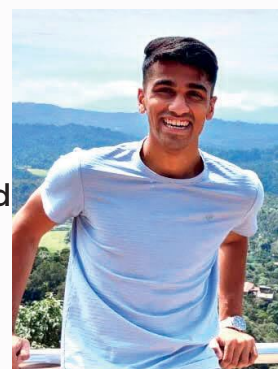
*Sometimes our eyes are puffy and hands are
trembling, cause we are humans with emotions,
not the perfect barbie dolls we've seen.
Unlike them, we can't be pretty all the time,
we can't be pretty all the time.*



Ananya A, Grade X

CIRS is a world of its own. CIRS IMPACT

Right in between the mighty and picturesque glory of the mountains, it is a world where you grow, get molded and learn to stand in the world outside like one of those mountains!



I will forever be grateful for the teachers and the guidance from Swami ji for making me who I am today!

Ayush
Panchamiya
(Alumnus)



BEST ACTOR - RAAHI SHAH (GRADE 10)
BEST ACTRESS - SHRIYA SHRUTI (GRADE 9)
MOST PROMISING ACTOR - KAVYA VISHNU (IB 1)
MOST PROMISING ACTRESS - CHARUVI A (IB 1)

SPECIAL MENTION TO HAARDHIK ARANI, VIBHOR GANGWAR, HIYA DAVE AND ZIYA G FOR THEIR NOTE-WORTHY ACTING SKILL.

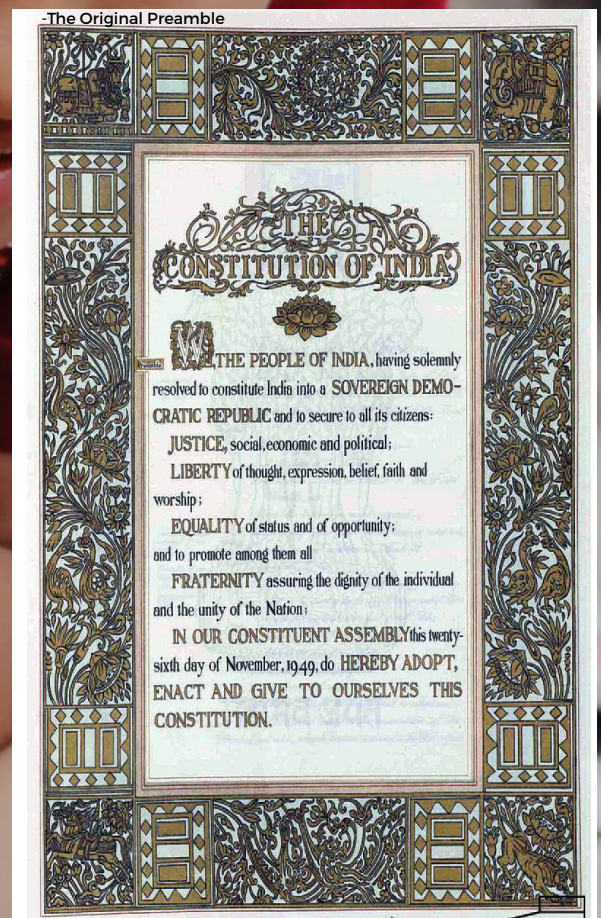


CLASSIFIEDS

- THE FIRST OF 2023 -

THE KHEL MELA ISSUE IS OUT

Furthermore, The Crossroads Monthly is also looking to post requests in the upcoming Classifieds section. If you need or have any stationary, books, sports equipment, textbooks, guides that you don't use anymore, and if you are willing to give it away to a student, please contact Aneesh Mahesh of IB 1st Year for more details.



#HappyRepublicDay



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