

THE CATHEDRAL NEWS  
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cover page designed by Vinona Dsilva



NEW ISSUE

# THE EDITORIAL



Dear Readers,

We hope you are enjoying the whirlwind of opportunities, both in and out of school, that you've delved into by your own free will (and definitely not due to threats and coercion by your lovely house captain). If you feel overwhelmed by inter-house swimming, DAIMUN, School Play, that random community service you took up to check a box on your resume, and, of course, the test coming up tomorrow (you probably wanna check your calendar), know that you are not alone. Set aside some time to reassure yourself by reading about some of the struggles of your friends in school - many of which you may not be familiar with - and those of global communities in this issue of Cathedral News.

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Last time, we challenged you to distinguish AI-generated articles from those written by your friends. You'll find the answers to the last issue's quiz, and a new set of articles to ponder, in the "Human Vs ChatGPT" section. When you've finished mulling over the thoughtful perspectives (at least those that weren't AI-generated), click on the link to lock in your responses, and seize the chance to win exciting rewards! (Disclaimer: the budget is 30 rupees, so we'll likely buy you masala chips from the canteen, or your preferred equivalent).

You're probably wondering why we're circulating this issue online, instead of circulating around corridors in school selling physical copies. That's because we've taken the leap to embrace a world rapidly adapting to technology, and we invite you to consider the benefits of the same too. Through an interview with a participant in our school's international coding contest (bet you didn't know we had one), we hope to convince you to sharpen your technology awareness.

## Illustrations

Anushka  
Reshamwala

Speaking of international contests, did you know the school's FSA Club hosts one of the world's most prestigious math contests? Welcoming approximately 3,500 participants worldwide and partnering with international institutions for sponsorship and quality enhancement, The Cathedral Mathematics Competition is Cathedral's largest event - in terms of participation and global reach. The best part - you can host it one day! Read about the intricacies of participating in and organising the event in our interview with this year's organising committee.

To keep our readers informed as always, we've sprinkled in some articles on international affairs, whether the recent Hamas attack or the less spoken about Nuclear Suppliers Group. As you read them, try to approach these issues with fresh eyes. We hope our writers succeed in showing you another side to the pressing global issues of today.

And finally, the words that have been making special appearances in every conversation on the second floor: college applications. If you are a senior and are sick of having every conversation with your peers wind up being about colleges, join the club. Read on to discover candid views on the application process and everything related to it, put forth in an interview one of our writers conducted with... well another one of our writers. (Creativity really knows no bounds.)

In this busy time of year, don't forget to stop and smell the roses. Or in this case, the all-encompassing aroma of sizzling dosas, Axe body spray (there's always that one guy) and collective anticipation.

If you have any feedback for this issue or suggestions for the next, please feel free to reach out to either of us at [1009-2022-23@cajcs.in](mailto:1009-2022-23@cajcs.in) (Nishita) or [004-2009-10@cajcs.in](mailto:004-2009-10@cajcs.in) (Hrishit).

Until Next Time,  
Yours truly,  
Nishita Malhan and Hrishit Asar



# INTERVIEW WITH CMC ORGANISERS

Aaditya Agarwal

1. Can you briefly introduce the readers to what CMC is, with the help of some of its defining characteristics?

The Core, which is composed of Hrishit Asar, Shikhar Sehgal, Aakash Shankar, Ayaan Waris, Darsh Kapadia and Krish Seth worked hard to realise their dream of making CMC Cathedral's biggest event, collaborating with professor Robert Garbary of the University of Waterloo. Garbary helped raise the quality and consistency of questions in the exam, as he is proficient in setting papers at an international level; he sets the University of Waterloo's exams like Euclid, Pascal, Caley, Fermat and Hypatia that are attempted by students worldwide. Cathedral Math Competition is a completely student-run high school mathematics competition which had around 3500+ people registering this year, making it the largest high-school mathematics competition across India. This year, CMC featured the first edition of the Integration Bee.

1. When did you start preparing, who did the most work and who did the least work?

Darsh didn't attend the meeting. So, since the rest couldn't come to a consensus on anything, Shikhar, Aakash and Hrishit all proclaimed themselves as the most valuable (giving a special mention to Ayaan, the snail watcher). It was also unanimously decided that Darsh was both the most hardworking and the least hardworking part of the team - and such logic makes all of us question how they ran a math competition. On not hearing much from Ayaan till this point, we found out that he contributed questions that were so challenging for the intermediate category that they had to be bumped up to the senior category.



3. What makes the Cathedral Math Competition unique?



A fact that was repeated throughout the meeting and one that the entire Core took pride over, was that they had more registrations than the Stanford Math Tournament (SMT), a tournament which funnily enough helped them run CMC '23 smoothly. SMT traditionally uses ContestDojo, a novel platform which makes math competitions user- and developer- friendly, primarily due to easy accessibility to math notation and easy scoring methods. It took considerable work but with the help of an undergraduate student at Berkeley, Oliver Ni, they could use the platform. Another special aspect of CMC this year was that individuals from other schools would be invigilated by their own school teachers, greatly reducing the administrative load on the CMC team, and facilitating their drastic increase in size this year.

4. CMC '23 featured the Integration Bee, a new tournament to test the best calcul(us)ators, What was that about?

The Integration Bee was a concept that the entire core was very excited about. It was a completely optional event and out of whoever participated, the top 8 made it to qualifiers. After qualifying, the top 8 contestants went 1v1 according to power matching. Surprisingly, the person who just made it to the qualifiers in 8th position ended up winning the Integration bee as a whole and was awarded the Isaac Integrator Award.

# INTERVIEW WITH CMC ORGANISERS

5. What was the chief difference between CMC '23 and past editions of CMC?

At CMC, traditionally, a very different award system was followed. How it worked was, the top 10% went to the finals, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the final round got gold, silver and bronze respectively and everyone else only got a distinction certificate no matter how marginal the difference was. However, since the number of participants increased manifold this year, the team wanted to reward more people since it wasn't really fair to only reward a few people for the sheer effort it took just to reach the finals. So, they decided to adopt a new system. The top 20% get selected for finals as opposed to the previous 10% and out of that, based solely on final results, the top 10% get a Gold Medal, 15% get Silver and the next 25% get Bronze, leaving the rest of the 10%-20% from the first round with distinction certificates. The team also compartmentalised all resources available and put up a new question bank on their website ([cmc.cathedralfsa.com](http://cmc.cathedralfsa.com)) which greatly helped students in their preparation.

6. Is there anything else you want the readers of Cathedral News to know?

It was clear I asked the wrong question, as this idea was met with an uproar of responses. From FSA Secretaries complaining about Speech Day and CMC clashing, which meant they were "constantly leaving and working in the corridors of Birla Matushri Hall" as they went in and out to receive their subject prizes which they seemingly had many of, being extremely academic students. In the true spirit of the Full Steam Ahead Club, this meeting ended with all the members plugging the FSA Instagram account (Since I have joined FSA, I have been told to follow the CAJCS\_FSA Instagram account more times than the number of people that registered for CMC) and their YouTube page, which we all are compelled to like, share, subscribe and hit the bell icon on our way out. Shikhar desperately tried to promote his own Instagram account ([shikharsehgal\\_](https://www.instagram.com/shikharsehgal_)) and Twitter ([shikharhndrxx](https://twitter.com/shikharhndrxx)).

All said and done, it is clear that the Cathedral Math Competition team put in abundant effort to propel this year's CMC to a high the club has never seen before, even when it existed as the FSA Society or the Tech Society, and this is truly an impressive feat that deserves to be applauded.



# FROM ISOTOPES TO POLITICS

Karan Parekh



## A Deep Dive into the Nuclear Suppliers Group



Few movements in the complicated choreography of international affairs are as delicate as the one involving nuclear technology. The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), a largely unsung hero in the worldwide efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, is at the epicenter of the nuclear non-proliferation globally.

The NSG, born from the ashes of India's surprise nuclear test in 1974, was a timely reaction to a shifting socio-political climate. Seven nations first joined forces, fearing that the reckless export of nuclear material and technology may lead to an unrestrained proliferation of nuclear weapons. Today, that modest group has grown to 48 member countries, each with its own set of interests, worries, and geopolitical baggage.

### The Guidelines: A Double-Edged Sword

The NSG's guidelines serve as its foundation. They are divided into two sections that discuss both the direct and indirect routes to nuclear armament. The guidelines echo the ideology of the group and the broader sentiment for the nuclear non-proliferation agenda.

The first guideline pertains to the export of items that can be directly used in nuclear explosions, such as nuclear material or nuclear reactors. The second guideline refers to items that can be used in nuclear programmes but also have other non-nuclear uses. The NSG aims to ensure that nuclear trade doesn't inadvertently fuel a global arms race. However, critics argue that these guidelines are sometimes wielded less as tools of non-proliferation and more as levers of geopolitical power, with armed nuclear countries monopolizing control.

### The India Question: A Litmus Test for NSG's Credibility?

India's relationship with the NSG exemplifies both the group's strengths and flaws. On the one hand, some regard India's absence in the NSG as proof of the group's steadfast devotion to limiting the export of nuclear technology and restriction of potentially harmful materials because India refused to be part of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty, 1968. On the other hand, proponents of India's membership consider the NSG's attitude as antiquated, given India's informal commitment to non-proliferation and the civil nature of its nuclear programme.

Herein lies the delicate human dimension of international relations: a unanimous vote is required to add any new members or take action, effectively granting each of the 48 member nations some form of veto rights in the NSG. While the NSG's consensus-based decision-making process is laudable for ensuring that every member's voice is heard, it also means that geopolitical rivalries can overshadow the group's noble goals.

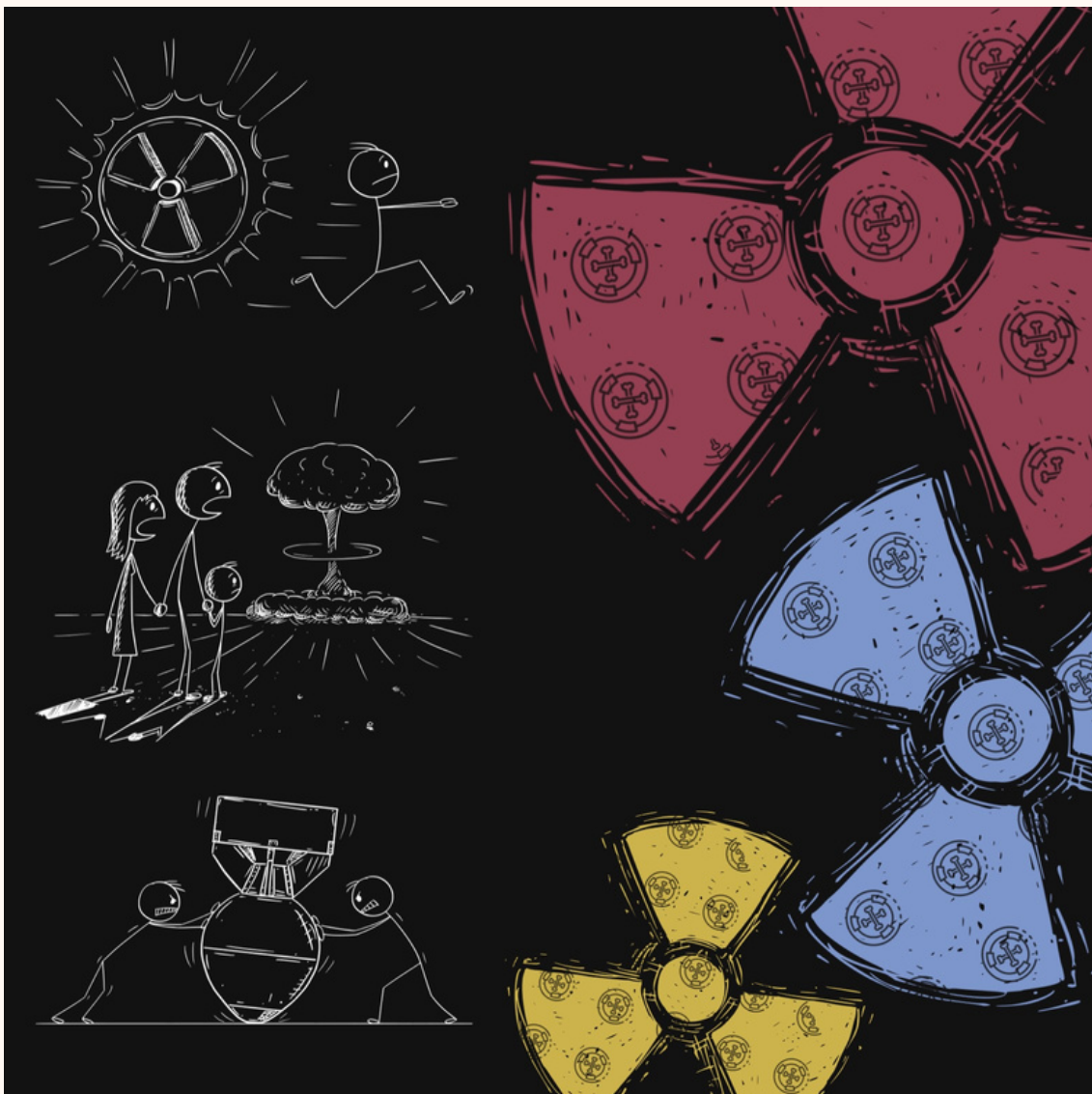
# FROM ISOTOPES TO POLITICS



## Future Obstacles

As technology improves, so do the NSG's difficulties. The distinction between civilian and military technology is becoming increasingly blurred, as new actors enter the nuclear field and demand for developing clean nuclear energy. These changes necessitate a flexible, forward-thinking attitude.

Yet, as we debate the NSG's decisions and direction, it's worth remembering its foundational purpose. In a world where the nuclear threat looms larger than ever with the nuclear armory of 2 countries that are currently at war available at a moment's notice, groups like the NSG play a vital role in ensuring that the geopolitical balancing act does not tip over. At its core, the NSG's role is truly one of balance: between trade and safety, principles and pragmatism, national interests and global good.







# HUMAN VS. CHATGPT

Nishika Mehta and Diva Mogha

*Continuing the column we began in the last issue, we invite you to guess which of the following has been written by ChatGPT or a student. Next time you try to replace academic writing with Chat GPT's responses, remember that if you can identify the difference between the following, so can your teachers.*

*Discerning the source of information will help you evaluate credibility and reliability. It will encourage you to question and cross-check information, reducing the risk of misinformation acceptance. Additionally, recognising AI-generated content will foster an awareness of the capabilities and limitations of AI, preparing you for a future where human-machine interactions are increasingly prevalent. This differentiation also emphasises the value of human empathy, creativity, and ethical judgment, which AI lacks, promoting a balanced perspective in the digital age.\**

*\*Disclaimer: this introduction may or may not have been written by ChatGPT.*

*Click on the following link and fill in your answers. Results and winners will be announced in the next issue.*

**[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSccvgkFiDp6bAjPSAEu2vyHsM4QAo\\_9sr118Am820IztjBUxg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSccvgkFiDp6bAjPSAEu2vyHsM4QAo_9sr118Am820IztjBUxg/viewform?usp=sf_link)**

*Shoutout to **Agastya Mundhe** for getting the most answer right in last issue's game!!*



## 1. Mental health awareness - From struggle to strength



**A.** Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. Mental health can be caused by abuse, neglect, traumatic life events, stress, financial problems, and much more. It can lead to depression and anxiety and if not treated, can eventually lead to suicide. There are several ways to spread awareness and help those suffering from it. People should educate themselves and others on this pressing issue. Workshops and Seminars should be organized on mental health awareness and coping strategies. Empathy and understanding should be shown towards those suffering. Spreading awareness about mental health is an essential step towards a more compassionate and understanding society.

**B.** Mental health awareness is crucial in today's world, as it empowers individuals to understand, address, and prioritize their emotional well-being. It encourages open dialogue about mental health challenges, reducing stigma and fostering empathy. Promoting mental health awareness involves education, destigmatization, and access to resources and support systems. By recognizing the significance of mental health, we can promote early intervention and healthier lifestyles, ultimately improving the overall quality of life. It's essential to remember that mental health is as important as physical health, and together, we can create a more compassionate and understanding society where everyone feels comfortable seeking help and support when needed.



# HUMAN VS. CHATGPT

## 2. Social media - a boon or bane

**A.** Social media can be both a boon and a bane, depending on how it's used. It connects people, fosters communication, and spreads information rapidly, making it a powerful tool for social change, business promotion, and personal connection. However, it can also be a bane, leading to addiction, cyberbullying, privacy concerns, and the spread of misinformation. Its impact depends on individual choices and societal awareness of responsible use. So, social media's value lies in its potential for good or harm, depending on how we harness its capabilities.

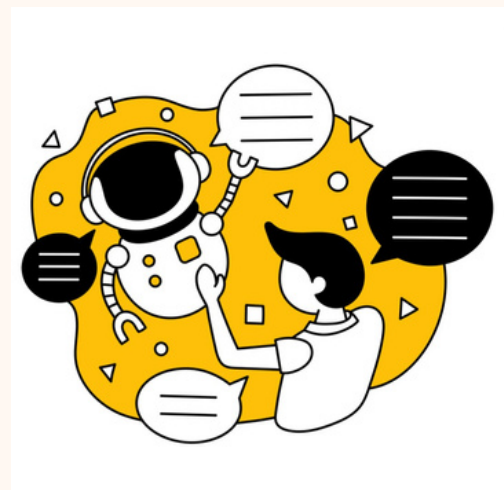
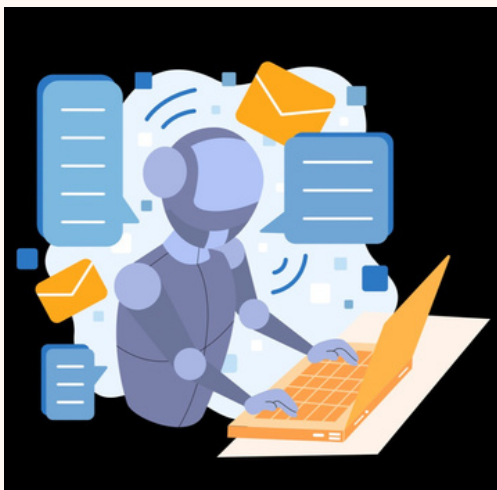
**B.** Social media can be a boon and a bane at the same time. It depends on how it is used and what it is used for. On one hand, social media can help us keep in touch with friends and family in different parts of the world. Activism and social change can also be powerfully facilitated by social media. People can connect with people who have the same interests and experiences as them. On the other hand, people who use social media excessively may have trouble focusing on other tasks. People can get addicted easily leading to anxiety if they cannot have access to social media. Harassment and cyberbullying can flourish on social media. It can lead to a feeling of insecurity due to comparison with others. It is a breeding ground for fake news. Social media fosters a spirit of communication and connection while also leading to mental health and privacy issues.

## 3. Taylor Swift: An Icon



**A.** Taylor Swift is an icon who has left an indelible mark on the music industry. With her extraordinary talent, she has seamlessly transitioned from country to pop, constantly evolving and reinventing herself. Her emotionally resonant lyrics, powerful vocals, and relatable storytelling have earned her a massive, dedicated fan base. Swift's philanthropy and advocacy for important causes also exemplify her influence beyond music. She has won numerous awards and broken records, solidifying her place in music history. Taylor Swift's enduring impact on the world of music and culture cements her status as a timeless icon with a lasting legacy.

**B.** Taylor Alison Swift is a singer-songwriter with multiple Grammy awards to her name and has left an indelible mark on the music industry. Over the past two decades, Taylor Swift has transformed from an ordinary country artist to a global superstar. Her fearless approach to songwriting, often sharing personal experiences and emotions, has inspired countless individuals. Taylor Swift has made a significant impact and her huge fan base is known as Swifties. From redefining the music industry to advocating for social justice the impact she has made on the world extends far beyond her music.







# HUMAN VS. CHATGPT

## 4. Gender Discrimination in Child Labour

**A.** Many girls face the double burden of performing household chores within their own households (for example, cleaning, cooking, childcare, and collecting water and firewood) combined with agricultural activities, such as sowing, harvesting, and livestock holdings. Taking into account both the work involved in household chores as well as agricultural tasks, there is country-specific evidence showing that girls frequently work more hours than boys. Additionally, a higher percentage of girl child laborers are unpaid, and in the situation that child laborers are paid, girls are often paid less than boys for doing the same job. In addition, community attitudes, such as not valuing girls' education (partially due to different returns on education for boys and girls) and not considering household chores as work, pose additional challenges to improving the situation of girls in rural areas.

**B.** Young girls in many places face a dual responsibility, managing household tasks and agricultural work, which often results in a heavier workload than boys. A significant number of female child laborers work without pay, and when compensated, they receive less than boys for the same tasks. Community attitudes devalue girls' education, partly due to different perceptions of its benefits for boys and girls. Household chores are often not recognized as labor, adding complexity to girls' well-being in rural areas. Overall, these factors compound the challenges young girls face in these settings.

## 5. Need for encouragement to study humanities



**A.** Regardless of what is being said, studying humanities is very important and needed in today's day and age. Psychology is extremely valuable. After the pandemic, mental health is being spoken about more and more. Therapy and counseling has been normalized, and people are now acknowledging that they are not doing well and seeking help for it. Thus, there should be encouragement for studying the subject and helping others better themselves. Several norms in society are absolutely backward and unjustifiable. Sociology helps us to study society and change it for the better. Speaking up about injustice is really necessary for change. Only brave souls are willing to do that, unlike the ordinary, who will just continue to repeat the same cycle. The humanities and the arts are central to all human cultures throughout time. Their study can facilitate deeper intercultural understanding and lay the groundwork for a civically engaged life. They can also prepare you to think critically, act creatively, and succeed in a rapidly changing world.

**B.** Despite current opinions, it's essential to emphasize the enduring significance of humanities, with psychology being especially valuable. The increased focus on mental health post-pandemic underscores its importance as therapy and counseling gain acceptance. Encouraging the study of psychology empowers individuals to enhance well-being. In our society, regressive norms persist, but sociology equips us to examine and reform societal structures. Speaking out against injustices is crucial for progress, setting apart those challenging the status quo from those perpetuating the same patterns. Humanities and the arts have a central role in all cultures throughout history, fostering cross-cultural understanding and enabling active civic engagement. Moreover, they provide a platform for critical thinking, creative action, and success in a constantly changing world.

# EDITORS' TOP PICK ARTICLES



Swikritie Dhawal

**We at the Cathedral News feel it is our duty to keep you updated not just on Cathedral's News but the world's too. Skim through the following summaries of articles to update yourself on what we believe are the top 5 news occurrences of the month. If you'd like the read the entire articles, head over to the news sites listed next to each title. Or just find the TLDRs under the title of each. You're welcome.**

## 1. ASIAN GAMES - TIMES OF INDIA

India had a remarkable performance at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, securing a total of 107 medals, a record-breaking achievement for the country. This impressive haul comprised 28 gold, 38 silver, and 41 bronze medals. The Indian contingent's success was spearheaded by track and field athletes and shooters, who won 29 and 22 medals, respectively. Shooters excelled with 7 gold, 9 silver, and 6 bronze medals, while athletics contributed 6 gold, 14 silver, and 9 bronze. The remaining 15 gold medals were distributed across various sports, like archery, squash, cricket, kabaddi, badminton, tennis, and more. This diverse success showcased India's prowess in a wide range of disciplines at the Asian Games.

## 2. NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER - NY TIMES

The 2023 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to Narges Mohammadi, a courageous human rights advocate and freedom fighter known for her relentless efforts to combat the oppression of women in Iran and champion the cause of human rights and freedom for all. Despite enduring personal hardships, including 13 arrests, 5 convictions, and a staggering 31-year prison sentence with 154 lashes, Mohammadi's unwavering commitment to freedom of expression and independence remains a beacon of hope. The Nobel Committee also recognized the countless individuals who, over the past year, protested against the discriminatory and oppressive policies of Iran's theocratic regime, with their rallying cry of "Woman - Life - Freedom" mirroring the ideals and dedication exemplified by Narges Mohammadi.

## 3. MALDIVES ELECTION - BBC

In a surprising turn of events, a pro-China candidate, Mohamed Muizzu, has won the presidential elections in the Maldives, defeating the incumbent President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, who had previously strengthened relations with India. Muizzu, the mayor of the capital Male, secured 54% of the vote and campaigned on a platform advocating improved relations with China and prominently featured the slogan "India out." President Solih, who had pursued an "India-first" policy, graciously accepted defeat. The victory for the pro-China candidate underscores the complex regional dynamics in the Indian Ocean, where both China and India vie for influence. While India has traditionally held sway in the Maldives, China seeks strategic access to this vital region to protect its energy supplies and expand its naval presence. The election outcome signals a shift in the Maldives' foreign policy and could have broader implications for regional power dynamics.

# EDITORS' TOP PICK ARTICLES



## 4. BIHAR RESERVATIONS - THE HINDU

The recent caste survey conducted by the Bihar Government has revealed that the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and the Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) together make up a significant 63% of the state's population. This revelation has sparked discussions about potentially challenging the existing 50% cap on reservations in jobs and educational institutions, a cornerstone of India's affirmative action policies. Additionally, it could lead to a reconsideration of the Mandal politics that gained prominence in the 1990s, as these findings may prompt a re-evaluation of caste-based policies and their distribution.

In the larger context of India, the debate over reservations has been ongoing for decades. Proponents argue that reservations are a crucial tool for addressing historical injustices, providing marginalized communities with opportunities for education and employment. Reservations aim to uplift socially disadvantaged groups and promote diversity in various fields. However, opponents contend that reservations can perpetuate divisions, hinder merit-based selection, and sometimes exclude other economically disadvantaged groups, creating inequalities in a different way. The ongoing challenge is to strike a balance between addressing historical injustices and ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens.

## 5. HAMAS ATTACK - WSJ

In the latest developments in the Israel-Hamas conflict, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed that the recent attack by Hamas aimed to disrupt the expansion of peaceful relations in the Middle East and requested continued support from Britain for Israel's Gaza counter-offensive. This statement followed a Hamas report claiming the death of Jihad Mheisen, the head of Hamas-led National Security Forces, and his family in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza. The Israeli military reported that at least 203 people are being held hostage in Gaza after the October 7 Hamas attack, and the conflict has resulted in casualties on both sides. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is in Israel as part of diplomatic efforts to address the crisis, while Israeli airstrikes in Gaza have continued, resulting in further civilian casualties, including children and a hospital strike that shocked the international community.







# CATHCON '23



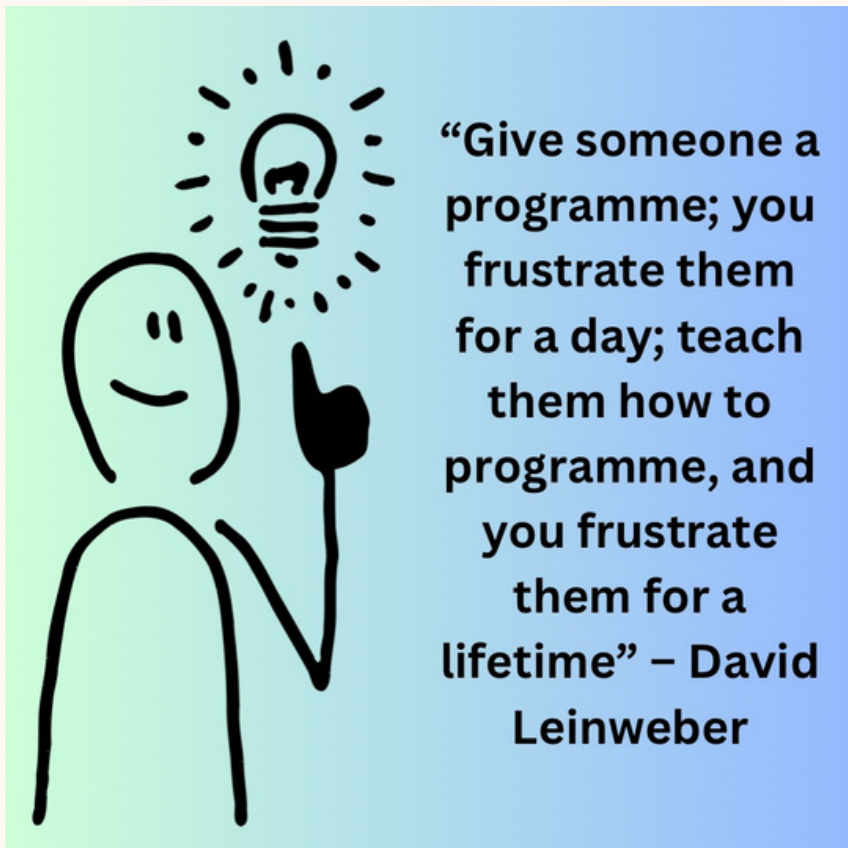
Pratham Dhadda

The Cathedral and John Connon School's Full STEAM Ahead (FSA) Club hosted the Cathedral Coding Competition (CATH CON 2023), a trademark event organized by the CAJCS FSA with its inaugural edition in 2020. CATH CON encourages high school students to learn coding and computing and develop logical thinking. FSA aspires to establish CATH CON as one of the best international competitions for coding enthusiasts. CATH CON provides an exceptional podium for students to enhance their coding abilities and take them to the next level.

Cultivating an interest in coding is increasingly vital in our world and poised to become a futuristic skill. Coding is more than a technical skill; it's a gateway to problem-solving, automation, and digital literacy. It empowers individuals to tackle complex challenges methodically, fostering a logical and structured approach to problem-solving that's applicable in everyday life and numerous professions.

Automation, a critical component of the future, is reliant on coding. Those who understand technology can use it to automate duties and enhance productivity. As technology affects every aspect of our lives, coding literacy is becoming synonymous with essential reading and writing abilities. It is critical to comprehend, adapt to, and influence the technologies that define our surroundings.

Coding also creates broader career prospects. Many roles, from data analysis to marketing, now require coding skills. Moreover, it fuels innovation and entrepreneurship, as it's fundamental for developing new apps, sustainable energy solutions, and various creative projects. Interdisciplinary applications in biology, art, and design demonstrate its versatility.





# CATHCON '23



Excerpts from an interview with one of our CATH CON participants, Dhruvit Sakaria!!

Q1. Provide us with an example of a rather challenging problem you encountered and the approach you took to tackle it.

A1. In one of the questions, the logic behind the code was where I was stuck, which did not let me go ahead as I figured out the minor segments, but piecing them together was a challenge that I was not able to overcome. I managed to solve it by analysing different possible outputs of the code and then subsequently seeing how they differ. By doing that, I managed to understand the various outputs the programme would have to produce, thereby allowing me to piece the code together.

Q2. Were there particular coding techniques, algorithms, or data structures you found especially handy in dealing with competition problems?

A2. Regarding the second point, there isn't anything exceptionally specific to highlight. It's the synergy of fundamental coding structures that yields the desired output.

Q3. Can you recall a memorable "Eureka!" moment or breakthrough that aided you in solving a tough problem during the competition?

A3. When running my programme through the tests, I was constantly failing one particular test, and I couldn't figure out the solution to that. Finally, after a lot of time, I realized that one of my variables was differing by 1, and the slightest change by 1 changed my entire programme, and the code then worked.

Q4. Please expound upon your future aspirations in the field of coding and how you intend to utilize your experience to attain them.

4. I plan to practise more on sites like Hackerrank with the knowledge I gained from the Advanced Placement Computer Science A course, and the prospects to pursue the AP Computer Science Principles course might arise.

```
//life motto
If (isSad() == true) {
stop(sad); - what is this??? A
code???
beAwesome();
```





# FRACTURED DREAMS



Srishti Jain

## *The Israel-Palestine Conflict Unveiled*

Before the 7th of October, 2023, 62% of Gaza's population said that they wanted to continue the cease-fire with Israel. Many others wanted administration to be handed over to the more moderate Palestinian Authority, rather than remain with Hamas. Slowly, but surely, a joint struggle by both Palestinian and Israeli people over the liberation of both communities erupted, fuelled by protests against Benjamin Netanyahu's judicial 'reform' that threatened the country's democracy. In 2021, 40% of American Jews under 40 even told the Jewish Electoral Institute that they considered Israel an apartheid state. Nothing about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Middle Eastern security remains certain anymore, but now, any glimpse of hope for a co-existent Israel and Palestine stands shattered.

Many consider that Hamas initiated the attack, the greatest escalation between Israel and Palestine since Yom-Kippur, in response to the perceived threat posed by improved Arab-Israeli relations. Previously, Saudi Arabia, encouraged by Joe Biden, planned on normalising relations with Israel even if Israel did not offer significant concessions to the Palestinians in their bid for statehood. Such a proposal, from the 'birthplace of Islam', reflected a growing acceptance of Israel in certain Middle Eastern nations, also displayed by the UAE with the signing of the Abraham Accords. Observing cracks in an enemy state that was reportedly on the brink of civil war provided Hamas and Hezbollah (and by association, Iran) with the perfect opportunity to take advantage of. This, of course, would not have been possible if it weren't for the massive intelligence and security failure from supposedly, the strongest military in the Middle East.

It's easy to forget the threat Hamas poses to not just Israel, but Palestine itself. That, through their repeated provocation of Israel, they prove, time and time again, how little the lives of Palestinians really matter to them. In fact, an argument can be made that Palestinian suffering actually allows Hamas to justify extremism and boost its popularity, as demonstrated in the surging support amongst Palestinians for Hamas after the 11 day war in 2021. It's why Hamas used Gaza's central hospital as its headquarters during the 2014 conflict. It's why it stores rockets in schools and guns in mosques.

Israel isn't innocent either - its longstanding blockade of the Gaza strip is why Gaza is often called an 'open-air prison', and their recent demand that a million people in northern Gaza leave their homes possibly constitutes the war crime of forced removal. Yet, it's debatable whether they can do anything but retaliate, considering this may be the greatest attack on the Jewish community since the Holocaust. The question is, how far is too far?

The conflict also puts the status of another ongoing conflict into question - Ukraine. Republican criticism of American aid to Ukraine was already increasing prior to the conflict, especially considering the unprecedented success of Russia's wartime economy. Now, Biden maintains that the USA, ("for God's sake, the most powerful nation in the history of the world"), can handle intervention in two conflicts at the same time. Whether he will uphold that promise is yet to be seen.





# FRACTURED DREAMS

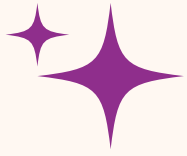


India's response to the conflict, while predictably condemning Hamas, is more balanced than expected, calling for a "sovereign, independent, and viable state of Palestine". This is probably in light of the 'historic' India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, which shall most likely be affected.

Both sides have suffered devastating consequences, and it makes you question whether expecting affected communities to remain neutral is not just utopic but pious and ignorant, too. When you're an observer, it's easy to be cynical, making criticisms or even picking sides from the sidelines. Ultimately, it's safe to say that the Israel which will emerge from this crisis won't be the same as it was a fortnight ago. And the conflict pushes you to think of the ambitions of Palestinian children younger than us, some of whom, as victims of a regime that rewards violence and extremism, dream of being not doctors, lawyers or billionaires, but suicide bombers.



# FROM PIXELS TO PAYCHECKS



Alyssa Vora

## *Gaming as a Viable Profession*

In a world where getting paid to play video games was once a distant dream, the gaming industry has now emerged as a viable and exciting career option. As gamers, we've all spent countless hours chasing in-game achievements and high scores, but did you ever imagine those skills could actually help you pay the bills? Well, they can. And the gaming industry is levelling up in more ways than one!

### Game On: Courses and Degrees

One of the first questions on aspiring gamers' minds is often, "Can I actually study this?" The answer is a resounding yes! Universities around the world have recognized the potential of gaming as a profession and are offering courses and degrees that cater to it.

- The University of Southern California (USC) boasts the prestigious Interactive Media & Games Division, which prepares students for roles in game design, development, and production.
- Over on the East Coast, New York University's Tisch School of the Arts offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Game Design, emphasising the art and storytelling aspects of gaming.
- And let's not forget Europe; the University of Abertay Dundee in Scotland is renowned for its game development programmes, nurturing the next generation of gaming talent.
- Companies like Hero Vired have launched a Certificate Program in gaming and Esports.

These are just a few examples, but many more institutions are recognizing the enormous potential of video games.

### Hitting the Jackpot: Earning Potential

Now, onto the pressing question: "Can I really make a living out of this?" You absolutely can! The gaming industry's earning potential is no longer just fantasy.

- **Professional Gamers:** Esports has exploded onto the scene, offering elite players massive cash prizes and sponsorships. Top esports players like Faker (League of Legends) and Ninja (Fortnite) are making millions.
- **Game Development:** Game developers craft the virtual worlds we love. With an average annual salary ranging from \$60,000 to \$100,000 or more, it's a rewarding career path.
- **Game Streaming:** Platforms like Twitch and YouTube are making streamers and content creators celebrities of the gaming world. Successful streamers can pull in six-figure incomes, and some even earn millions.
- **Game Journalism:** If you have a way with words and a passion for games, becoming a game journalist is an attractive option. Starting salaries range from \$30,000 to \$50,000, but experienced writers can earn more.

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## The Gaming Job Market: More Secure than You Think

Concerned about job stability? Don't be. The gaming industry is constantly expanding, and job opportunities are on the rise. The global video game industry generated an estimated \$159.3 billion in 2020, and it's projected to keep growing.

The expansion of mobile gaming, virtual reality, and augmented reality has created new niches within the industry, ensuring a variety of job opportunities for all kinds of gamers.

## But Wait, What About My Parents?

Are parents worried that their child's video game career choice might be a one-way ticket to their basement? Let's address that. Gaming, like any career, requires hard work, dedication, and skill. To be successful, it's essential to treat it as a serious profession, with as much gravitas as one confronts investment banking or engineering. The days of being scolded for playing games are over!

## Conclusion

In the realm of career choices, gaming is no longer just a bonus level; it's the main quest! From university programmes to earning potential, the gaming industry is making a name for itself as a legitimate career choice. As technology continues to advance and gaming becomes an even more integral part of our lives, this industry is poised for an exciting and lucrative future.

So, gear up and get ready to embark on your gaming career journey. Whether you're into development, streaming, Esports, or journalism, the gaming world has a spot for you. It's time to level up and turn your passion into a paycheck.





# COLLEGE APPS BROKEN DOWN

Ansh Bhansali

**A bold Cathedral News writer interviews senior Karan Parekh, also known as the guy who started asking everyone “Where are you EDing” in March of this year, to, in his words, “build toxicity in the grade”.**

Q. Can you start by introducing yourself to the readers in terms of what your interests are, where you are planning to apply, etc?

A. Hi, I’m Karan Parekh. I’m currently studying in the IBDP curriculum. My interests lie mainly in economics, philosophy, history, and law. I’m probably going to ED to Cornell. Other than that, I enjoy MUNs and Debates.

Q. A commonly asked question by juniors is how important extracurriculars are. Can you provide insight into how admissions’ officers may review extracurriculars and how much importance they actually hold? Can you also elaborate on what extracurriculars you have taken?

A. Extracurriculars make or break your application, and they do in fact hold a lot of importance. The counselor tells me that they probably hold 30-40% weightage in the decision, and since the common app allows 10 ECs, I naturally filled up all of them. But I would suggest that you should probably just do what you like rather than actively looking for ECs.

Q. When it comes to Letters of Recommendation, which teachers are you getting them from?

A. So I would say that it's advisable to get LORs from teachers of subjects you have an interest in. I asked my History, Econ, and English teachers for LORs, basically my HL teachers. Mostly because those were the best grades I had...

Q. Speaking about grades, how much did you get on 42 this term?

A. Umm, I got a 39 which is basically a 40 in my opinion. 1 mark off a 40 in chemistry...basically a 40. (Note to readers: the editors’ views may or may not align with these opinions)

Q. What is your dream college and why?

A. Probably Cornell... the campus is really nice \*laughing\*. Jokes apart, the Econ department, the teachers and the scope for research are solid. There are a lot of options for different subjects, so I can experiment. For example, if I wanted to do Comp Sci - I'm not saying I want to do Comp Sci \*smirks\* - but the point is I have a lot of options... And, well it's an Ivy.



# COLLEGE APPS BROKEN DOWN

Q. What are 3 pieces of advice you would give to students applying to the US in the future?

A. Get a good SAT score...mostly because it helps fuel the ego. Do whatever you are interested in for ECs because if you're interested in a lot of things, you'll get good at something and if you're good at something you'll get in somewhere. And lastly, do whatever college you feel is best for you, it's better than listening to others.

Q. Speaking about the SATs, how much did you get in your SATs by the way?

A. Oh, I got a 1600... next time,\*confidently\*. But for now 1520. The English section is too hard. \*frowns\*. (Editor's note 2: No it's not. Sorry Karan, but we can't allow people to freely complain about the English section of the digital SAT. You haven't experienced real pen and paper pain.)

Q. How stressful would you say the process of applications is? Does it have an impact on social life, etc?

A. Yeah, naturally it does. But, to be fair, it's not really that much because everyone has the same process. In some situations, it even helps you bond with people because you're all going through the same thing.

***On that optimistic note, we wish our peers all the best for the next few stressful but (hopefully) exciting months. And anyone who is unable to relate to anything said in this interview, revel in your ignorance and be grateful that you still have some time left. I'm sure this interview has made you feel better about that scheduled test next week that you were stressing over.***

