



Billabong family wishes you a Happy New Year 2021!

## Principal's Note

My dear Children,

Another year starts and brings with it, new hopes and aspirations – a faint desire that sprouts in every human heart for happiness, prosperity, and good times.

Invariably, on the heels of such desire are the perplexing yet compelling thoughts about the resolutions of a new year. Perhaps a reflection on this short tale about a stream may help resolve the mental turmoil for some of us.

A stream, from its course in the far-off mountains, passing through every kind and description of the countryside, at last, reached the sands of the desert. The stream tried to cross this one too but found that as fast as it ran into the sand, its waters disappeared. Its destiny was to cross this desert, yet there was no way. What could be done now?

A hidden voice, as though coming from the desert itself, whispered: "Allow yourself to be absorbed in the wind."

The idea was not acceptable to the stream. Much against its will, the stream allowed its vapour into the arms of the wind; the latter gently and calmly bore it upwards and along, letting it fall softly as soon as they reached the roof of a mountain - the birth of a fresh stream!

The New Year appeals to us to flow like a new stream, holding within, the acceptance of change, the power to reach out to those in need, to oust impurities, and germinate new beginnings. Go with the flow!

More power to you!



Ashish Agarwal

### Student Editorial Board



Hia Sadho



Arayna Saxena



Kaashvi Mehta



Paloma Jain



## Annual Concert 2021

In lieu of the fashion of these times, the 'unprecedented' era offers fresh ideas, where we take each challenge and temper it to suit the restrictions we face. Billabong High, Bhopal is proud to present an amalgam of dance, drama, and music through the first-ever Online Annual Concert, which will soon be taking place in the form of a short movie aptly titled 'The Misclick'.

Aditi, Kabir, Arya, Naina, and Avi - 5 students with different personalities, land up in an alternate dimension when they click on a mysterious class meeting ID. Trapped in school with time ticking, they are to solve tasks to escape, while coping with each other's quirks. With a script compiled by Hia Sadho, Agrima Chopra, Rida Aamir, Mannat Kandal, Prashasti Praveen, and Aditya Rajan idea of 'The Misclick' took a concrete shape.

Practices for the Annual Concert have always been marked with exciting hustle and bustle in every corridor involving varying degrees of enthusiasm from the participants, permeating disruptively in the academic environment. It was quite a herculean task to manage the combined chaos of all that in one online meeting, for which, we are indebted to Swati ma'am, Amit sir, and Praveen sir, for unfailingly

attending all the practice sessions and giving their valuable advice, many times punctuated



by sighs and prayers to the Lord!

The practices got off to a rocky start, with actors frequently missing sessions in favour of taking some beauty sleep amidst the breezy winters. But our dear school captain, Shah Hussain (playing *Kabir*), was never hesitant to display his wide array of acting skills by proxying. It was hard to get him out of the mode when the actors did show up, but it did help him enlighten us all with some valuable advice.

Someone who didn't need a lot of advice was Sulaiman Khan (playing *Avi*), who quickly became the star of the improv sessions by giving extremely amusing performances on rather bizarre topics. Another perfect casting was Lavanya Kapoor (playing *Arya*), who was initially fond of accentuating her dialogues with frantic hand movements, but soon came into her own and delivered her performance with in character nervous ticks. Another actor who unexpectedly came to take up the role of the stereotypical "topper" was Yahvi Jain (playing *Naina*) who took no time to catch up with the rest of the actors who had been cast a few weeks before her. Someone who was quite hands-on playing *Aditi* was Gurnoor Bedi, who had no trouble adapting to the role of the rebel, always full of sharp quips, sarcastic comments, and rolling eyes.

Contrary to most group projects in classes, this student-led concert is bound to be an extra special event with the amount of hard work and zeal put into it. It might be a bit unseemly to go on and on about what makes this project unique, so to accurately judge it, remember not to miss out on 'The Misclick'.

- Gaurav Singh (11A)

Hia Sadho (11B)

## Editor's Note

"Do I contradict myself? Very well then I contradict myself, I am large, I contain multitudes."  
— Walt Whitman

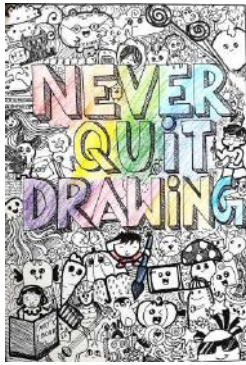
When you receive this, dear reader, the year that changed all of our lives would be over, and I do not wish to be another lamenting reminder of it. 2020 was a year of multitudes. For me, it was a year that I explored my own multitudes and I hope you did too. May you carry better times into this year, just as this chilling winter is passed down into 2021.

As ever, in the chilly nights, we turn to art to keep our hearts warm, and we are deeply grateful to every artist, of every medium, who has contributed to the making of this newsletter. Do read this newsletter by a kindling fire, or with a cup of hot chocolate, for aestheticism's sake or mine. Enjoy!

- Hia Sadho (11B), Editor in Chief

## Inter-house Art Competition

Art is one of the way to express one's thoughts. The Inter-house Art Competition was yet another virtual event where students across middle school and high school very creatively expressed their thoughts on the given themes. While students of Grades 5 and 6 doodled fabulous art book covers, Grades 7 and 8 enjoyed designing shiny and shimmering jewellery boxes and Grades 9-12 created some wonderful fusion art, all live, through a Microsoft Teams session.



### WINNERS

#### CATEGORY 1



1st Position  
**Aarna Tiwari**  
(Freedom House)



2nd Position  
**Aarushi Bhagat**  
(Equality House)



3rd Position  
**Mysha Jain**  
(Peace House)

#### CATEGORY 2



1st Position  
**Priyanshi Patel**  
(Equality House)



2nd Position  
**Tanishqa Jalori**  
(Peace House)



3rd Position  
**Shambhavi Pethiya**  
(Peace House)

#### CATEGORY 3



1st Position  
**Jiya Tuteja**  
(Freedom House)



2nd Position  
**Manjishtha Rai**  
(Freedom House)



3rd Position  
**Iha Prasad**  
(Peace House)

## Inter-house Juggling Competition

The perseverance and hard work were clearly visible in the students across middle school and high school, who took part in the Inter-house Juggling Competition. The energy radiating out from these students, smartly dressed in their kits, juggling a football, could be felt despite the distance. The dedication with which the participants juggled the football with both their feet, to add up to their house scores was commendable.

It was a tough competition and the student who performed the highest number of juggles in each category won. We congratulate the winners for befriending the ball!

### WINNERS



Category 1  
**Mohd. Atif Ullah Khan**  
(Freedom House)



Category 2  
**Luvvyaveer Surjani**  
(Unity House)



Category 3  
**Farisa Khan**  
(Unity House)

## Children's Day



Oscar Wilde said, *"The best way to make children good is to make them happy."*

Every year our teachers plan awesome children's day celebrations but this year, owing to extraordinary circumstances, the teachers made the day special virtually.

The teachers across the primary and middle school recorded videos wishing the students and organised some fun activities like scavenger hunt, dumb charades, dance and music, 1-minute games, and gave titles to the students during their classes. High school teachers organised 'High school Unplugged,' a fun event in which the teachers performed for their



students, sang songs, and danced to their favourite numbers. Some teachers recited poetry while others engaged students through refreshing games, breaking the

academic rigor in an exciting way.

Everyone got to see a different side of their teachers, one we are not able to see during the regular online classes. Thank you, teachers, for making this day truly special for Billabongers!



## Alumni Talk

"I think the success of any school can be measured by the contribution the alumni make to our national life."

- John F. Kennedy

Alumni Talk was a much needed platform which facilitated an easy and active interaction of our proud alumni with the students of the high school. The alumni talked about the life after stepping from school, the difficulties they faced in the journey of pursuing what they wanted and their decisions so far, in an interactive session where they answered different questions asked by high school students.

The three alumni talks conducted recently, focused on different career choices. In the first alumni talk, Aahna Rajan, (a student at NALSAR Hyderabad) and Satyavati Sinha, (having just cleared CLAT with an AIR rank of 510, in September 2020, and joined NLIU, Bhopal.) shared important tips and strategies to clear CLAT along with the commitment of managing academics at school. They also spoke about their transition from school to college and gave their insight on pursuing law as a career.



Saumya Nair and Drishya Premchandani joined us for the second Alumni Talk.

Saumya, who took up the field of chemical engineering is a graduate from Birla Institute of Technology & Science (Goa) and is currently working with J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. Drishya is presently studying Computer Science from Birla Institute of Technology & Science (Mesra).

They talked about JEE and how to crack it. They also shared their experience of preparing for this exam and how they dealt with the pressure and stress that came along with it.

The third Alumni Talk featured three dashing entrepreneurs from the Class of 2017 who were inspired to pursue their dreams in the field of Hotel Management after completion of their ISC. Gurwin Sahni, a diploma holder from IIHM, Mumbai and a trainee at JW Marriott, Juhu who specializes in Asian, Mexican, and Indian cuisines, Nikhil Lakhanpal, a graduate from IIHM, Goa, who has also interned at a 5-star hotel, and Vanjul Motwani, who has completed a degree in B.Sc.(Hospitality and Catering Studies) from Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration, Manipal. They talked about IIHM and culinary art as a field. They also shared their valuable life experiences from the industry, how they managed to stay away from unconventional habits and how taking this creative field is different from the rest.

We hope to make the best possible use of such alumni talks that not only inspire us to pursue what we like but also prepare us to face the challenges that this beautiful journey entails, especially when such words of wisdom come from our flourishing alumni.





# ‘Should billionaires be forced to donate a large percentage of their wealth?’



**YES**

Should billionaires donate their wealth to those who barely have the resources to survive? Jeff Bezos could give away 90% of his wealth and still be left with more money than he could spend in a lifetime.

From a moral standpoint, the argument is indubitably in favour of the topic. The privileged, be it you or Bill Gates, have a moral obligation to help the poor, and billionaires, with their excessive disposable income are fully capable of doing so. In fact, the rich ought to feel more compassionate for having excessive money while the underprivileged pathetically suffer and die. Albeit they have worked hard to earn, privilege plays into how successful they have been. Furthermore, those who are poorer do not work less - 13 million people work two jobs

helpers at your very hours a day to children with minimum dress them in

What drives home are the benefits. billionaires excess income earners to spend the and raise consumer directly raising the to mention, expenditure on million adults in India are uneducated - the door to jobs, resources, and skills that a family needs to not just survive, but thrive - was closed to them.

To slowly give access to education to thousands of people with the wealth of a few, to minimize the income gap that threatens the livelihoods of millions, and to bring about massive societal reform in the snap of a finger. Education is the great equalizer, and every drop of its benefit should be squeezed out - that's a massive leap towards a utilitarian society, which the income gap - billionaires not donating - is a hurdle to. In fact, Mark Cuban has publicly called for the United States to raise taxes on the wealthy, himself.

Henceforth, for the economic wealth to shift towards the incredible number of the economically unstable, and aid a huge part of the country to flourish economically, billionaires should be forced to donate increasing proportions of their wealth.

- Yahvi Jain (9B)

**NO**

‘Eat the rich!!’ is one of the most prominent slogans heard and seen these days. If billionaires have so much money, why are they keeping it to themselves, they should give it away! We're conditioned to think that the rich are greedy, capitalist, inhumane scum, who hoard money and underpay their employees and don't do enough. But how does one back these accusations?

For starters, they do their part by paying taxes. In the U.S. alone, the top 10% of the wealthiest individuals collectively made up 70% of the total tax revenue in 2018. And that's scaled far too high, considering the top 1% wealthiest

people together paid about 38% of the total tax revenue for 2019. Knowing that in 2019, the U.S. tax revenue was 3.5 trillion dollars, about 3 million people paid a sum of 1.3 trillion dollars. (observer.com)

Calling all billionaires greedy is factually inaccurate since most of them do more for economic, social, and political welfare than what we can even fathom. The climate relief fund by Jeff Bezos and the pandemic relief fund by Jack Dorsey are worth almost 15 billion. Bill Gates has given away about \$45.5 billion to charity, Warren Buffett: \$37 billion, and Mark Zuckerberg: \$2 billion. (Philanthropynewsdigest.org)

It can be argued that the men popularly demonized by the media and the public have done more good work than those accusing them.

And one can always point out the fact that “they can do more to help”, and that is true, but they aren't liable to. Paying taxes, following laws and voting during elections makes them as good a citizen as anyone else and it isn't their responsibility or obligation to spend the money they have earned just because they have more of the well being of the depends on the upper class is flawed. Moral meaningless at from an perspective. the prerogative public it is literally

Billionaires are corrupt people who employees and exploit always painted as underpay their labour. There is evidence that some billionaires have exploited the system and aren't just with their economic position, but not every billionaire gets to where they are in wrong ways. It's wrong to assume, without any evidence or proof that someone who provides income, facilities, services to so many people and their families and does philanthropy is dishonest and greedy just because they are successful.

It is a fact that most, if not all, of us, are trying to be rich. While it's not the end goal, it is certainly a strong incentive. But working hard and earning the money, finally achieving everything you dreamed about, doesn't it seem wrong if you're made to give it away just because you have more than you need? The rich people, who pay their taxes are helping the economy and shouldn't be made to do more than they are obliged to.

- Aryaman Shukla (12B)

# Doctor Who

Before I move in to the details of the show I'm going to recommend for you, let me give you a brief of the show.

For those of you who like science fiction, ghosts, history, aliens; Doctor Who is the perfect show for you! Doctor Who is a British science-fiction television programme produced by the BBC since 1963. The programme depicts the adventures of a Time Lord called "the Doctor", an extraterrestrial being who appears to be human. The Doctor explores the universe in a time-travelling space ship called the TARDIS. Its exterior appears as a blue British police box, which was a common sight in Britain in 1963 when the series was first aired. With various companions, the Doctor combats foes works to save civilisations and helps people in need. (Wikipedia)

Though the series first aired in 1963, I suggest you directly start watching from the second season which is my personal favourite. (BTW, if you've

watched all the Harry Potter movies, you might recognise the actor). There are 13 seasons in total and if you are wondering why and how there are 13 seasons, worried about seeing the same face (of the Doctor), let me tell you - the process is rather interesting but NO! It would be better if you watch it.

I recommend "Doctor Who" because of the real excellence in the scripts, full of wit and whimsy allowing the characters to engage your interest! Some of the stories are good too, but even if they are a bit feeble the ongoing stories of the Doctor and his companions allow you to carry on. The enigma of the Doctor is the main interest together with the paradoxes of the time jumping. The aliens or rather the extraterrestrial beings are amazing (not in visuals but then beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder). It makes the viewer wonder how somebody could be so creative. A few of



Image credit: amazon.com

the extraterrestrial beings were the Daleks, Raxacoricofallapatorius (a species, not a planet), Sycorax, and Judoon. If you do decide to watch this show then, I must insist that you please start with season 2 because the episodes themselves are much improved this season with the two partners, in particular, cut with a darker and tighter emphasis on cohesive writing than the first time around. Even the stand-alone episodes seem to have a higher quality.

Trust me, during these winters, all you need is a comfortable space, a blanket, a cushion and your laptop to watch the adventure-filled episodes of Doctor Who.

- Siyona Panvalkar (8B)

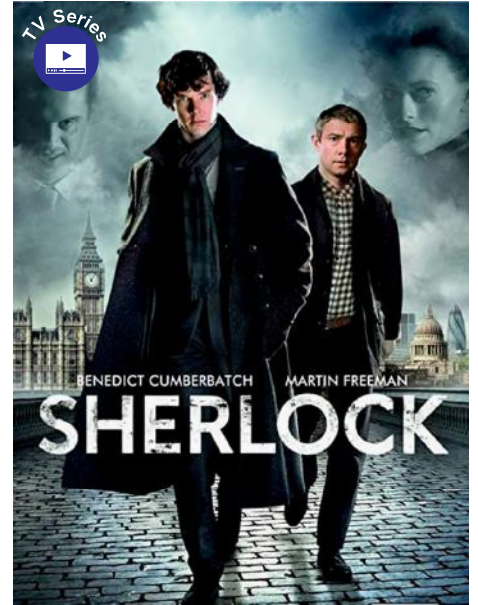


Image credit: amazon.in

"A nice murder that'll cheer you up," says Mrs. Hudson, which sounds reassuring not only to Sherlock himself but also to us.

In this updated take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's beloved detective stories, the eccentric and fastidious sleuth, Sherlock Holmes, prowls the streets of modern London solving mysteries and crime, along with his flat-mate Dr John Watson.

Unnerving mysteries, sarcastic remarks, unexpected revelations, immersive investigations, and the carefully knitted cases have made Sherlock one of the best TV shows of all times.

Benedict Cumberbatch (our beloved Dr. Strange) plays the mystifying Sherlock Holmes and The Hobbit fame Martin Freeman brings the character of John Watson to life.

Not less than a legend, Sherlock depicts a variety of extraordinary crime, the deduction of which seems impossible to the ordinary mind and his feud with the sadistic Jim Moriarty is another such feature that keeps the viewers on their toes.

The show is appropriate for an age group of 16 years and above and the storyline includes subjects like drug trafficking, smuggling, serial murders, and terrorism. All in all, this classic marvellous piece of art never seems to disappoint the viewers even if they are the toughest critics, making it one of the highest-rated British shows with an IMDB rating of 9.1.

- Ira Fatma Khan (12C)

# The Woman In The Window



The Woman In The Window is a Psychological Thriller written by Dan Mallory, under the pseudonym A.J.Finn. The story revolves around an agoraphobic woman, Dr. Anna Fox who is the main character of the book, and a child psychologist by profession. Anna struggles because she confuses her delusions with real-life incidents, making her unable to decide what is true and what is imagined. This diabolically gripping thriller reveals shocking adventures, as nothing is what it seems. The vivid and compelling details kept me engrossed. Although the book has very few twists, they astonished me exorbitantly. This novel is not exactly meant for readers who like books with extremely positive or happy vibes. I relished reading it a lot and would recommend it to readers who like dark psychological thrillers.

- Sania Mirza Baig (9E)

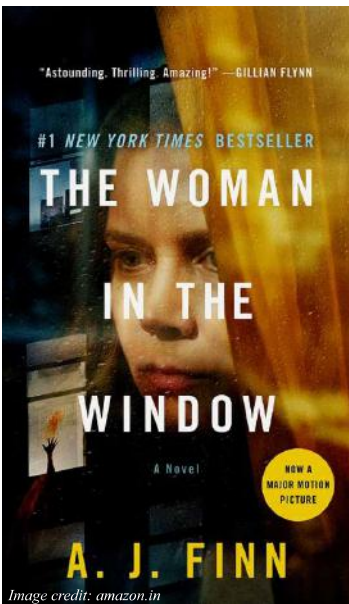


Image credit: amazon.in

# BoJack Horseman

In one episode, the characters of BoJack Horseman discuss the Japanese art of Kintsugi, a practice where

broken bowls and pots are fixed with gold, so the imperfections in the vessel shine beautifully, and how that applies to people as well. That one scene, however vague on paper, is the culmination of what BoJack Horseman, both the character and the almost poignant storyline, reflects.

BoJack Horseman is not the usual nihilistic ironic comedy animated series, it's a satire on life, and if that's all the show was about, it would be pretty basic; But what it manages to be, is a highly relatable delve into its deeply flawed characters which tugs at and makes the viewers analyse themselves

and simultaneously get beyond attached to the characters. Delivering on that premise for six seasons without faltering would be a Herculean task, but to accomplish that with an animated show is something else entirely and BoJack Horseman delivers just that and more.

Being animated is one of the best parts of the show, but also quite tragic, as it gets overlooked for that very reason. BoJack Horseman is the most essential and satisfying Netflix original, meant for age group of 15 and above. A combination of lighthearted comedic moments and dark, serious moments, it deserves more recognition, the lack of which is the tragedy of BoJack Horseman.

- Abdullah Arab (11A)



Image credit: dailystargum.com





# Hot Chocolate on a Stick

Winter and hot chocolate are inseparables. Here's a little twist that you are sure to relish-

**Steps:**

1. Prepare an 8x8-inch pan by lining it with aluminium foil and spraying the foil with nonstick cooking spray.
2. Place the chopped semi-sweet and unsweetened chocolates in a large heat-safe bowl.
3. Pour the heavy cream and condensed milk into a medium saucepan and whisk until combined.
4. Put the saucepan over medium heat. Bring the liquid to a simmer, whisking frequently so that the condensed milk does not scorch on the bottom of the pan.
5. Once the liquid is simmering, pour the hot cream over the chopped chocolate and let it sit for a minute to soften. Begin whisking the cream and chocolate together, until the chocolate is melted and you have a shiny, smooth mixture.
6. Pour the chocolate into the prepared pan and smooth it into an even layer. Allow it to firm up overnight or sit for a minimum of 3 to 4 hours in the refrigerator.
7. Once the fudge block is firm, use a large, sharp knife to cut it into twenty-five pieces (five rows and five columns).
8. Skewer each block with a lollipop stick. Enjoy!



Image credit: thespruceeats.com

**Ingredients:**

- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 (14-ounce) can of sweetened condensed milk
- 18 ounces/ 3 cups semi-sweet chocolate or chips (chopped)
- 4 ounces/ 3/4 cup unsweetened chocolate (chopped)
- 25 lollipop sticks

Courtesy: thespruceeats.com

# How to knit a 'Scarf'

We all have our stories of being gifted with a knit wear by our loved ones, usually grannies. For learning this skill, novice knitters begin with a scarf as it is easier to do. That is what we have put together for people who would like to carry on the legacy of this precious craft -



Image credit: pinterest.com

**Equipment/Tools:**

- US 13 (9.0 mm) knitting needles
- M/13 (9.0 mm) crochet hook for weaving in ends
- Scissors

**Materials:**

- 100 to 200 yards super bulky wt yarn

**Instructions:**

1. Cast on stitches: Cast on 12 stitches. This will give you a scarf that's almost 5 inches wide, but you can alter the number of stitches for a wider or narrower scarf. There are many different ways to cast-on. Try the long-tail cast-on or simple wrap cast on.
2. Start knitting: Knit every stitch and every row with the same garter stitch until you have about a yard of yarn left, or the scarf has reached your desired length. You can also add a new ball of yarn to extend the length or to add a different colour.
3. Bind off stitches: Next, you need to bind off. Cut the yarn, leaving a tail of about 6 inches.
4. Finish: Use your crochet hook to weave in the ends at the top and the bottom, as well as any extra ends if you added a second ball of yarn. Block piece to shape up uneven stitches, if desired.

(courtesy:thesprucecrafts.com)

# Winter Vegetable & Lentil Soup

Soups are a magical way of keeping winters at bay. Here is a simple and interesting recipe that is sure to tantalize your taste-buds as you relish every spoonful of this healthy soup packed with immunity boosters-

**Ingredients:**

- 85g dried red lentils
- 2 carrots, quartered lengthwise then diced
- 3 sticks celery, sliced
- 2 small leeks, sliced
- 2 tbsp tomato purée
- 1 tbsp fresh thyme leaves
- 3 large garlic cloves chopped
- 1 tbsp vegetable bouillon powder (stock)
- 1 heaped tsp ground coriander (Serves 2)

**Steps:**

1. Tip all the ingredients into a large pan. Pour over 1½ litres of boiling water, then stir well.
2. Cover and leave to simmer for 30 min. until the vegetables and lentils are tender.
3. Ladle into bowls and eat straight away, or if you like a really thick texture, blitz a third of the soup with a hand blender or in a food processor.
4. Serve hot with a dash of crushed pepper, lime, and some fresh green sprigs of coriander or just a dollop of butter.

(courtesy:bbcgoodfood.com)



Image credit: bbcgoodfood.com

**FASHION**  
Winter ready

**COLOR TRENDS**  
fall 20 / winter 21  
FRESH COLOR COMBOS

<p><i>cocoa-ticious</i> CLASSIC BLUE • FIRED BRICK ROSE TAN</p> <p><i>leffel's harvest</i> GREEN SHEEN • ROSE TAN ULTRAMARINE GREEN</p> <p><i>vika's ski jacket</i> ULTRAMARINE GREEN FIRED BRICK • PEACH NOUGAT</p> <p><i>classique</i> CLASSIC BLUE • SANDSTONE SAMBA</p>	<p><i>along christmas</i> ROSE TAN • SAMBA • ULTRAMARINE GREEN</p> <p><i>an anyone bouquet</i> MILITARY OLIVE • ALMOND OIL SLEET • BLUE DEPTHS</p> <p><i>at the aloha</i> ROSE TAN • FIRED BRICK CLASSIC BLUE • SANDSTONE</p> <p><i>chiffon sunrise</i> AMBERGLOW • GREEN SHEEN ALMOND OIL • PEACH NOUGAT</p>
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Image credit: preview.ph

**HAT trends**  
to watch out for

Image credit: preview.ph



# Tête-à-Tête with Sr. Adv. Sidharth Luthra

For this edition of The Billabong Bulletin, we had the privilege to have got the valuable opportunity of interviewing Senior Advocate Sidharth Luthra, one of India's prominent lawyers. The interview, which was streamed LIVE on Facebook saw active involvement of our alumni, those who have a passion and deep-rooted inclination towards law.

Helped by questions framed by Aahna Rajan, who graduated from BHIS in the year 2018, and is currently in her third year at Nalsar

Hyderabad, Vibhuti Rao, who graduated this year and is currently in her first year of law school at Symbiosis Law School, Noida, and Iravati Singh, who graduated in 2015 and is studying at NLIU, Bhopal, we sought relevant detail pertaining to the legal fraternity, talked about crucial issues, and got an insight into how the minds of high-profile advocates work!

In July 2012, Sidharth Luthra was appointed as the Additional Solicitor General of India.

He was the Special Public Prosecutor in the Nirbhaya case. He specialises in criminal law, white-collar crimes and cyber frauds. He is an M.Phil in Criminology from the University of Cambridge and was conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Law by Amity University, Noida. This brief hardly begins to cover his list of accomplishments, but the excerpts from the interview will surely reflect the wisdom and experience of the seasoned senior advocate that he is.

## Excerpts from the Interview

**The most basic objective of the law is to ensure justice for people. However, justice is quite an abstract concept as no two cases are the absolute same. I wish to ask you what according to you is Justice and how do we know it is served in the truest sense?**

We must understand that what we believe is justice, very often is moral justice and what the law requires is legal justice. Our society being a republic, a democracy, we live or seek to live by the rule of the law. We have the advantage of a written constitution and the written constitution and its underlying principles have certain tenets. For eg. For an accused the presumption of innocence, the fundamental rights like the right to liberty, free speech, to work as you wish or to move about freely are all the norms that define a society governed by the rule of law.

We must understand that we as lawyers (including law students, judges, and law teachers) believe in legal justice which is three sets of law. (He explained all three forms and gave examples of dowry, rape case, and Harshad Mehta scam). Sometimes the difference between the public understanding of what is correct and the rule of law varies. The idea is to deliver a result, which is not influenced by either party, a fair result. And that is what I would call legal morality: the ability to work within our set of rules, and deliver the best possible result, which will not always be satisfactory to all concerned but outlines how we work towards justice as per prevailing laws which is equal to legal justice.

**In most premier law schools, the majority of students (especially the cream) tend to go for corporate jobs. Even though they might have a passion for litigation, practical things like salary, job security, and stability lead them to choose the corporate life. Should this trend be countered?**

I think you've raised a very important question about the proliferation of law schools in India. Now, you must also understand that litigation has continued and continues to be at the trial court level, very poorly paid. So, a student who comes out of law school, especially somebody who possibly had to take loans, whose family has supported them or has struggled, wants a return on that education. The proliferation of law schools started in the late 80s. With the opening up of the economy in India, we became

more open to the rest of the world with a lot more opportunities in the corporate and advisory sector, internationally. Now you tell me, for a young lawyer who comes out of a law school, a salary of a few thousand rupees here, or a thousand dollars, what would you prefer? And that became the commercial driving force. But today, of course, things have changed, litigation is a lot better paying, and with COVID, litigation will get its due. The profession is going through a complete churning.

**On one hand, we can see the Supreme Court's swift action in Arnab Goswami's case, on the other, we have had numerous activists in prison for years, being denied things as basic as a straw. Do you think this selective outrage of the courts regarding civil liberties brings this very independence of the judiciary into question?**

Ouch! That's a tough one. I don't know if you've seen my article, my wife Ketaki, and I wrote in the Hindustan Times on liberty and the Supreme Court. The individual philosophy of judges is now becoming the philosophy of the Supreme Court. It's a philosophical approach. We have now reached a point where there is a variation. Arnab Goswami's case is a very good case in point where the High Court declined to give interim bail. Frankly, did the High Court have the power to give interim bail in a case where a person is arrested in a writ? Yes, legally, the High Court did, it could have been done, but the





**Sidharth Luthra**  
Senior Advocate  
The Supreme Court of India

Image credit: mritamcharity.in

Preamble carefully and act for our rights. If our rights get infringed then we have two methods - a. Challenging within the framework of the constitution b. Use the courts. Every five years you get a chance to vote. Do we even go to vote? We have to feel committed to our democracy.

**India has a high rate of crime and generates a great number of criminals. Thus, I felt compelled to think about what happens with them. So could you please discuss whether the criminal justice system should be more punitive or rehabilitative? And are we putting them back into society with some valuable skills to ensure livelihood and sustainable relationships? Also I would request you to end with a note for the youth as a word of advice.**

First of all, I don't believe we have a high rate of crime, that's a perception issue and the media plays it up. So get that out of your mind. Secondly, our criminal justice philosophy is not coherent or well defined. The variation in sentencing is so great that people suffer. For the same offence, people have to be punished differently – a man stealing a loaf of bread and a man stealing crores of rupees. Thirdly, are we treating prisoners? Are we sending them back rehabilitated from jail? No, we're not being able to do that. We have some experiments on open prisons and rehabilitation. Prisons need a re-evaluation.

Students, I really mean this - You are the future. What kind of future do you want to be, a future that spends their time on social media? You are in the midst of an information age where there is information assault on your senses. You're getting information from every place, the accuracy of which you are not always sure of. Differentiate between news and views, opinions and facts. Be informed, contemplate, and analyse. Once you are able to do that, you will have far better mental tools to succeed and improve this nation and that is what idealism is all about. All the best!

For a detailed version of this interview, please refer to the full video on our Facebook page. Link- <https://fb.watch/2Ot6H9JWGt>

**Here is what Vibhuti Rao has to say about her experience of interviewing him-**

"I am an aspiring lawyer who is fascinated by the way the world is shaping today. The morning of 5th December 2020 was an experience replete with wisdom spent exploring the legal nuances in the presence of the revered Sr. Advocate Sidharth Luthra. It was an honour to converse with him on such relevant issues that are shaping the legal fraternity today. The responses from him were extremely enlightening and helped to develop new perspectives. I try to remain abreast with current issues as much as possible and thus thought it was best to take insights from a revered professional on some trending issues like rehabilitation of criminals and punitive punishments.

In the first year of law school, the most often asked question is 'why law?' That is something I am discovering more and more every day but insights by Mr. Luthra on the abstract concept of Justice strengthened my idea of the law and its relevance. The disparity between what the constitution prescribes, what the people understand and social and legal justice was laid down by him. The law is the voice of all the people and thus it gets tricky to find that balance wherein peace is ensured. It was inspiring to witness a legal prodigy in action discussing some of the issues that I have always pondered upon. As they say, some of the best lessons are learnt outside the conventional classroom through observation, interaction with experienced persons or on a zoom call. This occasion was a fine balance of all three. I am forever grateful to Billabong High International School, Bhopal for this lifetime opportunity!"

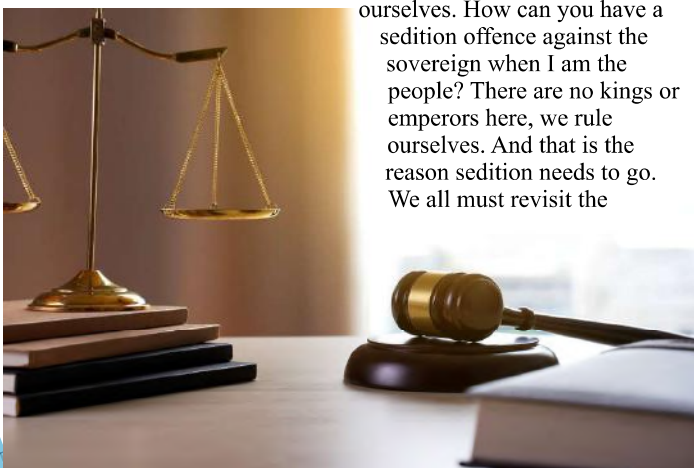
High Court chose not to. That is also valid. Why did the High Court choose not to? Because the practices begun and that's a prevalent established jurisprudential practice, legal practice that wherever there are remedies under specific laws available, in this case the remedy of a bail, there is no need to get the same relief from the writ petition. Arnab Goswami's case was taken up by the Supreme Court during the Diwali break when no judges are sitting. It is a matter of liberty and should be taken on priority, I understand that but it happened to Arnab. The point is, justice, if it is individual-based, then we have a problem in our system. That's a problem which we need to address. I think Arnab's case is a defining moment. It is important for the court now to see that the principle of acting with speed applies to every ordinary litigant equally. There is no greater right than liberty. It is inherent in every individual. So, you can't take away my liberty unless you can show good reason, and that's the principle.

**The law of contempt aims to avoid impediments to justice and to maintain the authority of the court. In light of the recent events relating to the contempt of the court, do you think the judiciary should be placed at that sacrosanct position where it is beyond any dissent or constructive criticism? Secondly, with the application of laws against contempt and sedition getting stricter, how do we protect the voices of dissent that seem to get trampled on?**

I believe that the power of contempt is essential. Its application is another issue.

If you look at the American state papers, you know, Mills states in 'The Federalist' that the judiciary is the weakest of all body arms of government. It doesn't have the power of Parliament to legislate. It does not have the power of the Executive to enforce its decisions. It is dependent upon parliament to listen to its voice of conscience, it is dependent upon the agencies of the state to ensure compliance of its verdict. Remember, a strong and vibrant judiciary is essential for this country because our nation is a nation of checks and balances. The power of contempt is not a statutory power known. It is not a power given by law. It is only because parliament, of course, has enacted law, the 1971 Contempt of Courts Act. Just as the right to liberty is inherent in me, the right to punish for contempt is inherent in courts to ensure that their orders are not flouted with impunity.

In an independent democratic republic, who is a sovereign? We rule ourselves. How can you have a sedition offence against the sovereign when I am the people? There are no kings or emperors here, we rule ourselves. And that is the reason sedition needs to go. We all must revisit the



**Vibhuti Rao**  
(Batch 2019-20)



Carols in the distance,  
Laughter everywhere.  
I can smell Christmas,  
In the air.

Christmas is around the corner,  
Can't you hear the sleigh bells ringing?  
Reindeers up so high,  
Can't you hear the children singing,  
Their voices reaching up to the sky?

With a click and a clack,  
And a great big pack,  
Down through the chimney,  
Pretty nimbly,  
Somebody comes on Christmas Eve.

I sit up in my bed,  
The disturbance in the house was making me go mad.  
And then I see a vast, looming figure,  
Near the Christmas tree, giving me jitters.

I go near him and see him up close,  
The white beard and bright red clothes.  
He looks at me and widens his eyes,  
He tells me I gave him a jolt of surprise.

He tells me, "Child, you have made me glad!  
Through the pandemic and all scary plights,  
You kept your morale up so high,  
Children like you are so rare,  
So here, take this lamp which symbolises light,  
The world needs more people like you who shine so bright."

- Preet Girdhani (5E)

## A Christmas Surprise



Image credit: lovethispic.com



Image credit: Pinterest

## Winter

I tried my best to settle in  
but could never fully prepare,  
I'm losing every inch of hope  
and falling prey to colder air.

With winter temperature  
comes winter temperament,  
the snowy stare downward  
and the taste of peppermint.

In such weather my face freezes  
solid as a stepping stone,  
and without a warm body  
I can't help but feel alone.

Amidst the winter mist  
a cosy hug is what I miss,  
going off to a sweet slumber  
against the howling hiss.

When the cold storm swoops in  
and causes a shudder,  
the ship tries to adjust  
but the frost has the rudder.

Once winter descends  
and sunshine blesses everything,  
the creatures clamp up  
as they wait for spring.

Then winter moves on  
to the bounding beyond,  
after tracing our lives  
it proceeds to abscond.

- Anushka Rai (11A)

## Tales of a bare whipped back

I do not need you  
to call me beautiful  
Or to write shallow poetry  
About my skin

I do not need you to  
romanticize my imperfections  
Or kiss my scars away

I dare you to use my  
body as a muse; when  
All it has been is  
A canvas for abuse

Stop claiming my trauma  
As your prosaic art  
I do not have wounds from war  
But from a maimed broken  
heart.

- Shah Hussain (11C)

## आई सर्दी



Image credit: Pixabay

देखो-देखो आई सर्दी,  
ठंडक इसने सबमें भर दी॥  
सबने पहने स्वेटर-टोपी  
सबको भाती चाय की चुस्की॥  
जल्दी उठने का ना होता मन,  
सुबह-सुबह होती ठिठुरन॥  
दिन में मीठी धूप है मिलती,  
रात में फिर से ठंडक घुलती॥  
बर्फ की चादर ढंकी हुई,  
पर्वत-नदियाँ थकी हुई॥  
याद आ गई सबको नानी,  
मौज करें सारे सेलानी॥  
हम भी बिछाएँ अपना जाल,  
चलो निकालें मफलर और  
शॉल॥  
देखो-देखो आई सर्दी,  
ठंडक इसने सब में भर दी॥

- मोहम्मद काब (1'ए')

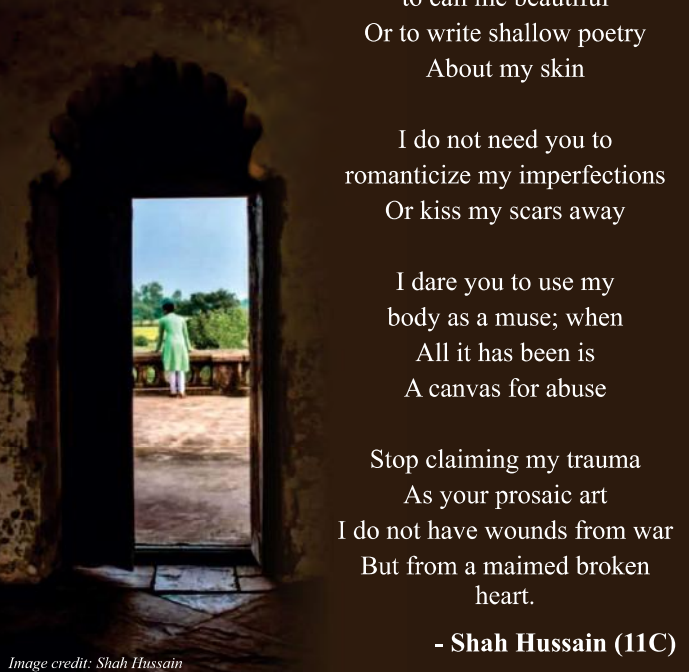


Image credit: Shah Hussain



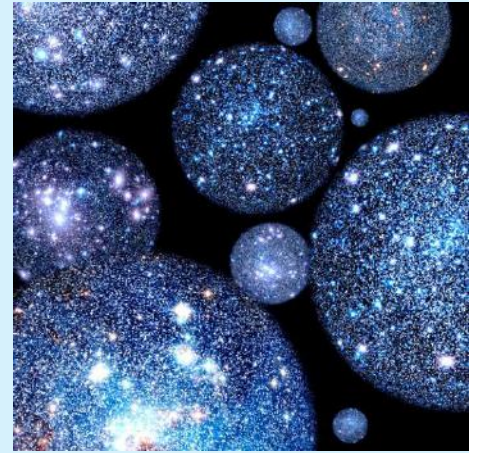


# Multiverses and Alternate Realities - Stranger Than Fiction

The concept of multiple universes and realities, despite being portrayed a lot in pop culture, still seems very outlandish. However, modern theories suggest that multiverses might not be too far from fact. You see, the domain of quantum mechanics tells us that things can, in fact, exist in multiple states at the same time due to quantum superposition. This phenomenon is more popularly known to stem from the infamous Schrödinger's Cat thought experiment, wherein a cat is placed in a box with a fatal device that activates if a given condition is met (such as the decay from a radioactive isotope being detected). If decay is detected, the fatal device activates, spelling the demise of the unlucky cat, and if decay is not detected, the cat thanks to its stars, survives. Here the fate of the cat is linked to a random subatomic event, and can only be known by opening the box to check. The physicist Erwin Schrödinger theorized that after some time, the cat, if left unobserved, exists as both dead and alive simultaneously, in a superposition of states. These states are mathematically described in quantum mechanics as wave functions.

When any object is observed and it collapses to a single state, it is called a wave function collapse. This, along with other postulates, forms the Copenhagen Interpretation, the old interpretation of the fundamental working of our universe.

However, a newer theory called the Everett Many Worlds Interpretation is gaining popularity and is more widely accepted. This interpretation, as the name suggests, involves multiple realities. Essentially, this interpretation describes our universe as one giant wave function, or the universal wave function, and implies that there is no true wave function collapse. What this means is that every possible outcome of any event takes place in some reality or the other. For example, returning to the Cat-in-a-Box experiment, after observing the cat, we find that the cat fortunately survived. Now, the Copenhagen Interpretation would conclude the experiment here, saying that an outcome has been observed and the wave function has collapsed, end of the story. However, according to the Many Worlds Interpretation, the cat survived, but in the reality of the observer, implying that there exists another



*Image credit: scientificamerican.com*

branched reality where the cat did not survive. Thus, this interpretation suggests that in some alternate reality in the vast multiverse, you wore different clothes than the ones you did today, or maybe you decided to eat something else. Basically, for any choice you have ever made, the other outcome has occurred in some reality apart from yours.

**- Aditya Rajan (10B)**

Thank you, science side of Tumblr. There are a number of unlikely coincidences that make life possible; when the universe was only a few nanoseconds old, particles condensed out of energy. But for whatever reason, for every billion antimatter particles created, a billion and one matter particles were formed. This small difference accounts for everything we see in the entire universe.

The universe was most likely born out of random quantum fluctuations. And if it happened once, it could happen again. In fact, it could happen an infinite number of times. That's an infinite number of times with an infinite number of possibilities and starting conditions. But see, it doesn't matter if there's an infinite number. You can only experience a universe that you exist in, so you are experiencing this one. But, because there's an infinite number, there's bound to be a universe where you live forever. You have to be in that one because you can't be in a universe where you don't exist. However, other people will experience you dying in their own universe. Leibniz argued that the world we're living in right now is the best of all possible worlds,

backing his premise up by simply stating that 'God is good'. Meanwhile, Hindu cosmology goes deeper, telling us of the universe being born out of the ashes of a previous universe; constantly being created and destroyed only to be reborn once more.



*Image credit: howstuffworks.com*

It's all a matter of perspective. Given an infinite amount of time, anything with even the smallest probability will happen an infinite number of times.

There are at least three infinite multiverses- the standard multiverse, where an infinite amount of universe occurs at a

time, the one described, where it's all a matter of when, and the Many Worlds Interpretation, where the universe splits into what is essentially an infinite number of possibilities of what happens next; every single moment.

Keep in mind you're also in an

infinite number of worlds currently. Why plural?

The term "one universe" does not necessarily mean a single three-dimensional physical reality, but refers to the sum total of the Big Bang, and thus might include multiple worlds.

When Albert Einstein asked,

"Did God have any choice when he created the universe?" he was probably wondering how the world had been fine-tuned in a way that we were able to come into being. For instance, we are exactly the right distance from our parent star to allow the existence of liquid water. The harmonious results of the universe's precise physical constants seem a bit too convenient to be overlooked as a sheer accident, but what are we to make of the apparent coincidences?

If like Leibniz, we take the existence of God as a given, then we would expect the universe to be fine-tuned for life. But whether the logic works in reverse, from apparent design to expect there to be a God, is somewhat doubtful, because arguments from design have an unfortunate habit of collapsing in the face of advancing knowledge. But if our universe is selected from a multiverse, its seemingly designed or fine-tuned features would not be surprising. This seems sound enough so far. The logical difficulties only surface if we try to turn it around: this universe is fine-tuned therefore it must be one of many.

**- Rida Aamir (10A)**



# Christmas: A Day of Joy

Christmas is celebrated to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the Son of God. The name 'Christmas' comes from the Mass of Christ (or Jesus). A Mass service (which is sometimes called Communion or Eucharist) is where Christians remember that Jesus died for us and then came back to life. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of their religion. The history of Christmas is one that dates back to a very long time; the first Christmas was celebrated in 336 A.D. in Rome. It played a vital role during the famed Arian controversy that took place in the 300s. During the early years of the middle age, epiphany overshadowed it.

Christmas was brought back to limelight around 800 A.D. when Emperor Charlemagne received the crown on Christmas day. During the 17th century, the Puritans had Christmas banned because it was associated with drunkenness and misbehaviour.

It was made a proper holiday around 1660 but was still quite disreputable. Around the early 1900s, the Oxford movement of the Anglican Communion church started, and this led to the revival of Christmas. Christmas is a cultural festivity that entails a lot of preparations. It is a public holiday, and so people get a Christmas break to celebrate it.

Preparations for Christmas start early for most people as the celebrations begin on the eve of Christmas. Preparations for Christmas involve a lot of activities. People usually buy decorations, savouries, and gifts, mostly for children in the family and friends. Some families also shop for colour coordinated Christmas outfits for everyone.

The common preparations include house decor with gleaming Christmas trees, lighting, bells, and beautiful aesthetics to match the Christmas fervour. Like every festival, the house must be deep cleaned before anything else. The Christmas tree brings the Christmas spirit home as it enlivens the mood and adds colourful hues.

Presents placed under the Christmas tree in wrapped gift boxes are not to be opened until the Christmas day. The church is also decorated for this special event. Thorough cleaning of the churches is also done to usher in Christmas. Songs and skits are performed on Christmas day.

People usually like to spend lavishly on Christmas and so saving money for these plans should be the earliest preparation among all these. Families also plan to spend quality time together by travelling around the world as they want to make the most of their holidays. Traditionally, relishing turkey is a staple on this day. Not to forget the freshly baked



Image credit: pinterest.com

rum cakes and Christmas puddings! But, no celebration is complete without sprinkling some love and affection on the less privileged. As Christmas is a time of giving, people donate generously, gift toys and goodies to orphans, and spend time with the needy. Cards are also written to close friends and relatives to wish them a happy holiday as they welcome the New Year.

- Hashvi Kataria (7B)

## Drinks in the Yuletide

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree is the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other. The heavenly scent of my sisters', now perfect, batch of strawberry vanilla cupcakes, filled my nose. I was holding my breath; I could not afford to ruin this. A clear ball of sweat tenderly dripped down my forehead as I attempted to create the perfect balance between lime juice and sugar syrup for my Christmas special drink that year. I could almost hear the eagerness and the tension in the atmosphere, and feel over a dozen eyeballs staring at me from across the living room. My entire family was resting on the sofas, patiently waiting for the drinks to be served. Of course, I was responsible for that part of the dinner, after all, it is my area of expertise, and as the ignorant teenager I am, I chose to work alone. After fifteen minutes of excruciating silence, I brought in a tray with all the drinks neatly placed and offered them to each member. I nervously tucked the tray under my elbow and glanced at each of their expressions. At the same time, they slowly sipped my virgin dream cream, cosmopolitan, and of course, aunt Nita's favourite cocktail, Black Russian, all customised to suit the ambience. I was immensely relieved to see smiling and satisfied faces glancing back at me. Christmas 2019 was a success.

My most outstanding achievement in elementary school was not the perfect score on a spelling test, but the first time I mastered the virgin mojito that didn't bear a flavour comparable to just lemon in your mouth. To my parents' bewilderment, I dismissed Barbies, yo-yo's, and jump ropes in favour of a drink mixer; it was love at first sight.



Image credit: pinterest.com

Why do I make drinks? Sometimes, it's to thank a friend or reconnect with family and teachers. Just as often, it's the intricate processes involved. Creating the exacting liaison between brown sugar and lime chunks, along with just the right amount of lime juice to create a virgin Caipiroshka is, for me, a form of meditation. And sometimes I make these drinks to reflect and even gain insight into my

other interests. Some consider themselves math, literature, or history nerds. I rifle through cocktail cookbooks, browse the internet for ingenious new recipes, and revel in this year's birthday gift, a copy of "The Tulleeho! Book of Cocktails." From my aunt, obviously.

I feel like drinks, warm or cold, bring people together in diverse, or sometimes unusual manners. It might be for just a night that your aunt is genuinely complimenting you, and it may be the alcohol in her vessels, but in the fullness of time, it turns out to be the best family gathering of your life, because not the drinks but the aura of the occasion was unbridled happiness, just catered to that outcome.

Considering how unfortunate this year has been for many, everyone just hopes it is over, but me? I have never been so emotionally close with my family through the entire course of my life; all I can feel at the end of the day is gratefulness. Motivated, I look forward to the Christmas of twenty-twenty to be the best one yet and aim to create great drink mixes that sufficiently fuel my passion and also, hope for another cheerful family gathering. Merry Christmas!

- Siya Bhadoria (11A)

## The little lake – 'Panihar'



Image credit: Sunjana Singh

It begins with a bobber. The bobber dangles from a cane pole and swings slowly through the hot August air. There is a plop. Ripples spread in ever-widening circles across the water, bobber floating in the centre. Above the bobber, a green canopy of walnuts and oaks arches into a blue sky. In the shade of the trees, the water is a mirrored surface of shadows above dark depths of mystery. The bobber and the cane pole, to which it is attached are a connection to all that mystery and to the hidden creatures that live and move within it.

Much as I loved the little lake, there was another lake. It was always in the background, in our conversations, in my childhood imagination. It was spoken of as often as the little lake, but differently – in tones touched with reverence and awe. 'Panihar', it was called. 'Lake Panihar.'

The sound of it was musical, mystical, almost poetic. While the little lake was comfortable and intimate and most assuredly "our lake," I was given to understand that Panihar was a different sort of place altogether, a lake in which the little lake would just be a small proportion.

The morning air was still, hung with tattered rags of mist. From time to time some imperceptible breath would stir, and the veils would flutter and dance, scudding like ghosts across the stream.

The only sound was the dip and gurgle of our paddles, in rhythmic repetition, accompanied by bird songs from a green wall of forest. We heard the descending spiral of the veery thrush, the warbled madrigal of the winter wren. The bold rattle of a kingfisher, along with the occasional slow flap, the flap of a 'heron' moving just ahead, settling, only to be stirred again, when we paced forward.

- Sunjana Singh (11C)



“Photography is an art of observation. It has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.”

- Elliott Erwitt



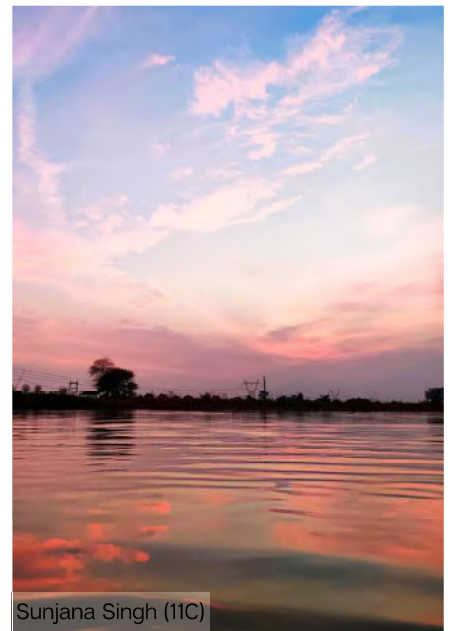
Faiza Sultan (11C)



Aesha Sood (8B)



Sunjana Singh (11C)



Sunjana Singh (11C)



Sunjana Singh (11C)



Dewanshi Sood (5B)



Sunjana Singh (11C)



Dewanshi Sood (5B)



Ashna Khanna (6E)



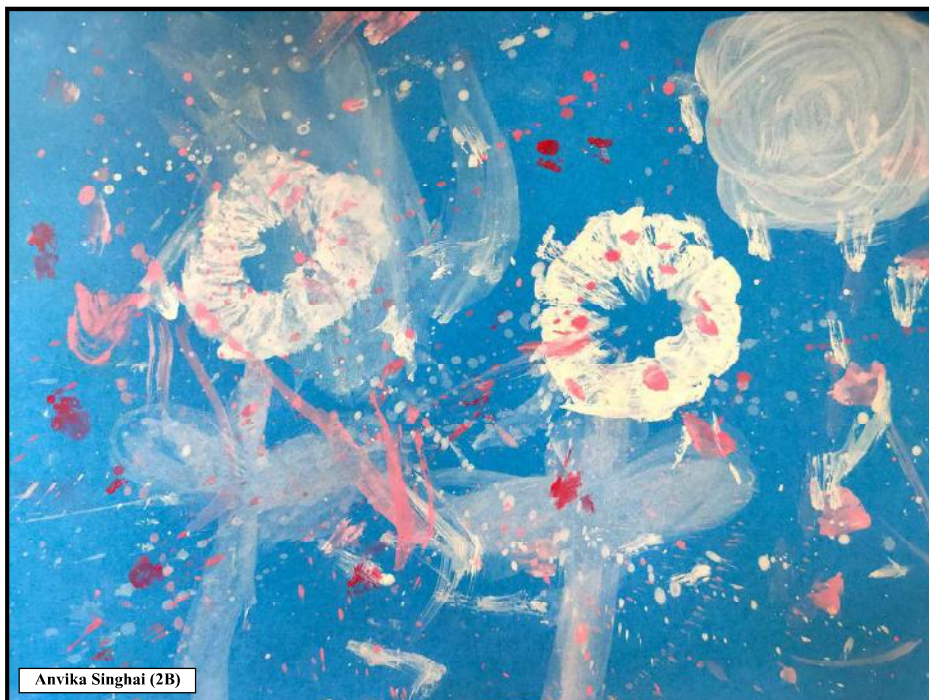
Zaara Ahmed (4B)



Priyanshi Patel (8E)



Meet Chawla (8F)



Anvika Singhai (2B)



Himangi Moolchandani (Jr.Kg D)



Akshita Hunka (11B)



Amayera Mishra (2A)



Mysha Jain (6E)

