

## Remembering the Activity Series of Metals



Jijo Francis, IX A

The activity series of metals in the descending order is:

$K > Na > Ca > Mg > Al > Zn > Fe > [H] > Cu > Ag > Au > Pt$   
The story of *The Treasure Hunt* helps us remember this. The story is as follows: Potassium, sodium and calcium were best friends from the village of magnesium. They decided to go for a treasure hunt. They carried weapons of aluminium, zinc, iron, and lead. They went to a pond flooded with hydrogen. There they found a treasure chest made of copper. They opened the box. It had treasures like mercury, silver, gold and platinum.



Prithvi Pradeep Kumar, IX A

Nothing to think, nothing to do  
Are you going to blink or to boo?  
Why waste time, why waste thoughts?  
For time and tide waits for none.  
Is it the Raman Effect, or Ravanan effect?  
It is nothing but thinking effect.  
You don't know for you haven't thought.  
The sun will rise, the sun will set  
But by that time what will you get?  
You must work, you must think  
For if you don't think the fire will set.  
This is one life, this is the only life  
You must think and live it with life.

confidence and spending rates, which fell for the first time in 20 years, have just started to recover. This fall in consumer spending has affected retailers worldwide.

The fall in consumer confidence was attributed to rise in unemployment all over the world. Even industrial mammoths such as GM and GE, went on a lay-off spree putting hundreds of thousands out of work. This has to be tackled effectively to put money back into people's pocket and boost consumer confidence. Only then can the pace of business activity climb back to the pre-recession levels and beyond.

Also, it is imperative that even a capitalist economy be regulated up to a reasonable extent. While excessive growth can stifle growth, absence of it can destroy the market itself. A reasonable amount of regulation is needed to protect the investors' money and prevent it from being treated as a plaything by company chiefs and executives. Loans must be given only to those who deserve it. History shows us that while credit can enhance growth, giving unrestricted credit to undeserving individuals can have quite the opposite effect. It will only create chaos and mayhem in the financial sector.

Indian businessmen and administrators must learn from the mistakes of their American counterparts. One reason why the recession did not hit India so hard was that Indian banks were cautious while giving credit. Therefore, greater stability in the banks got translated into greater stability in the financial system and saved India from the strangling effects of recession. Also, spending culture in India is not so well developed as in

the US. Indians in general are more cautious while taking loans than the Americans. So even when the lay-off wave hit India, people were able to live through it, without getting hurt. Also, India as a growing nation climbed out of the downturn relatively easier than the developed world. But other nations were not so lucky. Many small nations like Iceland went into bankruptcy. Millions became unemployed and millions more lost their homes.

To prevent such large scale debacle of the financial system, safeguard measures must be complemented. Conditions for giving credit must be stricter. If we learn lessons from this 'Great Recession' it will help us prevent such a calamity in future. As every student of history knows, those who do not learn from their mistakes are condemned to repeat it.



Vishnu V. Gopal, IX D

**H**uman Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal announced the government's decision to do away with the 10<sup>th</sup> board exams and make it optional and stressed the need to de-traumatize education. The main reasons cited are: (i) Children are entitled to have free knowledge, (ii) The current system puts too much pressure on children, and (iii) children are unable to cope with the 10<sup>th</sup> Board exam and only 11 out of every 100 children get admitted to college.

According to Renu Balakrishnan, a teacher of creative writing, children are forced to study due to the pressure of 10<sup>th</sup> board exams, thus losing their options of looking at other aspects of life and are unable to cultivate other skills.

But the 10<sup>th</sup> board

# Abolition of 10<sup>th</sup> Board Exams



examinations are important because they prepare us for other important examinations ahead. A minimum pass is required in any field to improve performance. At the age of 15, no one is too young to take up an exam. Exams help us to judge our performance. A student securing 90% is not considered inferior to a student who secures 91 or 92% marks. They are given equal worth. Now imagine there are 100 students who have scored 92% marks each. Percentiles never judge a student's real worth.

Pressure is not the reason for the abolition of the exam. The reason is underperformance of many Government Schools. If someone really wants to improve the situation, let him do something to improve the performance of these

Government Schools.

There is another side to the situation. A non-performing student is promoted till he reaches class IX. He fails in class X. If the 10<sup>th</sup> board exams are done away with, he will fail terribly in the 12<sup>th</sup> class. I do not see how the ratio 11:100 is going to improve if we do away with the board exams. Perhaps, the government has another reason. A person who has completed education up to class X has a certificate and can apply for jobs. If the issue of certificate is delayed by two years, application for jobs also will be delayed for two years. Moreover once board exams are abolished, fewer students will be able to pass the 12<sup>th</sup> board exams and fewer people will be able to apply for jobs. This is what I feel about the issue. The Govt should reconsider the matter.

## It needn't have been this way



Naren Rajagopal, IX D

**T**he sun had just risen to the call of birds. It was 6.15 a.m. and George started showing signs of waking up. He sat up on the bed and rubbed his eyes to make sure he was back from his dreamland. He got off the bed, brushed his teeth and dressed up for school. As he walked down the stairs he heard a voice from behind: "Good morning, George." It was his dad who was all dressed for work. He was to drop George at school on his way to work. They sat down at the table for breakfast. It was unusually quiet since his mother had gone to visit her mother. After finishing the breakfast his dad went to get the car out of the carshed. It was then the phone began to ring.

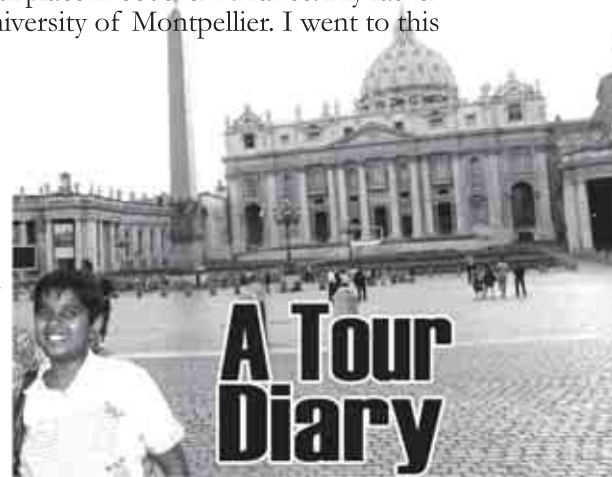
George answered it. It was his friend James. "What's up man?" I'm going to bunk class and go for a movie with a bunch of friends. You want to come too?" "Umm.....Ok! Are you going right now?", asked George. "Sure", said James. His dad was waiting in the car. George told him that he'd walk to school that day and so his dad left for work. George very well knew he wasn't going to school that day. He took a taxi to the Cinema. The movie was quite enjoyable for George but wasn't one his dad would've wanted him to see. George got home by 3 p.m. after having a good time with his friends. But as bad luck would have it, his dad was home too. And it seemed that he had found out where his son had been the whole day. You can imagine the rest. No TV, no computer games, no permission to call or listen to friends over the phone. It needn't have been this way!!

### Adithya Joseph Mathew, VIII A

This summer vacation was one that I loved the most. Many interesting things occurred during this vacation. The most memorable one was my visit to France.

I went to France on the 3rd of May. A sixteen-hour flight was really tiring. I landed at the Charles-de-Gaulle airport at 2.40 p.m. Paris time. It is a very big airport and we took about 20 minutes to reach the Gate from the runway. My father was waiting for my mother and me at the airport. From the airport we went by metro to the place where I was to stay, Port Royale. The next day I went to the Notre-Dame cathedral. This is the famous place where Napoleon crowned his wife, the queen. Then we went to the famous church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I also saw the tallest building in Paris called Montpernassc. The next day, I went to see the Louvre Museum where the famous portrait of Mona Lisa is kept. The famous statue of Venus also attracted a great number of tourists. For a person to visit the entire museum, it would take at least six days. The Dying Slave of Michelangelo was another important piece of art. After visiting the museum, I went by metro to a station near the Tour Eiffel. Paris has a well organized metro system. The Eiffel Tower is one every person should visit. We can go up an elevator to the top of the tower. There is an apartment where Eiffel used to stay and meet

guests. The next was the statue of Eiffel with Thomas Alva Edison presenting him the gramophone. Next, my parents and I went to the Pantheon where the great writer Victor Hugo and the great scientists like Marie Curie and Pierre Curie are laid to rest. On 8 May, I bade goodbye to Paris to go to Montpellier, a beautiful place in southern France. My father works there in the University of Montpellier. I went to this place by the T.G.V train. Montpellier was a very quiet place. It was like a village. I visited many of its agglomerations. There was a rugby stadium which I could see from the windows of my house. From there I went to Lourdes, a place every Christian must visit. My next destination was Tübingen, a city in Germany. I went there by T.G.V via Paris. From Germany, I went to Rome. The Fiumicino airport was very interesting and it had a very large shelf which had a great number of confiscated items. In Rome, I saw the Coliseum, Pantheon, and Fonta di Trevi. The largest Jesuit church was also one which interested me. Then I went to the Vatican, attended the Latin Mass and visited the museum and the place where the Popes were buried. The next day, I went back to my uncle in Germany. On 27<sup>th</sup> of May, my uncle and my parents drove to Switzerland which was near the place where I stayed. My stay in Europe was coming to an end. The next day I went by train to Paris and on 29 May, I boarded my flight to Trivandrum. I felt a bit sad, but also happy that I could meet my friends and share my experience.



## INDIA'S BRIGHT FUTURE

It was on the eve of 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947 that the Indian tricolour was unfurled by Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. In his historic 'Tryst With Destiny' speech, he said: "At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when an age ends and when the soul of a nation,

long suppressed, finds utterance... We end today the period of ill fortune and India discovers herself again."

I write this article to share my thoughts on an event that liberated our nation from the clutches of the British Empire. India's independence was the dream of many who sacrificed their lives for its attainment. Today, we have to ask ourselves whether we actually deserve the freedom for which they courted martyrdom.

In this modern era, it is up to us the younger generation to rededicate ourselves and remember all of them as it was their valour and dedication that won us this freedom 62 years ago. It is the ignited mind of the youth that is the most powerful resource on the earth. A good citizen should be ready to work hard and have a sense of values. This is the gist of the advice



Cherian S. Thelley, VII B

given by our former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam when he spoke to the students of Loyola School. He made us pledge: "I will work hard and at the same time enjoy the success of others. I shall always keep myself, my home, surroundings and environment neat and tidy."

This is our former President's dream for India 2020. Let us uphold the ideals of such personalities and take India to 2020 and beyond as responsible and dedicated citizens of this beautiful country. *Jai Hind!*



Rohit P. Jeothi, VIII C

## Who am I?

In some situations, I oppress motion  
 In other situations I facilitate motion  
 But I always oppress relative motion  
 Between two moving surfaces  
 Put some lubricant, and  
 I become small there  
 Make the moving surface tough  
 I make the movement tough  
 I may be sliding static or rolling  
 But whenever two surfaces are in motion  
 I am always there  
 Tell me who am I!  
 Answer-Friction



## The Gulmohar

Hari Krishnan S., VIII D

As I stood below the gulmohar  
 As the golden leaves fell over me  
 I felt happiness fill in me  
 In the shade of the gulmohar  
 Everything was calm and quiet  
 I felt the fresh air in my heart  
 I felt the cool breeze blow away my sins  
 As the sun went down  
 And I sat down on the cold green ground  
 I saw the sky change its colour  
 I saw the stars twinkle at the corner  
 There up in sky I saw a shooting star  
 Then below the gulmohar I made my wish.



## I am fortunate INDEED!

R.R. Rahulkrishna, VII A

How fortunate I am!  
 To have a lovely mother,  
 Who hugs and smothers me,  
 With lovely kisses.  
     How fortunate I am!  
     To have a kind dad,  
     Who buys me whatever I want,  
     But his love and affection,  
     No one can buy.  
 How fortunate I am!  
 To have such delightful friends,  
 Who chat with me,  
 Who help in my studies  
 And encourage me a lot.  
     How fortunate I am!  
     To study in Loyola school,  
     Having brilliant teachers,  
     Who teach me science and languages  
 All of them are my inspiration  
 For a future bright.  
 Don't you think I am fortunate?  
 How fortunate I am!

## Nature: A Gift of God

Abey Koshy Itty, VIII D

God made this world for us but is man utilizing it properly? The world has changed a lot. Men are destroying Nature by cutting down trees. Most of the rivers have dried up. The climate has changed. We are not receiving proper rainfall. New diseases are spreading and mankind is being destroyed day by day. Animals are hunted down and exported to various countries. Isn't there a limit to this? New luxury cars are made every day. What is the use of making these cars if petrol and diesel won't last for long? If trees are cut down there won't be sufficient oxygen for us to breathe. Carbon content in the atmosphere is increasing. Population is increasing but land is insufficient. Is there no end for man's destruction of this world? At this rate, the earth will be totally destroyed. We don't have to wait too long for that to happen.





Vivek S., VIII A

## Under the greenwood tree

Under the greenwood tree  
Sat two peacocks flapping their wings ever so free.  
There, on a high bough sat  
Two little sparrows, scared as though they were being chased by a cat  
The larks sang in their creamy little voices  
That even the cruellest of all couldn't call noises  
The innocent thrushes twittered  
In the glory of the sun; their shiny feathers glittered.  
The trunk of the tree was green and mossy.  
The naughtiest of squirrels found it warm and cozy  
Then there was a big loud buzz  
I wondered "Who is making such a fuss?"  
"Ah!" I exclaimed  
For no one could be blamed  
There, under the stalk of the fragrant flower  
A couple of bumble bees just away from the tall green tower.  
"Plop!" a raindrop on my head.  
"From where?" Perhaps from the leaves in autumn bright red  
Or is it just the rain?  
To have a look, my head, I craned.  
No, a drop of dew  
I didn't wipe it off, for there were so few.  
The next second on my head,  
An acorn fell with a hollow thud.  
What's it doing here, an acorn?  
Looking so shrivelled, sad, and forlorn  
"RRRRR!!!" The sound of a chain saw  
Cutting down trees. Which idiot made the law?  
I heard my mind jeering "Cooi coo!"  
But I just ignored it for there was nothing I could do  
Wishing to stay a little more, stay;  
Enjoying nature's rich bounty in the month of May.  
Then came to my notice a polka dotted toad stool  
Growing just an inch or so away from the little pool.  
I saw a gnome beckoning me or so I thought.  
To investigate, I bent a little low, but there was no one.  
The air was very cooling  
And the gentle breeze lulled me into dozing  
I rested my head on the trunk of the tree  
And only then realized the tree was giving so much for free.  
Shelter, food, oxygen and timber  
And also giving many a place for turning  
A home for squirrels and birds  
And many a creature so absurd.  
The jaunty stream was flowing by  
And so were the clouds in the sky.  
Hard as I might try,  
I still couldn't hear the cricket's cry.  
It was really pouring now,  
And water was dripping from the leafy boughs  
I didn't have a mackintosh or a coat  
Or to cross the river a sturdy boat.  
I had to take the long way home.  
The river was fast, looking dangerous with foam.  
It decided to turn and run,  
Even then it would take time, and I didn't have as much as a bun.  
The orange heavens were turning black.  
I was scared by the thunder's loud crack.  
Day turned to night,  
So I switched on my torch light  
And sped off as if in a flight:  
For now, things weren't so bright!



Naveen P.S., VII B



## My morning cuppa

As soon as we get up from our bed, most of us would like to have a cup of tea. It is a refreshing drink which makes us a little energetic, which is necessary for us to begin our day with great vigour. You know, after water, tea is the most consumed beverage in the world. But do you know how tea is made?

I never ever thought of this till I went to Ootty during the last summer vacation.

What amazed me most in Ootty was the Tea Factory and the Museum.

It was a rare moment of realization for me. I had never guessed that there would be so many processes involved in the production of tea. I wish to share with you what I saw in the tea factory. Actually, tea-making is a long process. First, tea leaves are allowed to wither. For this purpose, they are spread on wire grids and left there for 18 to 20 hours. After this, a process called rolling takes place. Special machines called rollers are used

for this operation. They continuously break and turn over the tea leaves. Rolling is needed to break tea leaves at molecular level and thus free enzymes that will later produce the unique tea flavour. The broken leaves are then transferred to another machine that crushes and sifts tea particles. At this stage, tea is also cooled down and aired. After this process, we will get green tea. For producing black tea, green tea has to be subjected to one more process called fermentation. Fermentation is oxidation of the enzymes contained in the tea. During fermentation, certain substances are produced that give black tea its brown colour and unique flavour and aroma. To stop fermentation, tea is dried. Thus, we get bulk black tea or dust tea. This, when stirred with milk or hot water, becomes the tea we drink. This was a novel discovery for me!

## The light in the darkness



Abraham Raju, VII C

The darkness etched from the corners,  
Engulfing me in its mist and its gloom.  
There, through a lonely crack,  
Entered a shaft of light.  
It pierced through the darkness,  
No power in its way.  
It crawled on all fours,  
And my imagination reached heights,  
As I neared the light.  
There, beyond the mist and gloom,  
Lay the jade stones,  
The rubies and the magnificent rubies,  
Showing off their magnificence but also showing us,  
The blood which had been spilt  
To lay hands on the treasure!  
The light shone on  
My guidance, my hope.



# Time is precious

The summer vacation began. The annual examinations, the worst nightmare of a typical student, had ended and I was pleased with how I had written them. “Now I can enjoy my long awaited vacation without having nightmares about my exams”, I thought. Three eventful days passed and it was starting to get a bit boring. On the fourth day, my father had wonderful news for me. He said, “Aravind, we’ll be going to South America for your vacation and I have a big surprise for you once we reach there. I couldn’t wait to go there but unfortunately the days seemed to be moving at a snail’s pace. But like the saying ‘Everything comes to him who waits’, the day finally came. At 4 p.m. that day, we boarded the plane. Once I was inside the aircraft, I couldn’t wait to see my father’s big surprise. After five boring hours inside the aircraft, I was happy when we reached there because I could finally move my hyper-active body. I could barely wait a second for the surprise when my father revealed it. He told me, “Aravind, we are staying at the Wilson Samuel Time Travel Centre, the WSTTC. Over there, there will be lots of food and many books to read so that you won’t get bored.” I was awestruck by the words ‘time and travel’. I had thought that this was just a story cooked up by superstitious youngsters. The Time Travel Centre was brilliant and was adorned with strange gizmos on all sides. Some of them looked like guns while others looked like lollipops. My father’s partner was our chief guide. He showed us many places like the time travel laboratory, and the additional facilities. But atop all this, the most interesting was the TTDC, the Time Travel Deluxe Craft. With a broad smile, he told me, “This is the time travel machine, the costliest and the most useful vehicle in the world! We can use it to travel through time but it is still in its experimental stages.” I was so excited about this time travel stuff that I could not help testing the machine. I pressed the button on which it was written ‘EJECT’. Suddenly, the numbers on the machine started spinning with super speed and my surroundings started changing. In front of me stood a grumpy, stout man dressed in army regalia. He was shouting at his guard and had a wreath of laurels around his head. I recognized him immediately. The old chap was Julius Caesar. I looked around me and saw the entire Roman Army. As soon as they noticed me, the

Aravind Venugopal, VII C



Romans stood at attention and began to utter the words, “Long live God Mars.” How funny, they thought that I was a God. “These Romans are crazy”, I thought. Suddenly, the buttons of the TTDC started going wild and the place where I once stood became a battlefield. Once again, I had jumped through time. I saw thousands of armed soldiers scrambling. As I looked up into the sky, I saw it! I saw the first nuclear bomb being dropped from the sky. It was huge and as it fell, a stunned silence spread through the battlefield. I witnessed the most dreadful moment in world history. I watched the destruction it caused and almost had a heart attack when I saw the plight of the children. But I could not be killed because the Time Travel machine was not vulnerable to any attack. Suddenly, I was brought back to the present. I could not believe what I had just seen and decided to keep it as a secret. Although the rest of our trip went smoothly I decided never to go back in time again.

Keshav A. Nair, VI A



Rasipuram Krishnaswamy Iyer Narayan Swami, shortened to R. K. Narayan, is one of the most famous Indian novelists writing in English. It was by chance that I came across an abridged version of his famous novel *Malgudi Days*. What attracted me most was the humorous way he has presented life. I was really surprised when I came to know that the town of Malgudi and its inhabitants were only imaginary. Malgudi is just like a village we have seen. Nature is a great presence in the life of Malgudi. R. K. Narayan has described the different seasons as they set in Malgudi and the descriptions are unforgettable. I was particularly impressed by his description of monsoon as “never ending downpour, grey laden skies and damp air blowing.”

I have come to know that his novels *Malgudi Days* and *Swami and Friends* have been made into popular serials. I long to see these serials. His other famous works include *The Bachelor of Arts*, *English Teacher*, and *Man-eater of Malgudi*. The famous cartoonist R. K. Lakshman is his brother.