

MELIORA

A Podar World College initiative

ISSUE ONE
OCTOBER



Cover Art by
Drishti Mehta

Dean's Desk



Since I joined Podar almost 2 decades ago and then later took up the deanship in 2014, the enormous talents, capabilities, achievements and potentials of our senior leadership team, faculty, staff, students and alumni have never stopped to amaze me. Our teaching faculties are leading scholars, best teachers and experts in their respective subjects. Our students are among the brightest in Podar and our alumni are some of the most influential in their own profession.

Podar has always been highly regarded and consistently ranked as the country's top educational institution since its foundation in 1927. Podar is committed to excellence in the delivery of education and providing students to access highest quality teaching, learning and recreation services.

Ensuring Podar remains at the leading edge; in 2017 our new education building was completed in Mumbai at our Santacruz campus. The largest redevelopment projects in the Mumbai city in recent years, this 155000 sq. ft. facility with basement plus ground plus 7 floors will transform the delivery of interdisciplinary teaching in Mumbai.

Podar is wholly focused in developing future leaders who make a difference worldwide. We take pride in providing rigorously evaluated programme which is globally recognised and respected qualification from the University of London. The University of London International Programme offers undergraduate degrees in economics, management finance and the social sciences to students worldwide. Academic direction for these courses is provided by London School of Economics and Political Science.

Our curricula put together the strengths of global excellence with regional relevance and a focus on India. Innovative content, market-oriented enrichment programmes, international exchanges, internships, mentorship programme, active student organisations and a highly globalised student base nurture communication and leadership, on top of the pursuit of academic excellence.

You are sincerely invited to get to know more about us and our undergraduate programmes. I look forward to the opportunity of welcoming you to join our family – where successful leaders of the future are nurtured.

Dr. Mrs. Vandana Lulla
Dean, Podar World College

The Write Place

Editor's Note

A message to our readers

I'm proud to present to you the second issue of the Podar World College Magazine. Thanks to the guidance and leadership of our beloved Dean Dr. Mrs. Vandana Lulla, we are able to express our ideas through the magazine and make it a success.

As an editor, I come across articles from various topics and this gives me a chance to learn something new each time. I get to know someone without meeting them! The second issue is indeed a very special one. Thanks to the work done by our colleagues in the Community Service Avenue, our magazine highlights the mental health issue, a topic that's all too close to our hearts. I personally enjoyed reading Anish's take on the New Education Policy (under the Arts section) and watching the amazing Industry leader interview that our team conducted.

Without spoiling the fun from the rest of the magazine, I hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed putting this together for you.

—Siddharth Satwadi



Welcome to the second issue of Meliora, where we are in continuous pursuit of the betterment of knowledge and growth. This magazine is for all students, by the students of Podar World College!

Before we talk more about this issue, we would like to thank the amazing editorial team for their suggestions, inputs and artworks and of course want to thank all the writers and artists who shared their works with us! We hope this issue makes you proud to show off your work ;).

This issue ranges in a variety of topics from investment tips and the coastal road to animal cruelty and some fiction; from light reads to in-depth topics, we hope you enjoy this issue! This issue starts with a bang- our industry leader interview with Mr. Jaspal Singh Sawhney who works in the tech industry and provides an interesting perspective on the changing world and ends with some fun activities to help while away your time. We hope you love this issue just as much as you liked the last and continue to enthusiastically participate in the future issues!

—Team Editorial

This is an accepting and open community, so let's be respectful of all authors and producers of the amazing entries in this magazine. The views expressed are not endorsed by college but are their own.

Event Highlight

Mental Health Awareness Week

A Community Service Initiative

Mental health awareness week is celebrated from 4th to 11th October, World Mental Health Day (10th) included. For this year's mental health week, we collaborated with Rotaract Club of Mumbai Nariman Point and brought to you Project AYNÄ, starting with an informative webinar on self-harm, an extremely relevant topic especially in these times with lockdown taking a toll on our mental health. We then had a series of online workshops taken by a network of therapists, ranging from body positivity and self esteem to stress management and sensitive topics like parenting and suicide.

The workshops were very comprehensive and spoke in depth about the topics in order to give clarity on mental health and the crucial role it plays in one's life. The reason we collaborated with RCMNP is because we wanted to spread the word about mental health to as many people as possible as it has become increasingly apparent and important for everyone to de-stigmatise this topic and take care of their own mental health in a healthy way that is best for them and to familiarise themselves with a topic that usually has a lot of stigma attached.

By Rishabh Singh



10TH October

LEARNING COMPASSION
ARUSHI, NEHA - LETTERS TO STRANGERS 2:15 - 3:15PM

BUILDING SELF-ESTEEM
SACHI, RUHI - MAGIC SHOP 3:30 - 4:30PM

ALL THINGS THERAPY
THERAPIZE 4:30 - 5:00PM

ADOLESCENT AND SUICIDE
DR. SAPNA BANGAR 5:00 - 5:30PM

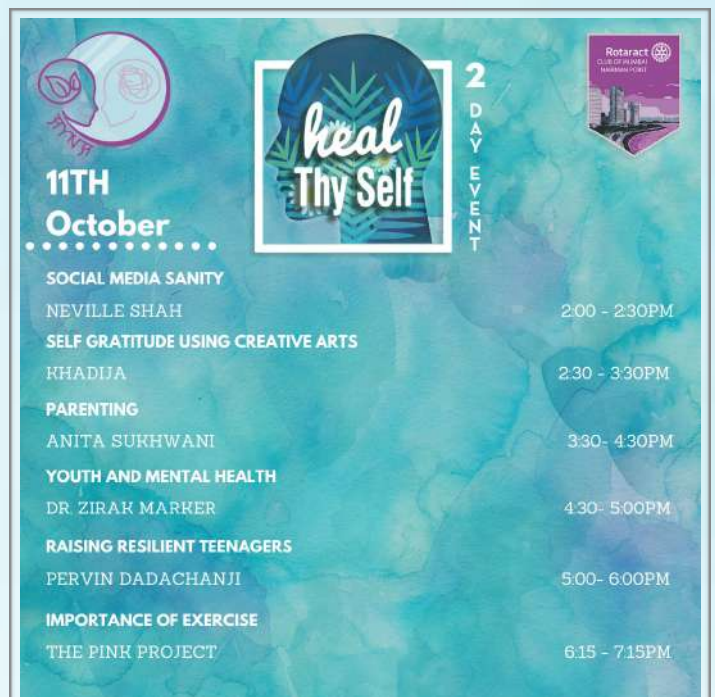
STRESS MANAGEMENT
EXISTOLOGY 5:30 - 6:30PM

PANEL DISCUSSION
SONALI SARAOGI, ARMEET KAUR SETHI, DEEPIRA BHANDARI, HUSNA VUNJARA 6:30 - 7:30PM

heal Thy Self

2 DAY EVENT

Rotaract Club of Mumbai Nariman Point



11TH October

SOCIAL MEDIA SANITY
NEVILLE SHAH 2:00 - 2:30PM

SELF GRATITUDE USING CREATIVE ARTS
KHADIJA 2:30 - 3:30PM

PARENTING
ANITA SUKHWANI 3:30 - 4:30PM

YOUTH AND MENTAL HEALTH
DR. ZIRAK MARKER 4:30 - 5:00PM

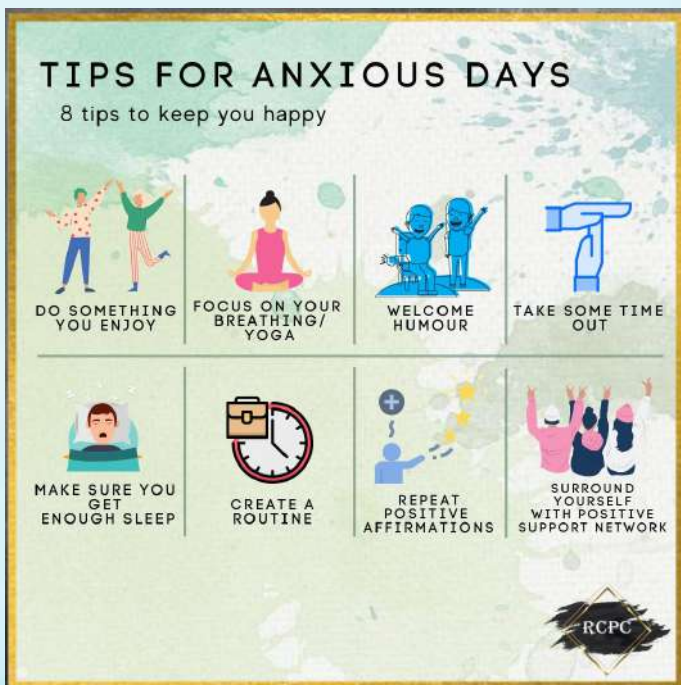
RAISING RESILIENT TEENAGERS
PERVIN DADACHANJI 5:00 - 6:00PM

IMPORTANCE OF EXERCISE
THE PINK PROJECT 6:15 - 7:15PM

heal Thy Self

2 DAY EVENT

Rotaract Club of Mumbai Nariman Point



Social media has proven to be even more effective during these difficult conditions. So, as an add on to the sessions above, the community service avenue curated five topics pertaining to mental health, got help from PR & Marketing for the posters, and put it up on our Instagram page (@rcpodar). Social media acted as a powerful tool and helped us spread more awareness on common, sensitive issues like anxiety and loneliness and made sure each viewer benefitted from this, even in a small way. The topics covered were simple and common and all of us could definitely benefit by giving it a one minute read, especially the self-care checklist. Mental health has increasingly been seen as important and self care thus should be prioritised. Even though mental illness is common and can affect anyone, there is still a great stigma attached. This stigma creates reluctance and shame in seeking help, when really, it should never be seen as weak to seek help. We thus collaborated with RCMNP to host 12 workshops in a span of two days in an attempt to help people overcome this stigma and educate them further on mental health.

By Kriti Malpani



Business

Industry Leader's Interview



Our guest for this issue of Editorial's Industry Leaders Interview is Mr. Jaspal Singh Sawhney, who is a Global Chief Information Security Officer at Tata Communications, responsible for Global InfoSec Group, Cyber Security strategy and governance and implementation of security programs for all legal entities of Tata Communications enterprise globally.

He is responsible for InfoSec's Annual Operating Plan and InfoSec governance for the whole enterprise and telecom & other growth LOBs. He also is involved in additional alignment of onsite delivery organisation for BFSI.

Mr. Sawhney holds expertise in Cyber Security, Infosec programs, Technology Infrastructure, Governance Risk & Control and Regulatory relationships. To learn about Mr. Sawhney's philosophy of success, make sure to tune in and watch on YouTube!



Our Youtube Channel: Rotaract Club of Podar College

Future of the Indian Logistics Market

Logistics has been the beam for every business across the world since the rise of economies around the world. The towering needs of businesses to transport goods and services must be addressed by the logistic structure. It must have the best in class infrastructure and the ability to utilise effective logistics management systems. The economic survey of India for 2017-18 has projected the logistic sector to rise from \$165 billion to \$215 billion by 2020. With the PPP model, the Government of India strives to improve India's ranking in the World Bank LPI from 35 to 15 in coming years. The development in technologies and birth of new industry verticals have created large demands for logistics. Not just this, but new sets of requirements from people with busy lifestyles have also added to increase in logistic demands.

Striving for greater efficiency in the logistics sector, The GoI has established a separate logistic division in the Department of Commerce to work for integrated development of industry both in the domestic and international domain. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has proposed forming a dedicated online portal to accentuate logistic service in the country and bringing together the vast logistic service providers and related government agencies. The Ministry of Transport is also playing a key role in upbringing the logistic sector by strengthening the land connectivity through various programs. The economic survey 2017-2018 has speculated that the

Indian Logistic sector will grow at a CAGR of 10.5% crossing the 200 billion used mark in the coming time with 22 million people employed in the industry and by 2020, the industry will employ over 40 million people. With a promising future the Indian logistic sector has become the new sensation encouraging the GoI to frame a dedicated IT system for this industry. An example would be in the import-export system that has been upgraded which reduces the cargo release time to only 2 or 3 days.

The GST framed by the Central and State Government has paved the path for a better logistic sector. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs under the Finance Ministry has brought new provisions under CSB (iv) and CSB (v) to the courier imports and exports (electronic declaration and processing) regulation, providing 100% GST refunds in logistic services. Customers can easily move their shipment with minimal paperwork and faster delivery and customs clearance with the new policy changes. Apart from this, to foster the growth of the logistics sector, many start-ups and established enterprises have entered the market with the latest technology, quality warehousing, and functional transport facilities to provide world class services in the Indian market. With the recent entry of international logistic players, it will boost healthy competition and greater efficiency in the Indian logistics industry.

This will be the beginning for the rise of Indian logistic industry in coming years. By 2020, Indian companies will be able to support customers by offering return management, fulfilment warehousing, and third party services in all E-commerce markets like the USA, Europe, Australia, and the Middle East through the world-wide network. This not only creates a large scope for Indian sellers to sell their products globally but also creates opportunities for other global sellers to sell their products in India. By providing seamless customer clearance and distribution across the countries the Indian logistic industry will have more opportunities in future.

By Soham Patil



Artwork by Drishti Mehta

Markets

Investing or Trading: Which One's for You?

Traders and investors are two types of players in the equity market; both of whom seek to earn profits through market participation. It is therefore essential to differentiate between the two as they get intermingled quite often. If you are a beginner, your first step should be investing and then only after you get the hang of market fluctuations, should you start trading. Before investing, you should set your short term and long-term goals. Without goals and plans to reach them, there is no purpose of investment.

Trading refers to buying and selling of stock on a regular basis to earn profit on the basis of market fluctuations whereas investing refers to buying and holding investments for a long period of time where investors can earn due to appreciations in stock prices or on account of a huge interest earning over a long holding period.

Be it trading or investing, you should first have a demat account and a trading account with an empanelled (i.e. stock exchange and SEBI registered) broker.

Key differences:

- Trading is generally short term buy and sell of stocks while investing is for a longer period of time.
- Risk is very high in trading as it has shorthanded decisions while if you invest for a longer time, the compounding of dividends yields higher profits.
- Returns are pretty fast in trading as transactions happen periodically whereas investment involves a lot of waiting to get higher returns.
- You can trade in equities, currency, commodities, cryptocurrency while you can invest in shares, bonds, fixed deposits with banks or corporates and mutual funds.
- Traders are the ones that take advantage of the market conditions to enter or exit their positions on stocks over a short period of time, taking more returns whereas investors strive for larger returns over a long-drawn-out period by buying and holding stocks.

Which one is best for you?

- If you can manage to read charts and graphs about the market on a daily basis, then trading is for you, else you would be better off with investment.
- If you want to earn money within a short span and have a risk-taking appetite then trading is for you. If you have patience and are willing to wait, investing is a better fit for you.

Whether you are a pro at handling stocks or a beginner, do not rely on third party promises assuring high returns. Do your own research about the company profile, its recent news, volatility in stock prices and their long-term goals. Do not trust the fake tips regarding where to invest. Hope this gives you a brief to meet your goals!

By Ananya Karyekar

Current Affairs

A Highway Too Long



Photography by Aniha Mhatre

These pictures of the work going on at Marine Drive for the Coastal Road Project are going viral. Photos like these make us think about the impact human activities have on our environment. Here's our take on the development v/s environment argument. The Coastal Road Project is a 29.2 km freeway, starting from Marine Lines in the South and ending at Kandivali in the North, that is expected to cost the taxpayers around Rs 12,000 crores.

The pros of the project are that it will reduce the travel time from the North and South of Mumbai (from 2 hours now to 40 mins). It will also create 100,000 new jobs, smooth functioning of commerce & trade as there will be lanes for the commercial vehicles, complementary infrastructure such as cycling, jogging tracks etc. CO2 emissions are also expected to come down due to the reduced travel time.

Initially, due to environmental concerns, it was rejected by the Minister of Environment. It was reinstated in July 2019 by the BJP government which promised to pass the project when they came to power. Their environmental impact is being underestimated by the BMC because the natural capital itself is incorrectly valued. The project is 415 acres land reclaimed from the sea, majorly impacting the marine biodiversity. As many as 340

*What do we care for more,
an industrial livelihood or decreasing
our climactic implications?*

Credit to Rhea Sahajwani

marine species are threatened due to the project. The livelihoods of the Koli fishing community will be affected because the breeding zones of the fishes will change, having an overall impact on the ecological food chain. Mangroves will be destroyed across the northern stretch, which are beneficial for mitigating climate change as it absorbs carbon emissions and also acts as a natural sea wall.

Not to mention the impact it would have on the sea levels and constant risk of flooding. All for a fancy road and a few fancy drone shots. When the sea is pushed back from its natural boundary line, it gets difficult to hold it back. The force of the water is overpowering for any human invention to sustain. Several environmentalists have expressed concerns over large parts of coastal cities like Mumbai being submerged under water by 2050. The government can use these funds for strengthening the existing infrastructure to have the same impact. Many reports reinforce the alternate use of the allocated funds. The Mumbai Local, the pumping heart of the city, carries 7.5 million people every day! It is in need for an upgrade so that it can last for the better part of this century.

By Nityasurya Chandru

To Test or Not To Test

The rampant inequality that has plagued the education system has been dangerously amplified by the COVID-19 lockdown. There have been several petitions demanding that the Prime Minister withdraw the University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines on University Examinations, stating that examinations will both penalise those who are honest and promote malpractice. There has been severe aggression against the central government and hashtags like #StudentsLivesMatter are quite popular. The Twitter fire, news channel division and mass protests have been confusing and exhausting for students across the world.

The chaos inside the education industry seems quite clear on the surface. When you cast aside the biases and look at the truth, it seems to be a clear-cut case of the government playing villain against us poor students. The oh-so-evil UGC has devilishly insisted on having final-year university examinations (online or offline per the university's discretion) and we must hate this decision because it promotes an elitist culture where only the rich can afford online facilities. How dare this fiendish organisation force us to give exams when we've been unable to learn because of this virus? The solution is simple: Cancel the exams!

Like most conflicts in India, this debate starts to fall into place when you apply politics to the equation. I came across a campaign, called #SpeakUpForStudents, organised by the Congress party. This campaign not-so-subtly encourages students to revolt against the UGC. They ask controversy stirring questions like "Does UGC want to spread coronavirus by gathering students in the name of the exam?" or "Why are students being used as testing kits?" These manipulative remarks do nothing but further aggravate our nation's youth. When did this become an issue of somebody's vested interest?

This can't be the full picture.

So, I decided to contact Dr Prashant Kharkar, a post-doctorate researcher and professor of medicinal chemistry at UICT, a leading state government supported institute in India. UICT was one of the very first universities to successfully conduct online exams from 1st to 15th July for the final year students, and 16th July onwards for other undergraduate students. Dr Kharkar thinks this was necessary because exams ensure that students are technically sound in the syllabus contents.

This knowledge is indispensable when starting one's own companies or finding jobs/placements. Recruiters look for this! Without assessments, the learning process can get heavily compromised. In UICT, clear guidelines were defined for students and teachers,

informing them how to conduct written as well as practical exams. Syllabus completion was well-scheduled and executed due to cooperation by university faculty and students. Personally, more than anything, I think their strength was taking quick steps and adhering to the UGC guidelines after a lot of discussions, but without much hesitation.

Of course, there were challenges. Dr Kharkar talked about students finding it difficult to adjust to online classes to prepare for exams. However, according to Dr Kharkar, the government has been very generous in its support for all universities. Apart from UICT, which is inherently independent, the government of India is trying its level best to implement policies like E-Vidya, DIKSHA Portal or teacher training for other universities that aren't that institutionally strong. What the media doesn't tell us about is the sheer amount of effort teachers in rural areas are putting to encourage students to learn, even and especially during this pandemic. That can't be ignored.

As far as the change in the education industry is concerned, Dr Kharkar strongly believes that this shift of education into the technological space was bound to happen, irrespective of the virus. But, COVID just preponed that shift. Of course, there is always fear of the unknown when all have to adapt to new educational practices, but there is more to gain than to lose. Students can now learn according to their own pace. Teachers are adapting to these new needs as well. As Dr Kharkar hopes and believes, five years down the line, E-learning will cross socio economic divides. Even disadvantaged economies will have access to resources which were previously limited to the top tiers of the world.

So, after looking at the full picture, I just have two things to say. One: Of course, there are issues, but if cancelling the exams is the first option we rely on, we will be drifting away from the normal our economy is so very desperately trying to get back to. Two: Students, please focus on learning. Education cannot be substituted or traded. You may run away from it for some time, but it's going to get back to you sooner or later. If you, as a student, face challenges, please contact your university, not your cell phone. Trust them.

They're there to help you.

By Aishwarya Potdar

Ganesh Chaturthi

Happy Ganesh Chaturthi guys! Looking at Ganesh Chaturthi this year, it's not the same. Many around the world, across all sectors, have been financially hit. Today, I would like to bring your attention to a very important issue: the loss of livelihoods for already stressed artisans. Read on to know more!

Due to COVID-19, there has been a loss in demand for Ganesh idols since the State Governments have declared that there will be no public gatherings for the Ganesh Chaturthi celebration, and has urged the public to celebrate at home in order to maintain social distancing norms. Lalbaugcha Raja isn't holding Ganeshotsav, there will only be a four-foot tall Ganesha idol and will have blood and plasma donation camps.

Previously built idols will have to be used next year provided the pandemic dies down. But there will be storage costs incurred to store these big Ganpathi's safely. There will also be a capital crunch for these businesses, as they do not have enough capital to invest in the raw materials and also high transportation costs as the demand for these idols are dropped by 40-50% domestically and exports have decreased by 60%.

The main supply of Ganpathis comes from an area known as Pen (80 kms from Mumbai). They supply more than 6 lakhs Ganpathis, and due to the pandemic, manufacturing demand has been affected, since the retailers are not demanding more than 3-4 feet tall Ganpathis.

The Ministry of Environment also came up with the ban of the usage of Plaster of Paris (POP) and urged the artisans to use Clay and other materials which are biodegradable and less harmful for marine life. It is a very good



Photography by Aniha Mhatre

move by the government to ban the usage of POP but simultaneously, it should have also provided assistance for the procurement of the other eco-friendly materials to the artisans, and also the consumers moving towards demanding eco-friendly idols which has caused a supply constraint for these artisans since they require at least more than 3 years to train them. The Ministry recently extended the ban for another year which is better. Due to this pandemic, the water pollution has reduced which is good for the environment, but at the cost of the livelihoods of the artisans.

The government could have done this in a more efficient way, by telling the artisans beforehand so that they are prepared to face these bans. Now more than ever, we need the government to step up and serve the country, and not to fail us. We need to demand our public servants to do better and ensure that citizens can afford a good standard of living.

By Nityasurya Chandru

Literature

Blinded

God did not make man,
Man made God.
Religion? A myth.
We were created to be one;
United, as equals.

We put him on a pedestal,
Higher than ourselves.
They say he dictates life,
He is powerful,
He is all-knowing.

They say religion,
Gives hope,
Unites you
Still, tearing us apart;
Discriminating and Persecuting.

Allah, Vishnu, Jesus
The one and the same
Society, mistaken
Blinded by belief

God did not make man,
Man made God.
Religion? A myth.

By Avanti Morarka



Artwork by Sonia Kulkarni

Titanic

Dear Rose,
Dearest Rose,
My Rose, (pun intended)

I know that a Titanic of questions will sail through your mind once you see the sender's name in this letter. I know that I've been frozen for too long, but I just couldn't lay another day on this aquatic bed without making your heart warm again.

Oh boy, there's so much talk I want to have with you.

First thing's first, I hope you found another Jack and made a lot of babies with him, just like you promised me. Second, I hope Mother is relaxed now that Hockley's a lost broken man. Although, he was a kind brat for giving you the diamond.

Hope you still have 'The Heart of the Ocean'. You need it, your love is too big to fit in one heart.

I still remember the blue sapphire that lied on you and kissed your beautiful naked body. The only piece of art that will never sink.

You know... I can't help but always dream of the things, the life that we would have led, had the ship not sunk that night. Had we gotten off at the dock in the end.

I would've married you, that's for sure. I would've made you fly on all the ships' decks. We would've danced at, and ruled the dance floors of all parties (I won the dance-off on the ship). I would've given you all my love. We would've sketched grumpy Hockley. I would've been able to make you laugh and smile forever, and fallen in love with you

shrieks all over again. I would've had endless books with your sketches in it only. And of course, I would've had Rose Dawson on standby to free me from captivity and all the handcuffs of life.

But, I guess my lucky ticket had something else in store for me.

I want to let you know that I'm not sorry for what I did back there on the raft, on that night. I just wanted to save my life, because my life is you, Rose. My life is you and it always will be you, so I had to save it. Remember, you're the greatest thing that ever happened to me.

Now, don't be afraid of sailing the oceans again. I'm there, I'm here in the oceans, deep down, in every drop. I'll see you when you set sail, I'll keep watching you as you sail. And if anything were to trouble you on the waters or put you in any danger, just know that I will be there. Always. Forever. I'll save you, again and again, and again. Every time.

Also, I haven't admired your curly brown hair in a while, so it'd be nice if you came around... singing 'My Heart Will Go On'.

I miss you.
I love you.

-Jack Dawson

By Ryan D'Silva

Lost in a Crowd



Artwork by Drishti Mehta

The world has a population of 7.8 billion people. Each individual has their own interests, fears and wants. Each individual is fighting their own battles, trying to self-contemplate. I am not the first, and nor will I be the last person to ask the eternal question 'Who Am I?'

We ask ourselves this question in hopes of getting some sense of direction, or to 'find ourselves'. We try to find a purpose, to define ourselves, even if it isn't just in one box. But here's some food for thought, is there really one true version of you? You may have an opinion of yourself, but every person you have ever met or interacted with, whether it's making eye contact with a stranger or a deep or a long relationship going years back, has a different version of you in their minds. Granted, that version of you may evolve in the time to come as the relationship builds or even fades, but will it ever match your opinion of yourself? Think of your family, your sibling, your best friend, whosoever you consider closest to you. Do your thoughts of yourself match what they think of you? Similarly, maybe the opposite is true.

But then again, maybe someone who doesn't even know you has opinions of you, after hearing of you from someone they know. Does this mean their opinion of you will match with the person who told them about you? Doubtful. Does this imply that each of the 7.8 billion people have their own world and is oblivious to 'reality?'

Are we all lost in our own world and is our world the right, end all, final-decider world? Similarly, are we our true selves in our own world or is our true self made of shards of opinions from every person we have actually interacted with, leaving us lost in a crowd of different versions of ourselves? Every individual has their own unique thoughts, their own perspective, their own way to look at the world. And still, in this crowd, here we are, figuring out the same things, asking ourselves similar questions, having the same doubts and fears.

In the end, maybe we don't have just one personality, and we just adapt to the situation and people we are around, no matter how much we believe we stay the same. So instead of asking yourself 'Who am I?' try asking 'How do I become who I want to be?'

By Avanti Morarka

*Social
Awareness*

Animal Well-Being- Humanity's True Moral Test

If you really want to do good to or for some creation of god, first do it for animals.

We as humans are blessed with a mind and voice that enables us to stand up for ourselves. However, many of these poor beings are treated like untouchables and the most unfortunate part is, they can't even stand up for themselves to seek justice.

They can't speak up whenever they are brutally beaten up just because they followed someone for food; when their bodily hormones act up when they are not vaccinated; when their owners, with whom they spent their childhood, abandon them because they can't take responsibility. When they are leashed for hours, they usually choke trying to pull out of it and bark till their throats ache. When they are shot or poisoned, they scream for death out of unbearable pain but people only take videos of them, making it a sight of amusement and "just another" social media post.

Being part of a pet membered family, it was torturous to the eye to watch a heart wrenching viral video of a stray dog in a building being shot on one of its hind limbs. The video continued to show how the dog started screaming and begging for help around a puddle of its own blood till it died a torturous death. It pains me to think that so much could have been done for that dog instead. It could've been a stray who could've started staying in that colony. It could've had a mental issue, if not vaccinated, which might have caused disturbance or threatened the residents.

All that dog would have needed was a vaccination and perhaps, neutering: A one-time investment to a better, more peaceful life of both the residents and the dog. Apart from that, the children in the building could have

played with the dog during their leisure time, or it could have been a stress buster for them. Maybe, the dog also could have even protected the building residents from thieves or other forms of harm. Trust me, there is no being more loyal, protective and sensitive than a dog! The residency together could have spared a few bucks and collected enough money jointly to get an animal treated and vaccinated, so many possibilities. But no, we have other important priorities like spending on Huda beauty's new range of nude eyeshadows!

Our lack of awareness and inability to evolve into humane, mature and considerate beings has not only made it difficult for ourselves to live with animals but also ruined many of their innocent lives. They are a part of our ecosystem! If we as humans require respect for one another, before that, we need to be thoughtful of our actions, our responsibilities, our duties as a civil citizen.

Animals never provoke, Humans do.

Now, we have got a taste of our own medicine. We have been and continue to victimise these beings ruthlessly. Karma has hit us hard and shall continue to hit us hard- god willing. It's COVID-19 today, it could be Hantavirus tomorrow, then another virus and another and another till it doesn't get into our heads and isn't instilled for good.

By Riddhi Dhanuka

The Arts

The Case for a National Endowment for Music and Arts in India

Will our country recognise the arts as something more than a hobby?

Credit to Rhea Sahajwani

There has been a significant amount of buzz about the Indian education system, lately, especially with the announcement of the National Education Policy 2020. The conversation has particularly revolved around the modernisation of Indian education, in order to provide the Indian people with access to quality education that values skills and promotes innovation. Indeed, the NEP has been a breath of fresh air, with its provisions for vocational training and digital literacy, as well as its recognition of the vitality of multidisciplinary education and artistic development, particularly in higher education.

However, one idea has yet to come to any fruition: a national endowment for the arts, like the one pioneered by the federal government of the United States since 1960s. The arguments in favour of a general expansion of artistic education are clear and well-documented by educationists including the esteemed developmental psychologist Prof. Howard Gardner (who postulated the theory of multiple intelligences in children). Here, I would like to make three broad cases for such a national endowment for the arts (using the American NEA as the standard) with a specific focus on music and music education as succinctly as possible: the pedagogical case for enhanced education, the economic case, and the political case.

The pedagogical case for music education (and indeed, all forms of artistic education) is multifaceted, and broadly supported by empirical evidence. Music education has been demonstrated to enhance brain neural development and boost children's IQ, particularly when begun early, according to studies by Winner and Schlaug, and Schellenberg respectively. Crucially, artistic endeavours are fun, refine interpersonal interactions, and are stress-relieving media of self-expression. Additionally, artistic exhibitions of music, dance, and the fine arts facilitate a deep appreciation for our rich cultural heritage and diversity in students, enabling students across India to gain a more nuanced understanding of, and empathy for other cultural backgrounds. Promoting the arts through solid curricular and after-school programs might just be that added X-factor input to enable this country

to reap a much larger, more cohesive demographic dividend than we could imagine.

Now, as governing bodies around the country grapple with the damages caused by the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, this potentially significant investment would understandably raise eyebrows about the returns that society stands to reap. According to Mary Anne Carter, Acting Chairman of the National Council on the Arts of the United States, "Investing in the National Endowment for the Arts continues to yield one of the greatest rates of return for the American taxpayer. Arts Endowment grants produce a significant return on investment of federal dollars with one dollar of our direct funding leveraging up to nine dollars in private and other public funds." Models such as these can go to show that even without taking a minimal cut out of the proceeds of, say, art auctions, the financial benefits of such an initiative can be tremendous.

Secondly, the arts and artistic education are positively correlated with higher rates of innovation and dynamism in the economy. One great example would be the reputedly innovative "start-up nation" of the world, Israel. There, students, especially in elementary school, study a curriculum overseen by the Ministry of Education that emphasises activities that aim to develop numerical skills and creative abilities in children with studies showing measurable improvements in arithmetic comprehension and results due to music education to build their readiness for a future of innovation and accomplishment. This is a promising result for Indian educators and policymakers, who would undoubtedly look to models such as those to transform our burgeoning young labour force into productive, creative pools of human capital.

Moreover, creating an endowment of this kind would stand to achieve maximum benefits for underprivileged, underserved communities where art and expression tend to flourish (as Kanye West once said, "Great art comes from pain.").

Financial support to the incredible folks who need it the most can produce immense returns as they grow their audiences and reap the proceeds from their concerts and exhibitions (not to mention the growth and external economies of scale that ancillary industries could benefit from, which can drive employment growth). All of this can help make a positive difference to people's lives and to their communities, and make our country a fairer and more equitable place to live. As a result, such an initiative inherently makes political sense too. Any ruling party or coalition cannot sustain its tenure unless it demonstrates to its citizenry that it is actually capable of improving their lives and bringing positive progress to the country, meaning that the arguments above already hold a fair amount of sway. Be that as it may, there are a couple more advantages that such an endowment for music and the arts (and their education in this country) portend from a political standpoint.

One political advantage is that it uniquely positions our parliamentary representatives to paint their parties as truly national parties, looking out for every state and every cultural background in this country. This is because an endowment for the arts would serve as a vanguard for cultural preservation, protecting every state every people's traditional heritage. For example, as a Tamil Iyer, I have observed the potency of Dravidian nationalist parties in Tamil Nadu in painting both major national political parties (and several other communities perceived as non-Dravidian) as lukewarm, at best, or apathetic, at worst, to the cause of Tamil cultural preservation. Such an argument immediately loses a significant degree of strength if the central government took such a step, which could go a decent way toward taking care of the people's concerns on that front. This could enable national politicians to make their case that they are truly invested in every one of this country's peoples, which can yield positive results for them, indeed, all the way from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

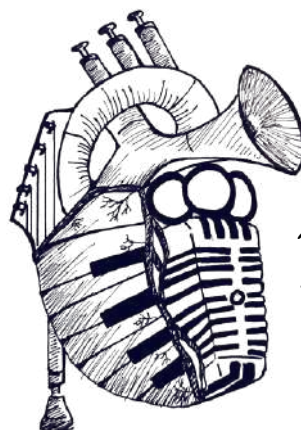
The second political advantage of such a step would be that the cross-cultural exchanges that result from its implementation can really foster a greater, more organic sense of Indian-ness, born out of respect for other cultures and an appreciation for every region's contributions to the mosaic we call our motherland. These exchanges can allow for syntheses and developments of richer art forms (and in turn, richer cultures) which are truly pan-Indian, over time. Such an idea of true Indian-ness would be better poised to stand the test of time and withstand divisive shocks, external or internal. This enables us to leapfrog our success at being a cultural superpower, and project soft power around the world to our national benefit.

Now, what would such a national endowment for music and the arts look like? Of course, parliamentary research committees would have to conduct comprehensive explorations of the practical minutiae of such a nationwide proposal, in a way that maximises its benefit to all 1.3 billion of us. That said, we can take a general stab at this, ourselves, to come up with a guiding vision. The American National Endowment for the Arts is primarily a grant making body, that hands down grants and fellowships to artists across the US either directly or through public-private partnerships that go right down to the state and county level. Such a model could be a guideline for us as well, governed by a set of criteria and standards agreed upon by the governmental agencies that would have to co-ordinate their activities to make this a reality.

Another option that we have is direct grants to the music schools across our country that are in real need of more substantial funding to build their infrastructure and refine their curricula. This would essentially work within the system to consolidate funding to existing institutions, which could then permeate down to individuals. However, this might mean monitoring expenses for the central government, to ensure that the money trickles down appropriately in the most meritorious manner possible, free from cronyism or the influence-peddling that has virtually become endemic to Indian society in most governmental matters.

On the whole, it is my firm belief, as a musician/artist and as a budding economist, that the returns we stand to reap from a national endowment for music and the arts, and from a general expansion of arts education in this cultural juggernaut we are proud to call home, are evident and self-sustaining. Implemented in tandem with the proposals of the NEP, I believe that this initiative would present clear pedagogical, economic, and political benefits to the Indian people and state. Therefore, at this moment, I am of the opinion that it is time for a national conversation on what a national endowment for the arts could look like for our country; it is time for us to use our power as voters to push meaningful positive change that the whole nation can get behind.

By Anish Sharma



*Artwork by
Sonia Kulkarni*

Your Works

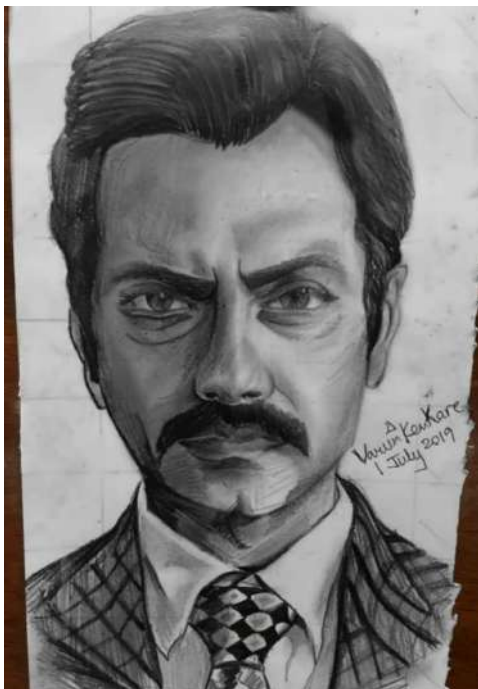


By Shikha Jain

*By Sanskruti
Bole*



*By Avanti
Morarka*



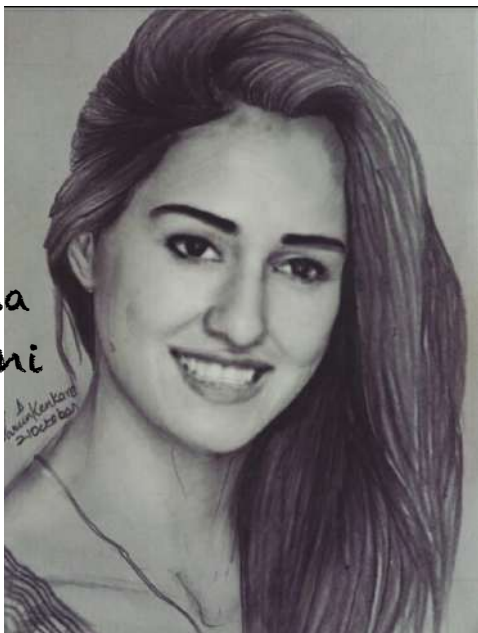
Nawazuddin Siddiqui

By Varun Kenkare



Ranbir Kapoor

Disha
Patani



Entertainment

Word Searches

Marvel

K R B K I X V L M N Q H F U P H K B E M R M K Q
I K A C I R E M A N I A T P A C H A E T E E A Y
S G R O C X K M L L S G C S W D T O C N I J T O
J V H T B Z R J M A G N E T O U I U A K V R V W
H I W R O E E K U R F J T Q O M M M V F A E Y O
F G U R D E S L O O P D A E D X T S C U X S Y D
F A G I B S N N C C S X K Y X N R T O N S T H I
A L P K O O B C I M O C C P A S G E E X E O F W
N S S Q E E L N A T S J L J U I R X L A L R Q K
T M D N R K T Y U P E N I R E V L O W L R M J C
A B U R E L W A R C T H G I N U S T H E A O R A
S Q J U D R B S N L K W X K S J T J I T H V Z L
T W M V R T Q O F C W S N N C D A E Z B C S U B
I Y P G C E Y E K W A H X R B W L A R K M F F W
C Q C Q F O M D Q K O K U N E M X N X Y G A C C
F C V L R L S R E G N E V A K S P G H D P X G J
O B N N D V J V N C N I J K I X U R P C M Z D Q
U D A H V P Y M Y M S V J F V R J E R B Y Y W V
R A M Y H E Z C J O I D Z A Q N M Y V B S V Y X
B E N C N E L X I I R E X A U Z Q M Y B T T H E
T T O O I O E C T K O H N Z F B X L E N I X Y X
A B R E P T C T F O G A Y I C D E A Y V Q O V H
Y Y I S H N L V M W U I U M A S S P B U U X R E
Q Z I Q A F C S W H E C Y A P T Z H G S E E T P

Ant Man	Avengers	Beast	Black Widow
Captain America	Charles Xavier	Comic Book	Cyclops
Deadpool	Fantastic Four	Gambit	Hawkeye
Iron Man	Jean Grey	Magneto	Mystique
Nightcrawler	Rogue	Spiderman	Stan Lee
Storm	Thor	Wolverine	X Men

Answers given at the end

Musicians

N M V O N E D I R E C T I O N S M E R J A G U W
 U Y R D T P B M F W U C A I B A U Q D Q T D A R
 Y H M I W W F T F I W S R O L Y A T O I T H K F
 R T Y A G B S I D V W T W Y C U T M V N T T H M
 R L A D Y G A G A K C H J Z C Q H W N H B I Z O
 E O R L S E W Y E F U S H Q A B M K Z R B M K T
 P C N J U V I W M G A Q E E B Y M N A J V S Z V
 Y C E X I V B K E L L Y C L A R K S O N L M P C
 T C Y P K X R U N S I A R R O U P A A S M A Q K
 A E N Y A E U P Z M P K W L S T F R V R L S X H
 K P H T T H N K B X M B N E W J U O B U G X X F
 H P P T Z Y O O A O K N L M J F V N J M V G R B
 W X V W S O M Y R S Z C S Y U L S I A L O D I D
 L Z L X W N A B R M O T G G S X L A N X A V L D
 V F J O F E R G I E J E B I T X M R A C A N F I
 M C N A E N S T J L B D W T I P H T K G N I N R
 R S G I C P O A N N O D A M N T C N R B I C X F
 S G P G F S P N R M P Q C H B P Y A A T T K F R
 N O S K C A J L E A H C I M I B N H M Z F I B L
 G Z F L V P V H L B P T R Q E T A G E I V M D X
 N H O J N O T L E L I R A N B V G E R H Q I U U
 W C U M G E J W Y M N C V E E V E M P F N N P K
 H N I N G U D C B Q K H X E R B T A P O G A F Q
 X G A R A S X F H S K F H A K O M Z R F J J F L

Bruno Mars

Dido

Elton John

Enya

Fergie

Jana Kramer

Justin Bieber

Katy Perry

Kelly Clarkson

Lady Gaga

Madonna

Meghan
Trainor

Michael Jackson

Nicki Minaj

One Direction

Pink

Sam Smith

Sara

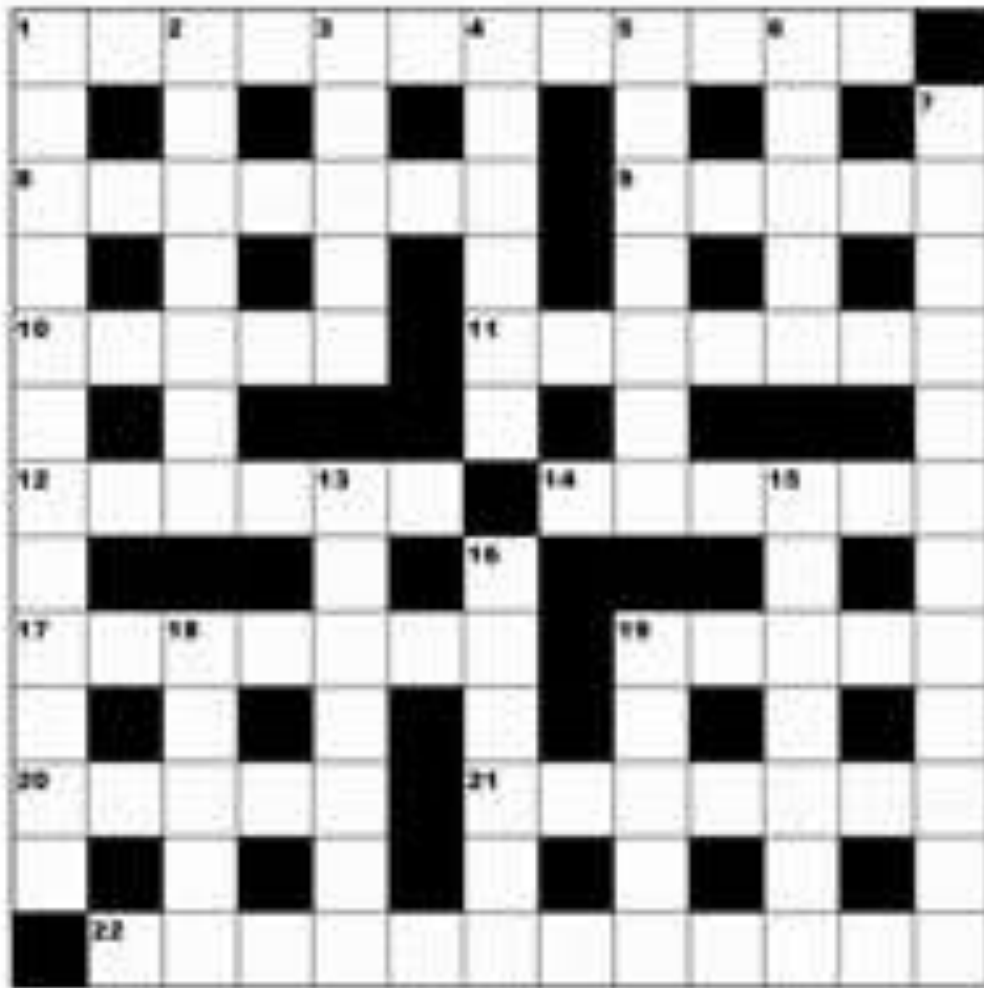
Taylor Swift

Tegan

Answers given at the end

Crosswords

1)



ACROSS

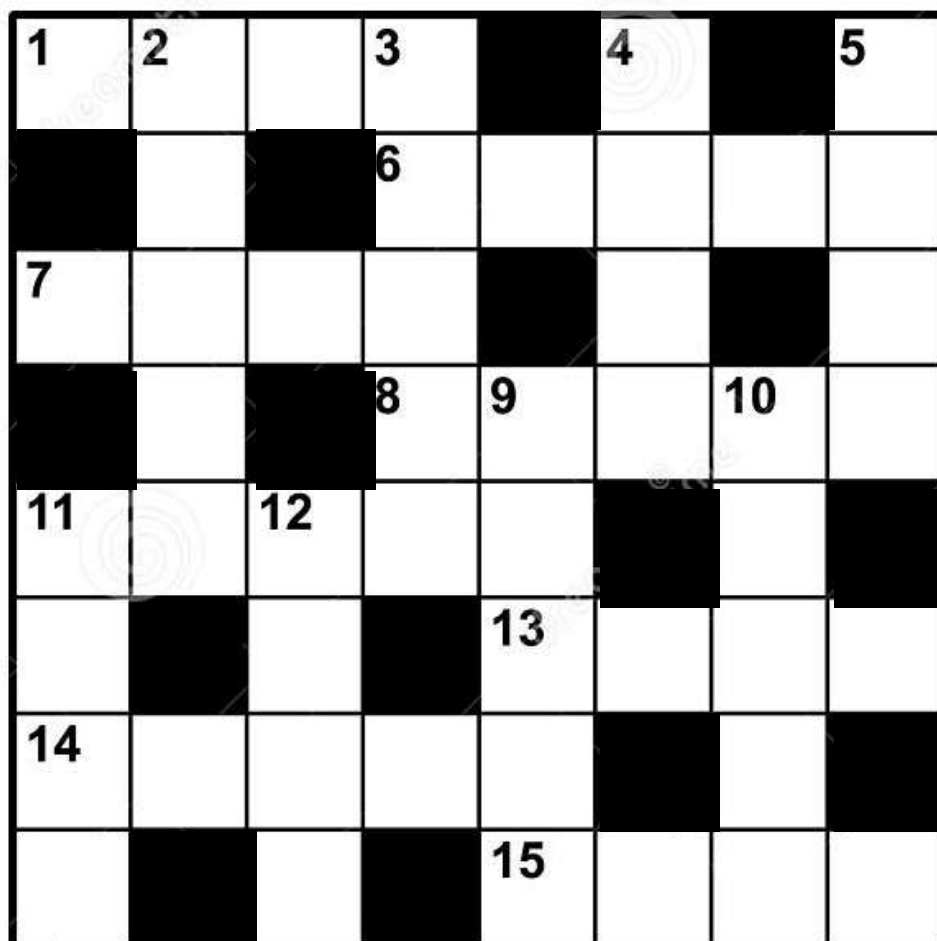
1. Island in the S Pacific
8. Go faster than
9. Pale green mosslike lichen
10. Greet
11. Redskins
12. Tacit
14. Violation of trust
17. Markedly incompetent person (2-5)
19. Cuttlefish pigment
20. Underwater navigational aid
21. Not exact
22. Scattered

DOWN

1. Hugeness
2. Divans
3. Minor oath
4. Spain and Portugal
5. Wash clothes
6. Feudal, Japanese martial arts exponent
7. Perfidious
13. Goods brought into a country
15. Paving substance
16. Axiom
18. Maori feast
19. Loose coil of yarn

Answers given at the end

2)



Across

- 1** Excursion
- 6** Boxer's stat
- 7** Spectrum color
- 8** Use a broom
- 11** Mouthing off
- 13** Margin
- 14** Remus, e.g.
- 15** Recent

Down

- 2** King or queen
- 3** Newspapers
- 4** Book unit
- 5** Model in a bottle
- 9** Cart part
- 10** Ice skating figure
- 11** Two squared
- 12** A piece

Answers given at the end

Sudokus

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

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

Answers given at the end

Answers

Sudokus

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

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

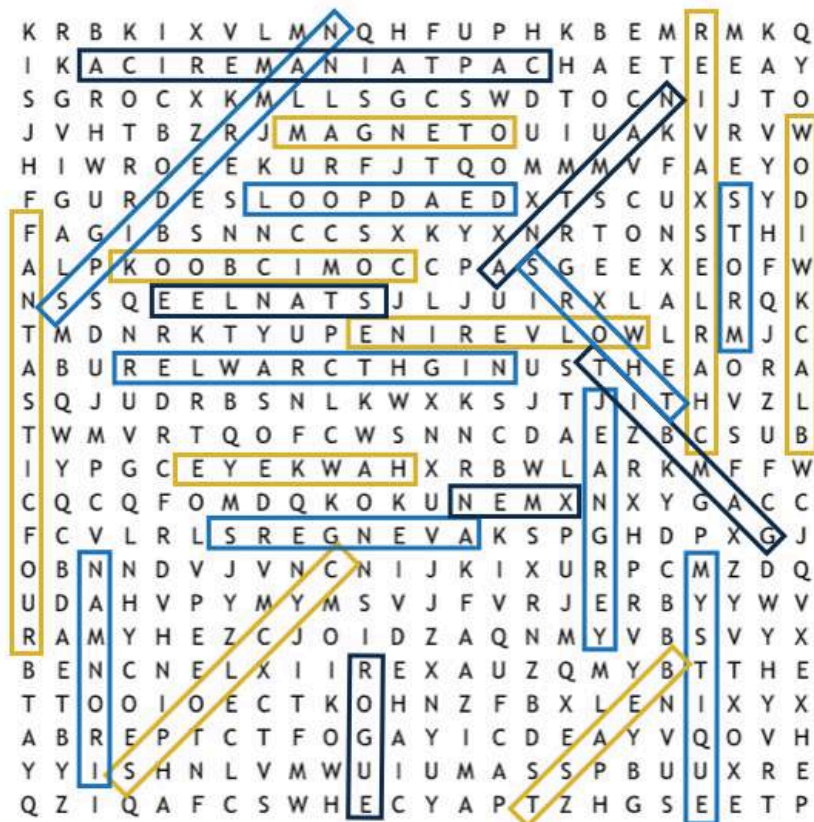
Crosswords

T	R	I	P		P		S
	U		R	E	A	C	H
B	L	U	E		G		I
	E		S	W	E	E	P
F	R	E	S	H		I	
O		A		E	D	G	E
U	N	C	L	E		H	
R		H		L	A	T	E

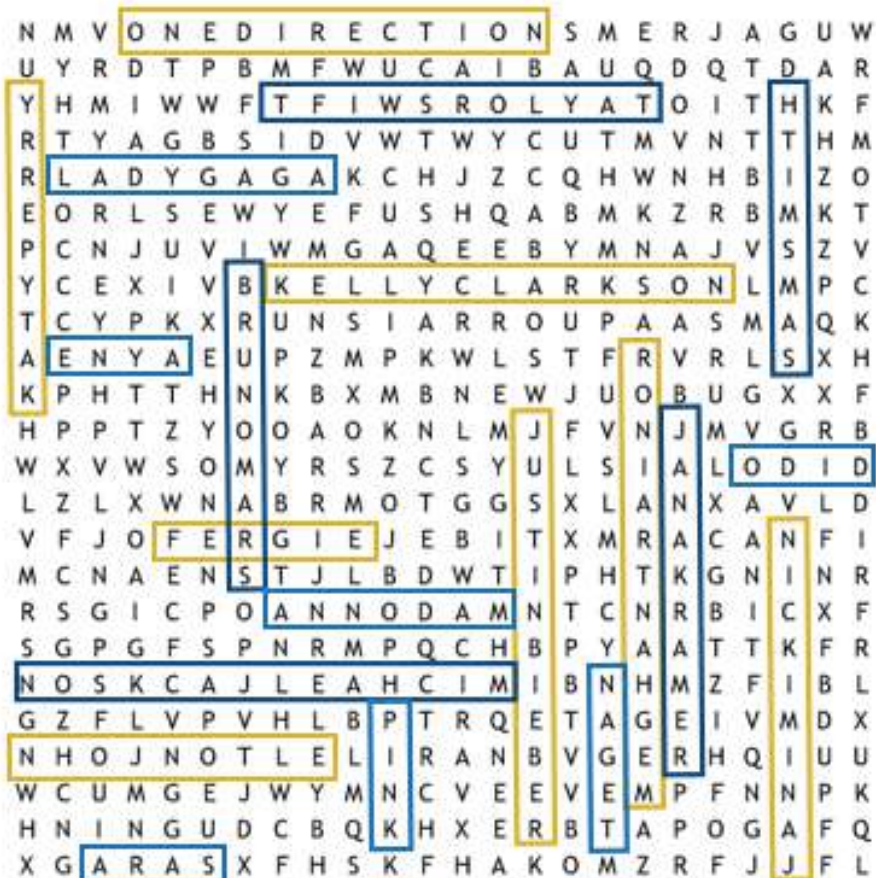
E	A	S	T	E	R	I	S	L	A	N	D		
N		E		G		B		A		I		F	
O	U	T	P	A	C	E		U	S	N	E	A	
R		T		D		R		N		J		L	
M	E	E	T	S			I	N	D	I	A	N	S
O		E				A		E				E	
U	N	S	A	I	D		B	R	E	A	C	H	
S				M		T				S		E	
N	O	H	O	P	E	R		S	E	P	I	A	
E		A		O		U		K		H		R	
S	O	N	A	R			I	N	E	X	A	C	T
S		G		T		S		I		L		E	
	D	I	S	S	E	M	I	N	A	T	E	D	

Word Searches

Marvel



Musicians



Upcoming

What's Next?

Podar World College has a lot of events and activities coming up via the Rotaract Club of Podar World College and Cultural Club!

Keep up with it on our Instagram:



@podarworldcollege_pwc

@rcpodar

@culturalclubpwc

October events:

17th: Online Treasure Hunt

18th: Finance Housie

21st: Teaching the underprivileged

24th: Pet Talent Show

30th: October's 2nd Meliora Issue

30th and 31st: Halloween Nights

Fantasy Premier League, daily bread earner's finance interview week, Instagram events and many more so stay tuned and participate actively!

See you there!!

"The dream is not what you see while sleeping it is something that does not let you sleep"

—Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

And boy has the magazine been a longstanding dream of ours! We hope you'll keep diversifying your writing styles and topics and grow here alongside us; after all, that is what Meliora means!

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts"

—Winston Churchill

As we worked with a new team, it took a lot of getting used to; working cohesively and considering everyone's opinions is a hard thing to do! But truly, it is just as beneficial as it is hard; every person has such unique opinions and ideas-it really does make Meliora a success. Opinions may not always be implemented, but they are *always* useful! And we welcome you to give us feedback!

We hope you loved reading this issue as much as we love making it and can't wait to see you on the next issue!

*Signing off,
Team Editorial*

Email us your articles, art and photography at:
pwceditorial2020@gmail.com