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STUDENT EDITION

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WEB EDITION

CBSE REDUCES CLASS IX-XII SYLLABUS FOR 2020-21 ACADEMIC SESSION

IS IT A GOOD MOVE?

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has rationalised the syllabus for classes IX to XII for the academic year 2020-21 by up to 30 per cent to make up for the academic loss caused due to Covid-19, Union HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal said recently. In the process, the Board has dropped chapters on democracy, demonetisation, nationalism, secularism, among others, as per the updated syllabus. What does it mean for the students and how will it impact them?

The **BIG DEBATE**

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has also announced a reduction of up to 25 per cent in syllabus for classes X and XII Board exams in 2021



STUDENTS REACT

As online classes are new to all of us, it would have been tough to cover the entire syllabus. It is a good decision; now, all the students will be able to prepare this limited syllabus thoroughly. Moreover, it will reduce the pressure of the students. Besides, it will also help the government school students in catching up with the private schools, as they joined virtual classes concept late. **BHAVYA GULATI**, class XII, Bhavan Vidyalaya, Panchkula

This is a good move by the CBSE. Instead of rushing to complete an extended syllabus and feeling unnecessary pressure, students will now have more bandwidth to focus and learn on what they are being taught. **MRIDULA GOEL**, class XII, DPS R K Puram, New Delhi

It's a welcome move, but will this reduced syllabus extend to the entrance examinations for admission into the colleges next academic year? The Board should clarify. **ARMAAN ABRAHAM JETTI**, class XII, Meridian School, Hyderabad

HOW DOES A 30% CUT IN CBSE'S SYLLABUS LOOK LIKE?

➤ In physics, both Newton's 'laws of motion' and Kepler's 'laws of planetary motion' will be chucked out of the course; in biology, topics, such as 'living world' and 'plant kingdom' have been deleted for class XI, while for class XII, 'reproduction in organism' have been excluded ➤ Some of the cuts have generated a political controversy, such as demonetisation, nationalism, citizenship and democratic rights ➤ Even the number of classes have been reduced

EDUCATORS ON DELETED CHAPTERS

➤ The reduced syllabus will give more time to ensure that children understand the concept, as now we use videos and PowerPoint presentations to facilitate learning. **BIJOYA MITRA**, educator, DPS, Ahmed

➤ The deleted chapters, which contain concepts that teachers feel are essential for the students to learn, can be taught, but they will not be included for internal evaluation or Boards **MANJU SHARMA**, principal, DPS, South, Bengaluru

HOW SCHOOLS PLAN TO COVER THE DELETED PORTIONS

➤ Topics like secularism can be taught while teaching Right to Freedom of Religion **KANAK SHANKAR MUKHERJEE**, teacher, Psc, LSA, Kolkata

If the lesson that has already been taught is deleted, then it is not an issue, as every context has its own specific and general objectives **N M SHALIKA BANU**, teacher, Fathima CSSC, Chennai

➤ The portions have been removed in such a way that it does not affect the flow of learning, when children are promoted to the next class. **VALSALA S**, PGT, Toc H Public School, Vyttila, Ernakulam

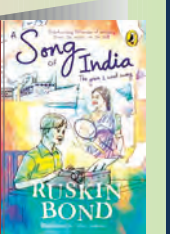
Be a part of this debate; share your views at toinie175@gmail.com or timesofindia.com/tointie175@gmail.com

I RECOMMEND

NEW LAUNCH

Ruskin Bond's 'A Song of India'

A new book by writer Ruskin Bond will shed light on his lesser known life before he became a successful author; publishers Puffin Books has announced.



The illustrated book, 'A Song of India', scheduled to hit the stands on July 20, will mark the 70th year of Bond's literary career

WORD WATCH

BROMIDE:

means a binary compound of bromine with another element or a radical including some (such as potassium bromide) used as sedatives; a commonplace or tiresome person; bore

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Until we educate the entire human race, racism will not stop: Holding

Former cricketer, Michael Holding, didn't hold back as he delivered a powerful message against racism recently, asserting that the black race has been dehumanised and its accomplishments wiped off from a history, "written by people, who do the harm." Holding, who will retire from commentary at the end of next year, talked about racism at the global level.



History is written by the conqueror not by those who are conquered, history is written by people who do the harm, not by those who get harmed... We are being brainwashed; not just black people, white people are being brainwashed in different ways. Everything should be taught. I was never taught anything good about the black people; you cannot have a society that is brought up teaching what is convenient for them **MICHAEL HOLDING**, commentator and former cricketer

INSTAGRAM INTRODUCES 'REELS' IN INDIA

A little over a week after ByteDance-owned short video app TikTok was banned in India, Facebook's photo sharing app Instagram has announced the extension of testing of its short video format Reels in India. Reels has already been tested in Brazil, Germany and France, before India.

The company said Reels will enable people to record and edit 15 seconds multi-clip videos with audio effects, and users could share Reels content on their feed, or through a new space on the explore section

TECH BUZZ

GOOGLE TO PROVIDE QUICK FACTS ABOUT IMAGES YOU SEARCH



Google has announced a new feature that will make it easy to find quick facts about what people see on Google images in the form of a Knowledge Graph. The feature would include people, places or things related to the image from the Knowledge Graph's database of billions of facts, helping users explore the topic more. "To generate these links to relevant Knowledge Graph entities, we take what we understand about the image through learning, which evaluates an image's visual and text signals, and combine it with Google's understanding of the text on the image's web page," the company said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

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SATYARTH NAYAK'S NEXT BOOK IS ON INDIAN MYTHOLOGY

After penning a thriller and then a biography about late Bollywood actress Sridevi, author-screenwriter Satyarth Nayak will now write a book on Indian mythology. Titled, '100 Tales from the Puranas' the book has been inspired from the Puranas. It is expected to be released in 2021.



The Puranas of Hinduism are an ancient source of wisdom, which are relevant even today. Out of the 18 Puranas, Nayak will select 100 greatest stories for his upcoming book, which will not only entertain but also enlighten the new age readers

U-17 WOMEN'S WC PROBABLE SAI SANKHE SCORES 96.2% IN CLASS X ICSE EXAMS

India's SAFF Under-17 Women's Championship-winning player Sai Sankhe has set an example for others as she scored 96.2 per cent in her ICSE class X examinations.



ON THE PRESSURE TO PERFORM: "The pressure was there, as I really wanted to do very well in my boards and ace them. With the result I secured, I am very happy. If you love football and consider education to be as important, you can do both together - hands down. After the evening training, I would study again. Basically, whatever time I could get, I used it to study and prepare, Sai said.

CURB CLIMATE CHANGE, PROTECT ENVIRONMENT TO PREVENT FUTURE PANDEMICS, COUNTRIES TOLD

Land degradation, wildlife exploitation, intensive farming, and climate change are driving the rise in diseases, which like

ENVIRONMENT

the coronavirus are passed on from animals to humans, the UN experts have warned...

➤ The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) have jointly identified seven trends responsible for such diseases, calling on governments to take steps to stop future pandemics ➤ Known as zoonotic, these trends, include demand for animal protein, extraction of natural resources and urbanisation, intensive and unsustainable farming, exploitation of wildlife, increased travel and



transportation, food supply changes, and climate change ➤ "The science is clear; if we keep on exploiting wildlife and our ecosystems, then we can expect to see a steady stream of diseases, jumping from animals to humans in the future," said UNEP executive director Inger Andersen

VIEWPOINT

We have asked every state to adopt one sport: Rijiju

Union sports minister Kiren Rijiju has said that the government has asked every state to adopt one sport each and focus on its development, in a bid to achieve more medals at the Olympics. Rijiju, who was speaking at a webinar on the 'Role of Corporate India for Fit India' organised by Assocham, said the corporate sector will also be told to do the same.



THE PROPOSAL

1 "We have written to the states to choose (a sport). For example, if Manipur chooses boxing and sepak takraw, it also can do football or archery, but it has to focus on the discipline it has selected, Rijiju said

2 "We have made certain policy changes, like each corporate will be advised to adopt a certain discipline and focus on it. It won't stop you from supporting other sports," he added

3 "A country the size of India won't be playing just one or two disciplines. We have identified 14 disciplines as priority sports, like archery, wrestling, boxing, hockey, shooting etc. I have kept the option open for more as well," he announced

4 Rijiju said 14 sports have been identified as priority disciplines, which will be developed as medal prospects for the Olympics

Q Is it a good move? Will it usher in a bright future for sports in our country?

Share your views at toinie175@gmail.com You can also post your comments at toistudent.com

FACTOID ₹ 67.4 CRORE (\$8MN)

■ Price of the Chinese encyclopedia volumes that was sold at an auction recently. Dating back to the 15th century, the encyclopedia, known as the Yongle Dadian, was commissioned by a ruler of the Ming Dynasty, who reigned from 1402 to 1424. The Yongle Dadian consisted of 22,877 chapters originally. It was the largest encyclopedia in the world

■ The original was used to make two copies. Unfortunately, the first draft was lost due to wars, theft and fires, which occurred under the Ming Dynasty. It measures 20 inches by 12 inches, and was written in red and black ink on paper, at a time when printing technology was already developed in China

2020 EXAMS CANCELLED

The announcement that all the remaining board examinations have been cancelled has evoked mixed reactions from this year's examinees. While some are simply ecstatic, some have been left disheartened and rather worried. **ALTHEA PHILLIPS** spoke to some of the class XII students on the merit and demerits of this move and how it may impact their future academic prospects...

The CBSE has set a new assessment scheme and I personally think it is a really good scheme because it even let us have our results to start with our college admissions and it also gives us an option to give the written exam if we are unsatisfied with our results of the subjects we were not able to give the exams of. The downside to this might be the fact that this decision could have been taken earlier to not keep the students waiting for so long otherwise the decision was completely appropriate and understandable.

- Pritisha Parekh, Class XII, Mahadevi Birla World Academy

The decision to cancel the CBSE examination is much appreciated. But the system of awarding marks on the basis of average marking of best three subjects (two for some exceptional cases) is a bit contentious. Humanities and a few Commerce students had three papers left, including Bengali. So for them there's no best of three subjects available. Even if CBSE says to retake the exams for those who are not satisfied with their marks, we actually don't know when the situation will be conducive. Till then, most of the colleges will start their admission procedure. The West Bengal state board has decided to award the highest mark obtained in any of the given subjects to the rest of the cancelled papers. So there can be a disparity between the two in this case. And not every college has separate cut-off marks for different boards. Otherwise keeping in mind the safety of students, cancellation of the examination is definitely the correct initiative.

- Aishika Murmu, Class XII, BDM International

Along with all the happenings of 2020, the cancellation of the CBSE board exams has left most students with a feeling of dismay including the ones who are yet to appear for the 2021 boards. The CBSE announced that results are to be declared based on the internal assessments which is a great source of worry for many students as no one predicted their assessments to be their finals. Many students who did not perform well in the internal assessments had high hopes of making it up in their board exams. Students focusing on competitive exams are also facing a setback due to the dates being regularly postponed. Students who are to appear next year cannot relax with the constant dread of what the future has in store for them.

- Anoushka Banerjee, Class XII, BDM International

The decision taken by the CBSE lacks proper insight and deep thought about the seriousness that the matter needed. It is not about the safety but about the careers of the students. Obviously safety comes first, but not at the cost of one's future. Think about the students whose strong subjects or rather the subjects in which their chances of scoring were high are among the ones which were cancelled. This is not fair. The decision could have been taken a bit later after a thorough discussion on it. This decision is nothing but an extra headache for the students, especially the ones who wanted to get admission into a good college to pursue general education. I don't really find any "pros" in this decision. What I see is only the "cons".

- Sankhya Sen, Class XII, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyapith, Deogarh

Despite consistently preparing for my remaining papers, I was relieved on hearing this. Appearing for the papers would sure provide a chance to perform better. But knowing there still exists chance of being exposed to greater risk, despite all social distancing norms, would somehow affect our well being. We were informed that after the results are declared, students can decide whether they wish to appear for the remaining exams after the situation is normalised. I, personally haven't decided on that as I am awaiting the results. I've appeared for three of my exams before the lockdown but I know others who could appear for less than three. I hope they decide carefully. Since the 2020 results will be declared differently than earlier, I sincerely wish our batch does well. The need of the hour is our safety and well being and I'm at peace knowing that we're prioritizing this over other considerations.

- Amrita Choudhuri, Class XII, Mahadevi Birla World Academy

The Corona virus pandemic is wrecking havoc across all spheres. And education too has not been exempted. With the CBSE, first deciding to take the examinations in July, and then cancelling it all together, due to the sudden surge in the number of infected persons, has made things difficult not only for those who were appearing for Boards this year, but also for students like me, who are going to give their Boards in 2021. We are in a state of uncertainty, about what will happen - will we be marked on the basis of internal assessments or will situations get better and we will be appearing in the AISCCE, and further dilemma persists about the syllabi of the different subjects. The extent of the pandemic, has revealed the problems of the education system, necessitating steps for a change. Till then, the future of thousands of students remains in darkness, plagued by questions and doubts, that need immediate answers.

- Aadrit Banerjee, Class XII, Apeejay School, Park Street

The cancellation of the ISC exams this year, has created an environment of uncertainty around us. The students who are preparing to appear for the board exams are still doubtful. Without the continuation of conventional schooling, a number of academic doubts stands unsolved. The confusion created regarding reduction of syllabus is another issue. Also, the continuous spike in corona cases has led to rise of several questions, like, what will happen if we never get any vaccine for the disease? Or what will happen if the effect of this disease continues for the next few more years? We need to either start preparing ourselves for all sorts of conditions or need to find an alternative for the board exams.

- Rupam Shukla, Class XII, Sunrise English Medium School

The global Covid-19 outbreak has disrupted educational systems worldwide, leading to the closure of schools, colleges and all educational institutions. Such an unforeseen situation naturally triggered a feeling of uncertainty in the minds of students. Doubt and fear clouded their otherwise active minds, giving a rise to a series of unanswered questions not only in the students' minds but also in the minds of teachers and parents alike.

However, the online education initiative was undertaken on a war footing by all the schools and both teachers and students were back into action, though in unfamiliar territory! And Lakshmipat Singhan Academy was no different either. In the new academic session, the teaching landscape of our school has shifted from the notion of a singular path to one of a more elastic and accommodative understanding. The digital classroom has brought with it a range of unexplored avenues and teachers are trying their best to ensure that students don't miss the warmth of traditional forms of learning. Virtual classroom has become the new normal of the current educational scenario. Our teachers rose to the occasion and are handling these online lessons with considerable ease and dexterity.

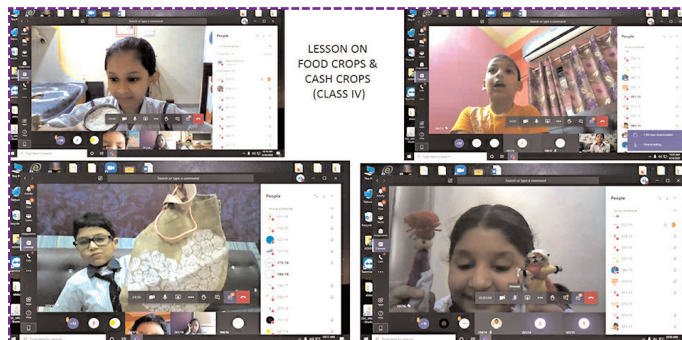
Our students start the week with the assembly session where they meditate, pray, exercise and participate in a short programme. The co-curricular teachers of different subjects like physical education, karate, art, music and dance present their skills through live and video presentations in these sessions. The weekly assembly helps to instil camaraderie and a feeling of affiliation among the students.

Videos based on various scholastic lessons are uploaded for the children to view according to their convenience. Online classes on Microsoft Teams are scheduled where the teacher explains the lessons and ensures that all their doubts are cleared. PDFs of the lessons are also sent. To make learning more fun and interactive, activities like LAC, SAC, MAC, FWE and projects are also incorporated. Assignments are uploaded once a week. Students solve and mail them to their respective teachers. Teachers evaluate and mail personalised responses to each student.

In compliance with the famous proverb, 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy', the school authorities realised the need to integrate co-curricular subjects into the existing online framework. The digital learning structure of our school soon saw a smooth amalgamation of curricular and co-curricular areas. LSA inaugurated its online co-curricular arena by celebrating Earth Day, where students were asked to prepare some art or craft work, song, poem, make a video of the same and mail it school. The school has also set up a Hobby Centre section on its Facebook page where the little geniuses are showcased, be it making a dish, a dance or song recital or posters on contemporary issues.

Various other programmes like Rabintra Jayanti and World Environment Day were celebrated online. Each student shot their own part and then all the videos were

ing is still in its nascent stage. It has unfolded a whole new perspective to an otherwise conventional world of education. It has opened a new dimension to the world of teaching. To increase the potential of eLearning, teachers have a challenging task of humanising the course and making it more interactive. Our E-teachers are hardly worried about anything. The only questions that torment them these days are, "What if my Internet fails?", "What if I am unable to reach out to my students as



merged into one. Online jamming was done by both students and teachers. Our music teachers prepared songs based on Awareness against Corona. Online inter-house debate competition was organised where students spoke on 'Augmented reality is compulsory in school education in the present scenario'. The attendees of the programme also voted for the best speakers. Videos on art, music, dance and physical education also are uploaded which help to break the monotony of scholastic classes.

Learning never stops. E-Learn-

planned?" and so on and so forth.

The deadly Corona Virus has lost its potency for teachers. They know how to weather storms and be undeterred by any difficulty. They continue to disseminate education even in this uncertain environment. The teaching fraternity has successfully embraced this transition to the world of digital classrooms and adapted to its demanding norms. This pandemic will end one day. What will remain for years to come is this challenging task of delivering lessons and lifeskills in a locked down world!

THE MOON BEING AND SHREYASH

Shreyash, a little boy studying in class V, found science very boring. The science teacher, R K Pandey, was not at all a strict teacher. He explained very well and from the heart, but he was not very good at scolding students. His students could easily play pranks on him. Shreyash was always looking for a way to disturb his class. One day, he had an idea. He thought to himself - "RK sir is a very knowledgeable person. He is likely to know the answer to this question. Also, I am sure he is going to waste the entire period while answering this."

Even as Shreyash was busy in his thoughts, RK sir, entered. All the students rose to wish him good morning in that typical sing-song manner. With his usual gesture, he asked them to sit down. Shreyash remained standing while other students sat down and he asked: "Sir, I have a question. Do supernatural beings and aliens exist?"

RK sir replied, "Oh Shreyash! I thought you people are only interested in tablets or smartphones." It seemed that he was impressed. "See Shreyash, we scientific people don't believe in such terms. But, who knows? May be, there is a galaxy similar to the Milky Way and there exists a living planet where certain creatures live. We are aliens to them and they are aliens to us. That's not at all unscientific. We have no proof. But, I don't believe in ghosts, fairies or angels. They don't exist in reality."

Just as RK sir was saying this the bell rang. It was dispersal time. Shreyash was amazed. For the first time, he found RK sir rather interesting. He thought to himself, "It was deep whatever he said."

Shreyash lived with his parents in a mansion in Himachal Pradesh. His father is a businessman and his mother owns a restaurant. Shreyash's wooden mansion was just by the forest. He was a good student and spent his free time playing with his friends and sometimes took a walk through the forest. As it was

not dense at all sometimes he would take a walk through the forest even in the night. His bedroom overlooks the forest.

On the day of this discussion, Shreyash kept thinking about what RK sir had said. It was soon dinnertime. Shreyash's mother, Suman Gupta, had cooked all his favourite dishes.

Throughout dinner-time, Shreyash did not say a word - he ate silently and went to his bedroom. Shreyash was lying on his bed, wondering how to visit that living planet in the unknown galaxy. He was also wondering what happens to a man when he dies. Does he get to visit that planet in another galaxy? All these thoughts prevented him from falling asleep. But, a light breeze blew in and it seemed 'Mother Nature' herself entered through the open window and comforted him till he fell asleep.

Even before sleeping, Shreyash thought about all sorts of strange things. But, his world became weirder when he entered the dream-world. At first, everything was normal in his dreams, but then he saw a frightful scene.

The wind began blowing. The trees swayed in the wind and a flash of lightning lit up the entire forest. Suddenly, in a pool of light a strange creature with silver wings emerged.

"Please....help....me...." it cried. Shreyash woke up. His throat was dry. That's when he heard a voice shouting, "Help me please! I want to go back home!"

Shreyash recognized the voice. He had heard it in the dream. He wasted no more time - he switched the torch on and rushed to the forest barefoot. The grass tickled his feet. He ran clueless for about 10 minutes or more and saw a bright light in the jungle. He went closer to it and that's when he saw her - a



SHORT STORY

beautiful girl with wings, a fairy who was radiating light like the moon.

She was so radiant that the torch was no longer needed. When Shreyash walked closer to check if she was alive the fairy opened her eyes. She was magnificent - she had large green eyes, a rosy skin-tone, blond hair, a sweet face and that moonlight glow. She was wearing a beautiful gown made of diamonds which was equally radiant.

Shreyash shrieked - "Wh...what? Wh...who are you?"

The fairy was shocked and said: "You can see me!"

"What's wrong with that," the puzzled boy asked.

Well, you are the saviour of the Earth and Moon, it seems," the fairy

replied.

"What do you mean?" he asked. "All right, I will tell you. But, on one condition, you cannot interfere with me even for once," she replied.

"Fine, I accept your condition. But, I have one question. What's your name?" Shreyash asked.

"I am Ariana," she replied.

Shreyash introduced himself. "You can tell your story now. I will not interrupt". He promised.

"I am the princess of the Moon. You saw me in your dream," Ariana replied. Shreyash nodded.

Ariana continued, "Then, you are the saviour. But, it is too late. Never mind."

Shreyash was awestruck. He sat

down beside Ariana. She was too strange. Those wings seemed awkward to Shreyash. She had ears like a pixie. Overall, she was very unusual.

Ariana continued, "Millions of years ago when no life had evolved on the Earth, our ancestors lived here. Gradually, life began to evolve under water. So, our ancestors went to the moon, as we wanted a planet completely to ourselves. We made a spaceship which could travel anywhere.

The moment we stepped on the moon all of us were blessed with all kinds of powers. We could control the entire universe. Love can strengthen our power whereas hate can reduce.

When we stayed on the Earth, we had no name. But, now, all of us are known as the 'moon-beings'. My father once told me that we could control everything at first, but the Earth was becoming uncontrollable gradually. We had protected the Earth extremely harmful asteroids.

But slowly, it was becoming more difficult for us to do so. Once, the Supreme Being, Love, came to us and told us that Hate, the devil, is preventing us from controlling the Earth. Love also kept the lives of all 'Moon-beings' inside me. If I die, then they all will die".

Ariana continued sadly, "My father told me to go and check the Earth once if everything was normal. My spaceship exploded and caused a blazing glow the moment I entered the Earth's hateful atmosphere. I fell down and that's when you came to rescue me.

You could have saved all of us by spreading love all around the world, but you cannot do so anymore. It's not your fault. 'Hate' along with his friends, 'Jealousy' and 'Anger', has taken over 'Love' along with his friends 'Hope' and 'Forgiveness'. The Earth has become a hopeless place. I cannot bear this. Why do human beings hate each other so much? Why is there so much rivalry? Can you not live in peace?"

Shreyash replied in a soft voice, "I am sure I am dreaming. But, you have started to lose your glow!"

Indeed, it seemed as if she was fading away. Ariana smiled sadly and tears rolled down her cheeks. She said, "It's the end I am telling you. I can't survive when there is so much hatred around me. I will die now. The moon-beings will also die. An asteroid is supposed to hit the Earth after a week. It will wreak havoc upon the lives of all living beings on this planet including yours." Saying this she faded away in the wind.

Shreyash looked at the moon with tears in his eyes. The moon did not have its usual shine. The next morning, he found himself on his bed. He had overslept and could not attend school. The entire day he continued to think about Ariana and the moon.

Seven days passed and there was no sign of an asteroid. But the life Shreyash had led took a different course. His parents got separated within a week. His father's business suffered financially and his mother could not bear the embarrassment. So they decided to separate. Now, Shreyash has to live with his mother away from his father.

It may not have been a natural asteroid, but an emotional asteroid which Ariana had talked about. The lovely life Shreyash had led no longer existed. Now, he wonders if the same thing will happen to all the children on this planet. Shreyash still wonders if Ariana truly had come to this world or if it was a figment of his imagination. But, he has noticed that the moon does not shine as brightly as it used to, as if something has robbed her of her silver glow.

- Sohela Ghosh, Class VIII, DPS Megacity