

**INSIDE**



Observe and evaluate, P3



A long way to go, P10

**AMITe poll**

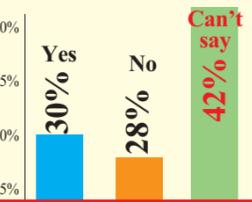
**With the sudden surge of COVID-19 cases in the country, do you think another lockdown is in order?**

a) Yes  
 b) No  
 c) Can't say

To vote, log on to  
 www.theglobaltimes.in

**POLL RESULT**  
 for GT issue March 29, 2021

**Do you think that the Myanmar generals should heed the public's demands, end the coup and respect the election results to restore law and order in the country?**



Results as on April 3, 2021

**Coming Next**  
 Heritage Special

# Why mountains matter?

## A Concerning Matter That Immediately Requires Human Mediation

Gauri Srivastava, AIS VKC Lko, XII

**S**omewhere between the base of the mountains and the summit lies the resolution of the enigma around our existence, and subsistence withal...

For mountains, embellishing and blanketing over 26.5% or one-fifth of the world's total landscape, aren't simply glorious sights to behold! A whopping 1,187,049 in concentration, these natural skyscrapers cater to the needs, both anthropocentric and ecocentric, of at least half of the world's total population. But notwithstanding the services bestowed, as pronounced by the UN, these are "often forgotten", and unfortunately so, are enforced to contend with the adverse effects of man-induced climate change, over-exploitation, land degradation, and other naturogenic disasters. Pore over as we thus present you with an expansive manual as to why the conservation and efficient management of mountains is the need of the hour and aeons to follow.

### Reservoirs of natural supplies

**Why:** Mountains are a rich source of sundry basic essentialities of human life; not only do they accommodate and make provisions for about 15% of the world's total population or simply put, 1.1 billion people

across the globe, but, with their fresh water reserves in the form of glaciers, rivers or lakes, they also quench about 60-80% of the world's fresh water needs for various purposes such as drinking, industry, irrigation, food and energy production. In fact, the rivers originating in the Hindu Kush Himalayas alone supply water to about 1.35 billion people worldwide. Moreover, mountains possess a huge potential for renewable energy generation, be it hydropower, solar, wind or biomass. Reaping the benefits of which, countries like Bolivia, Chile, etc., acquire 95% of their hydropower exclusively from mountains.

**What's the hurry:** At least 600 glaciers around the world have completely disappeared over the past decades, affecting the global water supplies and energy production a great deal. And, as per a study by Nature Climate Change, if the glaciers continued to melt at this quickened rate, water crisis would become an everyday thing and would affect over 700 million people in Asia alone by 2100. Additionally, the sea levels would rise to an exorbitant level, too, submerging or completely vanishing several islands, including the Solomon Islands, Maldives, Palau, etc., and cities such as Mumbai and Shanghai to name a few, before 21st century is over.

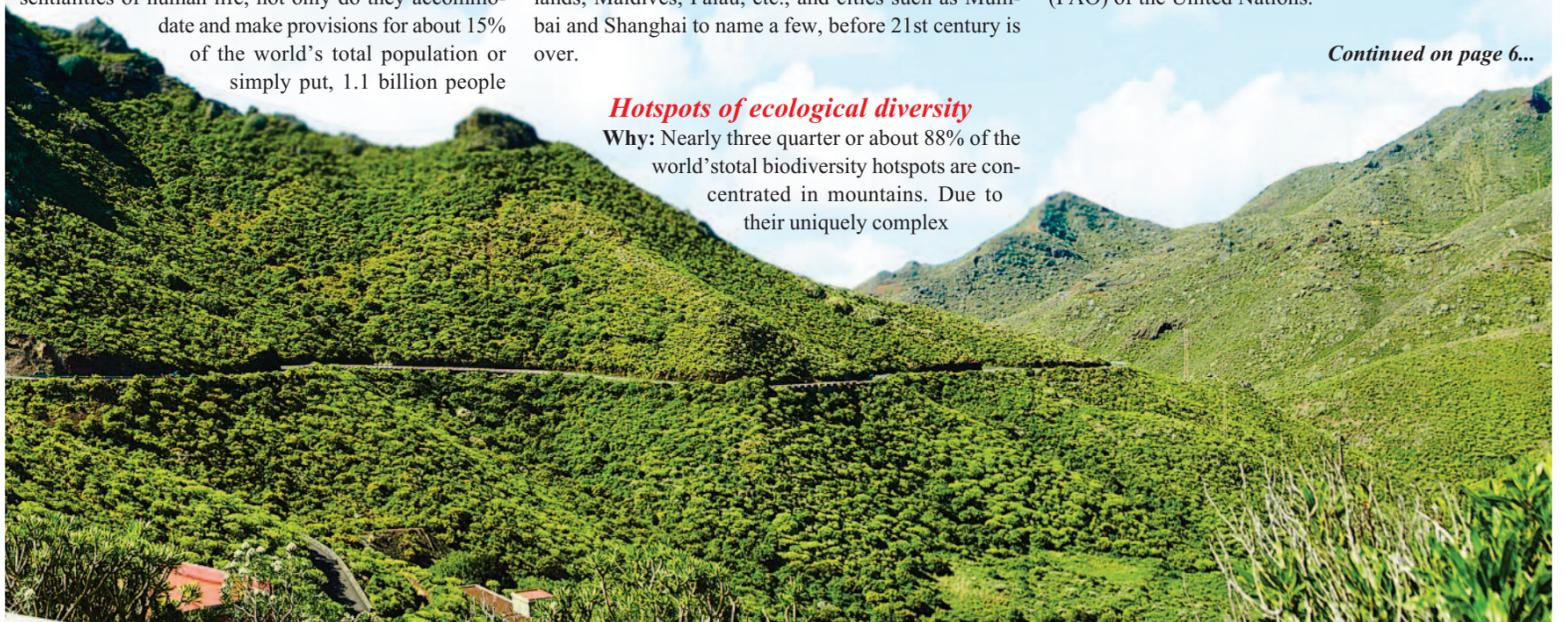
### Hotspots of ecological diversity

**Why:** Nearly three quarter or about 88% of the world's total biodiversity hotspots are concentrated in mountains. Due to their uniquely complex

heterogenous climates and geology, these host innumerable species of flora and fauna; if estimates are thus anything to go by, around 50,000 species of flowering plants and about 10-fold higher animal species belong to the mountainous regions alone. Rare animal species such as mountain gorillas, snow leopards, and the majestic tahr, as well as strikingly beautiful plants such as orchids and lobelias are all an important component of this ecological richness. Furthermore, many food items, including tomatoes, barley, potatoes, rice, apples, maize, and other high-value and high-quality products such as coffee, honey, herbs, spices, etc., all find their origins in the mountains, too.

**What's the hurry:** Out of the 6109 key biodiversity hotspots in the mountains, a staggering 40.02% are completely unprotected and at the mercy of human activities. In addition to that, owing to harsh climatic conditions and an unfortunate social and political marginality, over 329 million indigenous people in the mountains today are vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition, a 30% increase over the past 12 years, as suggested by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.

Continued on page 6...



# Breaking news

## Taniya Tikoo Aptly Defines New-Age Journalism

Divyanshi Chamoli, AIS Noida, X

**T**he editor-in-chief and co-founder of ObserveNow, Taniya Tikoo has always believed in presenting the audience with a knowledgeable form of journalism that makes them a well-informed citizen of the country. Stressing on the same factor and the diverse role media plays in the society, GT caught up with her for a tête-à-tête at the ICEMP 2020 held at AUUP. Here are some excerpts from the same.

### How is new age media different from contemporary media?

It is completely different. Everything now is digitised and it's a quick turnaround. The shelf life of news has drastically reduced to a bare minimum; a couple of minutes or hours at best. Before digitisation of media, which was approximately 10 years ago, the news used to last for a day at least. It changes every minute now and you need to stay updated at all times.

### The bio of ObserveNow says that it provides knowledge-based news to its readers. Can you elaborate on that?

We don't get into traditional news reporting, and by that, I mean reporting about generic news such as an accident

or a robbery. Our target audience is tier one or tier two city readers, and we want to give them important information about the development of India's foreign policy, education system, and tech development, etc. We make the news crisp and concise without any jargons and then disseminate that information to the public. Hence, ObserveNow aims to spread practical news.

### In recent days, the media has been seen showcasing opinions on news pieces. Do you think opinions are required with presentation of facts?

I motivate my team to include their opinions while reporting because I feel as journalists, we do so much in-depth research that we automatically understand a situation better than a normal citizen. In that case, giving our opinion actually helps our viewers make an informed decision about the subject. It gives them an insight into the different angles associated with a particular piece of news.

### Would it be right to say that the digital media is the way forward?

Yes, definitely! Digital media is the future and there is absolutely no question about it. With the technological advancements, digital media is on the rise and moreover, the government's efforts

to digitise India is taking place at a faster pace. And as a result, news updates reach to us every minute. While print media has its own pros, one may think that it is a thing of past, but the reality is different. To be precise, a major population of India still relies on print media because they do not have access to technology. Till the time remotest parts of India get technological access and learn how to use it, print media is here to stay with digital media.

### What difference do you observe in the way that media works in India at a global level?

I think there is so much more of 'media' in India because there is constant coverage of things at different levels and at every aspect, be it paparazzi or any international affair. Essentially overall, media is the same worldwide, but its way of functioning also depends on the ruling party or the government running the nation, so what I mean is that the working gets affected by the policies for the media. So, you can't just generalise it.

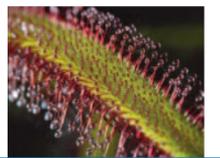
### What would your message be to aspiring journalists?

Read. Read. Read. Read a lot and research a lot. That's it! That is the key to successful journalism. 🇮🇳



Taniya Tikoo with GT reporter

*Drosera capensis*, also called Cape Sundew, traps and digest its prey using a thick gluey goo known as mucilage.



# Around The WORLD

GT keeps the newswire ticking by bringing you news from around the globe



UK

## The BRIT Awards 2021 nominees announced

The nominations for the most prestigious musical award of the country, BRIT Awards, announced. With female artists gaining four out of five nominees in the Best Album section, more than half of the nominees of key categories being people of colour, and it being the first time a Korean act, BTS, has ever been nominated, this year is being noted as the most diverse and fair BRIT Awards in its history.



PAKISTAN

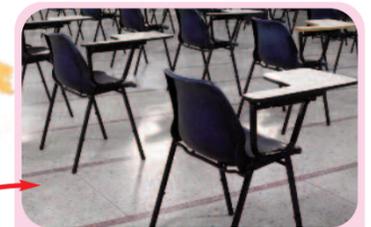
## Import of sugar and cotton from India resumed

After a 19-months ban, Finance Minister Hammad Azhar announced that the country is finally allowing sugar and cotton to be imported from India, stating comparatively cheaper prices as the reason. The initial ban was placed in 2019 when India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, but because of the ban's direct effect on SMEs, the country is ready to become one of India's leading buyers.

RUSSIA

## World's first COVID vaccine for animals registered

Developed by the country's agriculture safety watchdog Rosselkhoznadzor, Carnivac-Cov, the first COVID-19 vaccine for animals, has been developed and registered for use. Even though more tests and analyses are still ongoing, it is said to provide immunity for six months and stop the mutation of the virus. The production of the same is said to start within the month.



NEPAL

## Schools, colleges shut due to air pollution

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology announced a total shutdown of the educational institutions for at least four days owing to severe deterioration of the air quality in the country. All national and international flights were also cancelled as a result and people all over were advised to not leave their houses, especially the ones already suffering from health issues.



FRANCE

## Third national lockdown across the country

Because of the death toll nearing 100,000, ICUs being on breaking point, and extremely slow vaccine rollout, President Emmanuel Macron has ordered France into its third national lockdown where all institutions will be closed for three weeks. Paris and some selective regions were already facing these restrictions before the lockdown was announced for the rest of the country.

SWITZERLAND

## WEF showcases delayed gender parity

According to a report by the World Economic Forum, COVID-19 pandemic has rolled forward the dreams of achieving gender equality to 135.6 years in the future. Based over 156 countries on education, health, economic opportunity and political empowerment, the research suggests that women have lost jobs at a higher rate in the pandemic and have had to take over extra childcare burden, creating more hurdles for them to overcome in the fight for equality.



SYRIA

## UN raises 6.4 billion USD for humanitarian aid

In an event hosted by the EU, the UN raised 6.4 billion USD to help people living in Syria and to aid refugees to find a home in another country, falling short of their original goal by around 10 billion USD. With weakened economies due to the pandemic, the total sum for the year was lesser than what was earlier collected in 2019 and 2020.

INDIA

## WB forecasts India's GDP growth by 10%

In its report 'South Asia Vaccinates', the World Bank has estimated that private consumption and public investment will see the Indian economy growing by 10.1% in the financial year of 2021-22. Even after accounting for the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, it is stated that the growth will definitely fall in the range of 7.5% to 12.5%, which is a higher number than the Indian government's own estimate of 8%.





It's a trap!

Also known as the California pitcher plant, Cobra Lily uses its translucent window-like patches to confuse the trapped insects, preventing escape.

# Observe and evaluate

## A Glance At What All Scopes Industrial Psychology Has In Store For Aspirants

Pragti Singh

AIS VYC Lucknow, X A

With so many career options available, it often becomes difficult for an aspirant to choose the best one and moreover, to feel inclined towards it. To make it easy for the ones interested in the field of psychology, we have a lesser known career option 'Industrial Psychologist'. Read on to know what exactly this career option has in store for you.

### What is Industrial Psychology?

Industrial psychology, also known as industrial-organisational or I-O psychology, is concerned with the study of human behaviour in the workplace. An industrial psychologist studies and evaluates a company's culture, employee behaviour and work processes. Such a person then creates or recommends programmes and practices to improve employee productivity and organisational performance.

### What are the educational qualifications required for this?

It begins with a general bachelor's degree in psychology after



Imaging: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network

senior secondary level (10+2), where one gets to know a thorough background of psychology, both in theory and practice. After its completion, one has to further opt for a master's degree where the proper knowledge of industrial psychology as a subfield can be explored.

### What are the skills required?

**Emotional Intelligence:** It is the ability to identify one's own emotions, as well as those of oth-

ers, and respond to them appropriately. IO psychologists work with diverse groups of individuals in various settings, so they must always appeal to unique personality and learning styles.

**Critical Thinking:** IO psychologists are often called in when an organisation is broken in some way. Some of their primary tasks include designing and implementing new training regimens, helping employees achieve a healthy work-life balance, and

developing new systems for measuring achievement. All of these tasks require strong analytical skills, creativity and strong problem-solving skills.

**Data Analysis:** IO psychology is one of those fields which is focused on both people and data. The success of their work is measured by both individual well-being as well as improvements in entire organisations. Whether it is employee work-

place satisfaction, human capital retention, or effectiveness of training sessions, IO psychologists must be able to gather and analyse data on the outcome of each project they work on. They must also be able to communicate the organisations, the best way to put that data into practice. **Adaptability:** This is not the role for someone who prefers going to a nine to five job at the same place every day. On the other hand, it is the perfect role for someone who thrives on

changes in environment, excels at time management, and enjoys working with varied individuals.

### What are the different workplace options for this field?

The answer for the same lies in the very first word of the career itself, i.e., 'Industrial', which means they work in a wide range of workplace settings. For instance, manufacturing industry, health-care facilities, commercial enterprises, or labour unions. In fact, many of them work as consultants at universities. They even work as qualified trainers and coaches working with Human Resource department of a particular company as HR Practice Manager, Talent Management Specialist, HR Organisational Development Manager, Behaviour Analyst, etc.

### What are the growth aspects for someone in this field?

At the entry level, an IO psychologist (1-3 years of experience) can expect to earn an average salary of 7 lakh INR annually. At senior level (8+ years of experience), one can earn an average salary of 13 lakh INR or more on an annual basis. [G](#) [T](#)



# Chapter: Toppers

## It's Time To Bust Some Frivolous Myths

Chavi Gautam, AIS Mayur Vihar, IX C

What if the genie from Aladdin granted a high school student the proverbial three wishes? It is quite likely that one of those wishes would be to score a 100 per cent in all exams. Well, doesn't everyone want to be a topper? But have we ever asked ourselves why toppers are considered extraordinary beings? Do they have some exceptional powers? Well, don't be fooled, toppers are just smarter people. So, the attempt here is to bust some of the myths associated with toppers!

### Myth 1: They study more than they sleep

"If s/he has scored full marks in everything, s/he must have studied 48 hours a day and would have had no sleep!" Sound familiar? But it is certainly not true. Over-studying without any breaks has no real value; lack of sleep makes you incapable of understanding literally anything! However, an organised timetable, continuous breaks after every 15 minutes to relax, and being punctual with your study routine will surely help.

### Myth 2: Toppers have no social life

Again, the common notion that toppers study

every second has led us to believe that they must not have any social life. But even though high-performing kids do "disconnect" themselves from social life during exams, this does not mean they lack it. Everyone needs friends and family. In fact, real achievers always advocate a work-life balance. We read interview after interview after every competitive exam how the toppers always took time out to pursue their hobby even during the most grueling study schedule.

### Myth 3: Only toppers taste success

Most importantly, don't confuse academic excellence alone with success. One can excel at anything- co-curricular activities like sport, arts, dancing or even singing! Achieve excellence in the field that interests you, it will automatically lead to success. Many people imagine that class rank holders are the ones who can clear entrance or scholarships exams, but in truth, self-study and self-belief can get you wherever you want.

Bottomline- Never allow these myths to be the reason of your insecurity and despondency. Try to accept who you are and go with the flow. After all, success is owned to a topper, but not all toppers are successful. [G](#) [T](#)

# Be sure of your goals

The word 'Entrance exam' is self-sufficient to make one feel nervous because it brings along an array of questions popping in your mind. Well, how about you get to listen from someone who has experienced it already? To all the young aspirants, GT brings to you a special column 'Amity Alumnus', where star performers from AICE will share tips and tricks to put an end to all the nervousness and fear associated with entrance exams. Read on...

### How did your journey for IIT-JEE begin?

I was sure to enter into the field of architecture and therefore, I started my preparation for JEE. My aim was to score high in JEE Paper II, so that I could get admission into a good college.

### How did you prepare for IIT-JEE?

I focused on understanding the concepts and then proceeding to solve problems. Before the exam, I attempted as many mock papers as possible to adapt to the exam pattern.

### What role did AICE play to help you crack the competitive exams?

AICE was quite beneficial for my preparation, as it helped me balance my time between studying for JEE and Boards. Teachers were always approachable and available for clearing doubts. There was more time for self-study and other activities as I did not even have to travel daily for any extra tuitions.

### How did you manage regular studies and prep-ups for competitive exams?

If one can understand the basic concepts of every subject, one can be well prepared for both

JEE and Board examinations. Understanding the difference in their exam patterns and studying accordingly is also important to create a balance.

Understanding the concepts taught in school or coaching classes. Once you do that, solving problems then becomes easy.



**A**MITY LUMNUS

**Name:** Siddheya Amit Kothari  
**AICE Batch:** Year (2018-2020)  
**AICE Programme:** Synchro  
**Currently pursuing:** Bachelors in Architecture (B.Arch)  
**College/University:** School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

### Which field of engineering did you choose and why?

I have always been attracted to structural design. I also like to sketch and felt that architecture would be a good career choice for me.

### Are there some preparation strategies to crack IIT-JEE?

One should always focus on un-

According to you, when should an aspirant start preparing for competitive exams?

One should start preparing for these exams only after being certain about what to pursue.

### What are the key learnings that you would like to share with young aspirants?

Keeping a calm mind, both during preparation as well as in the exam hall, is quite important. Be organised and devote appropriate time to each topic. Try to revise important topics regularly and attempt mock papers to build your confidence. Also, find time for friends and family so that you don't get stressed out by long hours of study.

## Rapid fire

One word to describe...

**Your alma mater:** Great

**The motto of your life:** Enjoy

**Your passion:** Football

**Yourself:** Calm

Venus flytrap snaps shut its leaves if a bug touches its tiny hair twice.



It's a trap!

# Sparkling teeth, cleaner planet



Dhruvi spreads awareness about Easy Brush

## Pro@Project

Stuti Kalra, GT Network

### Innovation: Easy Brush

**Young Innovator:** Dhruvi Gupta, AIS Vas 6, IX

**Mentors:** Suniti Gupta, PGT Physics and Ekta Soni, Science Coordinator



The experimentation stage of Easy Brush

## How To Clean The Environment Using A Brush? Dhruvi Gupta Says It's Quite Easy!

**Y**es, you read the headline right. A toothbrush can not only clean our teeth but also our environment. No, it's neither a hallucination nor an exaggeration. Budding scientist, Dhruvi Gupta of Class IX, AIS Vasundhara 6, has reinvented how we are all going to look at and use the mundane toothbrush, with her innovation that remarkably reduces plastic pollution on our planet, making it cleaner and greener. The eco-friendly, economic, biodegradable toothbrush is aptly called 'Easy Brush'.

### The tale begins with travel

All it took was one delayed flight for Dhruvi to come up with this novel idea. Waiting all night at the airport meant wanting to brush her teeth first thing in the morning. To her dismay, Dhruvi realised her vanity box was in the check-in luggage and she had no spare toothbrush in her handbag. What followed was an uncomfortable flight, but it also gave Dhruvi the time and motivation to ponder on the health and hygiene aspect of this incident at the airport.

### Plastic, plastic everywhere

While thinking about toothbrush at the airport, Dhruvi also noticed the use of plastic in toothbrushes, which itself is a big menace for mankind. She remembered her participation in several environmental campaigns in school, 'Say no to plastic' being one of the them. Being familiar with the dangers of plastic, it didn't take her long to realise that we begin our day with a plastic toothbrush, without even realising how we are adding to environmental degradation in these small, subtle ways, and that just shunning plastic bags would not be enough to bring a change in the environment. Dhruvi began to jot down all her thoughts in a notebook. Soon, she got a chance to discuss about her innovative idea and the findings with her mentor teachers by participating in Vasudha, an annual inter Amity competition for innovation in science and technology.

### Armed with research

She discussed with her mentor teachers the findings of a survey she had conducted with travellers and working professionals:

- 60% of the people felt that brushing while travelling posed a problem.
- 20% people had to carry bulky toothpaste and brush.
- 52% buy toothbrush and paste in the range of 30-50 INR
- Most of them use a non-biodegradable toothbrush for 2-3 months.
- Other than toothpaste dispensers, customers preferred tongue cleaners, dental floss, mouthwash dispensers and hand wash dispensers.

### Healthy us, healthy nature

With survey in hand and extensive research, it was proved that 80% people had varied problems when it came to maintaining oral hygiene while travel-

ling. Supported by her mentors and teachers, Dhruvi began to give shape to her idea – to create a product that reduces the use of plastic and also ensures good oral health. Without wasting any time, she began her journey to create a path breaking innovation 'Easy Brush', for when the world feels something is impossible, an Amitian always believes, "A human mind is full of infinite possibility," that's exactly what she did.

### The layout of Easy Brush

It is a long thin stretch of paper, which can be interlocked around the finger. The thick central part is the part used for brushing purpose. Dhruvi created the formulation that has been applied on the central part through a combination of baking soda, salt, sugar, cinnamon, clove, peppermint oil and water. She used a paint brush to spread the mix on butter paper, and left it to dry. The dried

butter paper with toothpaste was then cut into the shape as shown. The small hole in the central part helps in adjusting the size. The tiny protrusions help in brushing properly.

### Evolution also played a role

The use of toothpaste formulations commenced in China and India, as early as 300 - 500 BC. During that period, squashed bone, pulverized egg and clam shells were utilized as abrasives as part of tooth cleaning. Modern toothpaste formulations were developed in the 19th century. In 1930s, there were advances in bristle and toothbrush body material and in the technology of embedding bristles in the toothbrush body. With the invention of electric toothbrush in 1954 and multiple utility thereafter, the functionality of the toothbrush is constantly evolving with features like travel readiness and integrated toothpaste dispenser. An insight into the evolution of tooth brushes and formulations helped Dhruvi to create a much easy-to-handle brush.

### How Easy Brush took shape

After the planning of the layout and before starting on the structural and mechanism design, different pre-design activities like mission statement, customer survey, function structure, quality function deployment (QFD) of the toothbrush were carried out. A number of ideas were discussed for designing the toothbrush. Finally, a de-

sign was arrived at wherein the structure consisted of a head, collar, slit, protrusion and a layer of paste. After deciding upon the mechanism, dimensions of the relevant parts were estimated by calculating how much amount of toothpaste would be needed at a time. By taking into account the size of a finger, the placement of slit was decided. Finally, the estimated cost of the product was calculated based upon the material and the process of manufacturing.

### Putting the design to test

The paste formulations were evaluated for colour, fragrance, pH level, abrasiveness, foaming ability, fineness and stability. All the results showed that the paper brush was equal, if not superior, in terms of innovation to other tooth brushes and paste combinations in the market, in fact, giving it an upper edge because of its biodegradable nature.

### USP

Easy Brush can be used by anyone, especially by soldiers, health workers and astronauts. It is available in different sizes and flavours. It is easy to use, highly affordable with good bristles and a firm grip. The design is now being applied for a patent.

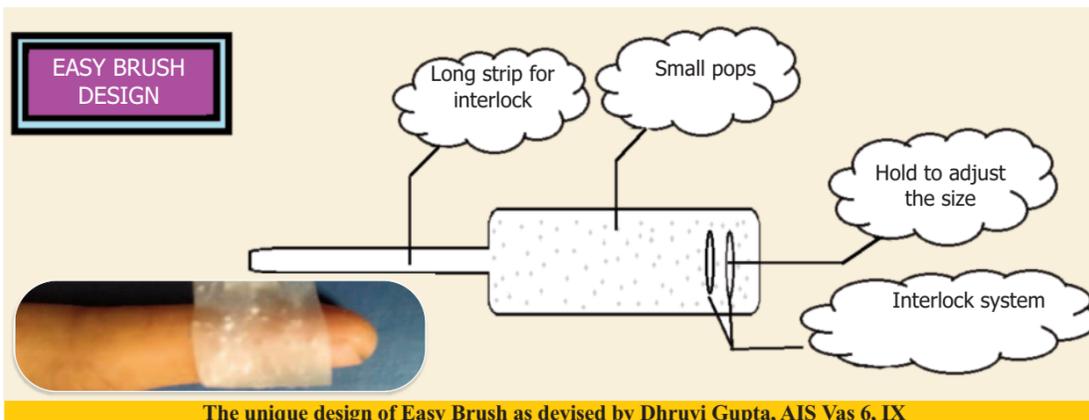
### The road ahead

To make Easy Brush accessible to the common man, Dhruvi plans to create a dispenser and then install it at public places like airports, railway stations, public toilets, hospitals and bus stops, etc. One would be able to avail different flavours of toothpaste-coated brushes from the dispensers, using cash, debit and credit cards or e-wallets. Another idea to increase awareness about the product is to develop a mobile application that can create awareness and act as a simulator for the brush. Since Easy Brush is a thin, sterile paper - like soap-paper - which can be used with few drops of water, it will change the way people will brush their teeth when on the go. 🇮🇳

## Awards and Recognition

- First prize in City Level Science Fair 2019
- First prize in INNO SKILL 2019 (By FCSI & DST)
- First prize in Raffale Challenge by Technovation IDEA lab
- National winner in CSIR Innovation Award for School Children
- Second prize in IISF 2020
- Second prize in ISTF 2020 (National)
- Third prize in Indian Science & Engineering Fair (Regional)
- Among top 200 in ATL Marathon 2019
- Among top 30 in India International Science Festival
- Participated in Technovation Idea Lab
- Northern India Science Fair Participation 2019

**National winner at Innovation Award 2020 for school children by CSIR. Dhruvi has been conferred with a certificate and a cash prize of 50,000 INR.**



The unique design of Easy Brush as devised by Dhruvi Gupta, AIS Vas 6, IX



Using their highly modified underground leaves, Genlisea or corkscrew plants lure and then trap tiny microfauna.

# And it's a

## The Favourite Football Of Argentina Narrates Its Story

**Vivaan Zaveri, AGS Gurugram, III B**

I am a football, which is why when others hate being kicked, I love it. Even though, as a football being played, I should be unbiased to all the teams in the world and all the people who play with me, but a little part of me knows that if I were

to pick one, my favourite team would be Argentina. I love the way they score goals from me because their team has so many amazing players. And the thrill of the final winning goal from them is always great. But even before I get to join them or anyone else on the field, I go through an entire process of being made in a factory.

I come in different materials - sometimes leather, or polyurethane or even rubber, and I am finally stitched to be completed. I wouldn't lie, the stitching part does sting a little bit, but it's okay because that's what makes me complete. They even sometimes

being a part of it, the most important part, you can say, as the game itself is named after me.

But being a football is not as easy as everyone makes it out to be, especially not when my favourite team is involved! I remember the toughest time of my career - it was when there was a match between Brazil and Argentina and due to some issues, I got late, so they had to play with another ball that didn't really fit right with them. I was so sad to see them playing with another ball, and not just playing but struggling with it. That match ended in a draw, and I felt worse than the players. From that day onwards, I told myself to never be late and to always keep my work as my priority!

Another really tiring match for me was when Australia and Argentina were playing against each other, and I was caught in the middle. Both the teams were so fierce and even the game turned hostile. One of the players from Australia ended up hurting Argentina's captain and making him fall, which really made me angry. For the rest of the game as well they tried their best to use tricks to fool Argentina's players and me so they could win the match, but you know I wouldn't allow cheating to happen in my game on my watch.

In the end, fairness always wins, which is why, as expected, the hard work of Argentina's players was rewarded and they won the match. I swear, I could have cried. They were also so happy that they squeezed me, hugged me, kissed me, and when the final trophy for the match was being awarded, they decided to take me along with them. And that is how I became Argentina's favourite football!

paint me in different colours and patterns, and I love that. Usually everyone sees me in black and white, so when I am painted in different colours, I love it. After I am done dressing up, I am sent to shops where Mr Shopkeeper sells me off and I finally land on the field where everyone worships me.

Everyone here cheers for me and it is so exciting! When the game starts, I will admit that I have to go through a lot of ups and downs. They kick me, squeeze me, and hurt me, but it is a part of my job so I don't really mind. Sometimes it is even muddy or rainy, and I have to bear extra hurdles. But even when this game turns messy, I love



# SCREENING VS STREAMING

## Are We Really Bringing Down The Curtains On Cinema Amidst The Rise Of OTT?

**Arhaan Gupta**  
AIS Noida, XII

When was the last time you sat on a reclining chair inside the dim-lit ambience of a theatre, holding a large tub of popcorn and munching it down while you delved in the movie that you had been long awaiting? We say, it seems like a long time ago, right? Oh, the good old times!

Many of us would pin the blame on the pandemic. But is it really the reason? Open up your smartphones and just swiftly go through the apps, we're sure you will encounter one of these names for sure-Netflix, Amazon Prime, Eros now, Hotstar and several other online streaming platforms. Perhaps, now it rings a bell, doesn't it?

Even before the pandemic had struck the world, online streaming platforms experienced a boom in their viewership count. The reason everything was served at the comfort of our homes, with an exclusive watching experience in the form of over-the-top platforms or OTTs as we so coolly term it. Replacing the big screens, the small screens, aka smartphones, captured the heart of each and every member of the family. It brought a peaceful solution to the endless fight for the TV remote with our siblings, and even saved the hour-long waiting period in queues to grab the tickets to the lat-

est movie.

One cannot deny the many reasons which make these platforms so much more popular amongst the youth of the world. Fresh content in every language, affordability, quality content, download facility, etc., are just to name a few. And of course, who needs to go out when you can just stream anything you want, in any corner of the world, just by a touch

of your fingers on your smartphones? Not to forget that OTT platforms cash in on two very consumer friendly terms- 'free trial' and 'ad free'. For who doesn't like an uninterrupted streaming experience? That's the reason more than 181 million people are currently glued to OTT platforms all over the world on a daily basis.

However, one can still bet on the 'sweep you away' unique ability,

the pull towards the sound that a big screen can only offer and not a 40-inch TV or a smartphone. In fact, you may enjoy watching alone, but when it comes to movie theatres, people around you have an effect. Group of people laughing together compels you to laugh as well or breath in together during a suspenseful moment. On a positive side, you get away from familiar social setting and enjoy with dozens of strangers.

In fact, theatres don't give you the option to pause or rewind, which makes it much more intense and it is out of your hands. Therefore, you can't control the excitement and catharsis as opposed to OTT.

But then, to each their own! Just a last question if you were given a choice of either watching movies on OTT platforms or in cinema halls for the rest of your life, what would be your choice?



Yellow Pitcher Plant or *Sarracenia flava* has modified leaves that form trumpets to trap insects.



It's a trap!

## Race to Space



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

I had promised in my last column that I would be sharing success stories of our young Amitians, focusing especially on victories achieved during the last year.

In what can be called a showcase of the youth's true potential, students of AIS Noida bagged the Winners' Trophy at the International Space Settlement Design Competition (ISSDC) 2020 for 'Argonom', a proposal for creating surface settlement on Mars. Supported by NASA, ISSDC is the world's premiere aerospace engineering competition for high school students. Held at three levels – National, Asian and International, the programme has witnessed Amity bag prestigious laurels year after year.

For the last 14 years, projects by Amitians have been rated 'The Best' in Asian region. This year, AIS Noida bagged the winners' title, having achieved the same feat in 2015. AIS Noida bagged the runners' up trophy in 2018 and 2019. While each of these feats is worthy of applause, the winners' trophy in 2020 deserves special mention, owing to the special circumstances under which it was achieved. The year gone by saw restrictions being imposed on physical mobility – a major hindrance for any group activity. However, our students continued to work as a cohesive team, even if it was online. In view of the pandemic, ISSDC was held virtually last year. It was not easy to compete in this unfamiliar manner, but this did not dampen Amitians' spirits. In fact, Amity schools were two out of the three schools from India who made it to the finals in 2020, namely AIS Noida and AIS Pushp Vihar. This win at ISSDC will remain cherished for a long time as it not just marks Amitians' space in the race to space, but also underlines the triumph of human spirit once again. 🇮🇳

## Magic of Mountains



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

It is said that there is no greater artist than God who speaks to us through nature. Indeed, it is the beauty of nature that reminds us of both the greatness and the goodness of the Almighty. When I think of nature, I inevitably recall mountains that have fascinated me since childhood. I am convinced that despite their sheer grandeur, they always impart a sense of calm and rejuvenation. A similar sentiment was expressed by Major General HPS Ahluwalia, the first Indian army officer to conquer the Mt Everest. After reaching the peak, he realised that more than a sense of victory, what he truly felt was a mystical enlightenment. He is also said to have bowed down to the peak as a consequence. As famous Hindi poet Sohanlal Dwivedi aptly says, "Khada Himalaya bata raha hai daro na aandhi pani mein/Khade raho apne path par sab kathinayi toofani mein/Digo na apne pran se toh sab kuch paa sakte ho pyare/Tum bhi unche ho sakte ho, choo sakte ho nabh ke tare."

Mountains teach us such allegories all the time in life as well. To vanquish pride, arrogance, anger, and fear is akin to climbing a steep mountain. At every step, they also give us a lesson in resilience, for it is seldom that a man can conquer a mountain without roughing it out! They inspire you to keep following your dreams during uncertain times. When I am surrounded by mountains and look fixedly at the beauty around them, all I can see is God! 🇮🇳

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Published for the period April 5-11, 2021

# Of an era gone by

## Here's Reminiscing The Golden Period Of Hindi Literature

Shyla Basu, XII C &  
Khushi Girdhar, XII G, AIS PV

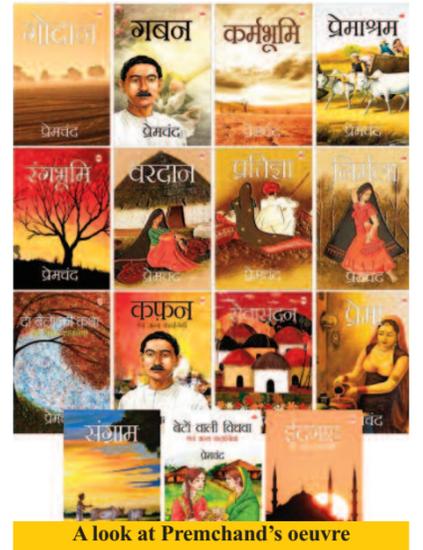
Noted as the Father of Modern Hindi Literature, Dhanpat Rai Srivastava, better known by his pseudonym Munshi Premchand, is the brightest star that once beamed the literary sky. As the most prolific Indian writer of the early 20th century, with numerous novels, hundreds of short stories and dramas to his name, all in Hindi and Urdu, he left behind a legacy so rich that it continues to live in our hearts still. Thus, to further acquaint the modern readers with this *Upanyas Samrat*, GT reporters indulged in a tete-a-tete with his granddaughter-in-law, Smita Rekha Rai, who divulged for us what life as Premchand entailed. Here are excerpts.

**Which is your favourite short story/novel by Premchand? And why?** Naming one would be difficult. Every story is poignant, from Eidgah to Poo ki Raat. These stories are timeless, and one can connect with them at a personal level. Still, I would like to make a special mention of Rangbhoomi, which was a fantasy novel that moved away from his usual realism.

**Do you agree with the statement that Premchand's writings are as relevant today as they were in his times?** Like I said before, they are still as rel-



GT reporters in conversation with Smita Rekha Rai



A look at Premchand's oeuvre

evant. He didn't blame anyone or point out flaws, just presented reality as it was. He saw society through unbiased eyes and wrote about issues plaguing our society, especially norms and taboos that create discrimination and bias. There is a story, for instance, where he questions the tradition of buying expensive coffins when that same money could be used in better humanitarian ways. The only thing that could have probably been different, were he writing today, would be the acknowledgement of the all-pervasive technology in our lives. But, most of the emotions, relationships and

struggles that he wrote about still continue to exist.

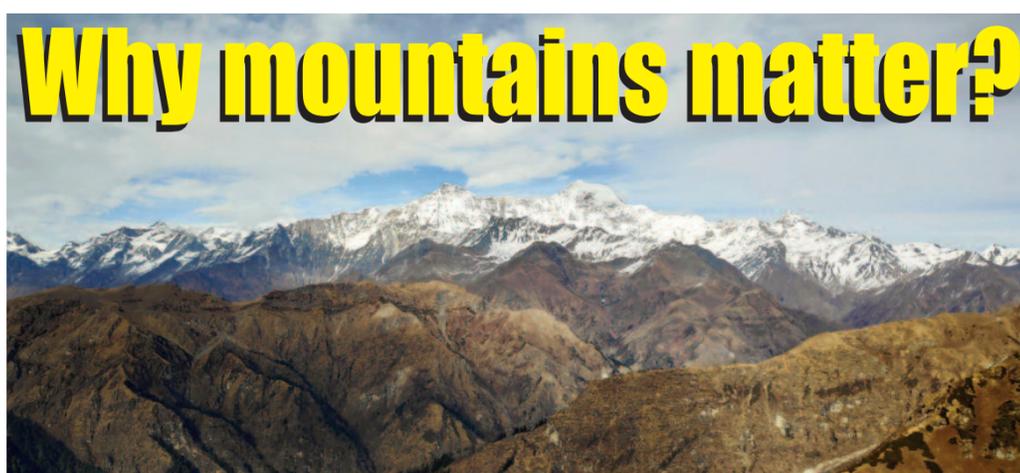
**You have an interest in writing and storytelling, tell us more about that.**

My father was an artist and used to write stories for children, and we learned Odia through his stories. I loved Bangla and taught myself to read it. So, mostly, I translate works from Bangla and Odia into Hindi. They are my inspiration, along with what's going on in our society. Also, I like to think that I'm writing for myself and no one else, which makes it easier, since I'm not constantly worried about

what anyone else might think.

**What advice would you give to the aspiring writers?**

Keep a diary and write whatever comes to your mind. It doesn't have to be a story. It could be anything - whatever happened that day, whatever made you feel good or bad. Who knows, when you skim through later, you might actually find something that is good enough for a story! Also, I would like the younger generation to have more imagination, since the power of imagination is currently dwindling in the face of reality. 🇮🇳



Continued from page 1...

**Restrainers of climate change**

**Why:** With their forest area covering around 900 million hectares of the Earth's surface, amounting to a whopping 20% of the world's total forest area, mountains not only improve air quality and provide fresh oxygen, but also help in eliminating around 9.5 gigatons of carbon dioxide every year. To add to that, natural weathering of mountainous rocks over time further absorbs about 1 gigaton of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. Besides, forested areas also play a major role in preventing soil erosion, and as a consequence, in lessening the impact of natural catastrophes such as avalanches, rockslides, landslides or even floods. Reflecting back solar radiation to the space is another such measure that mountains undertake to restrain climate variability; snow and glaciers return about 10-30% of these radiations, keeping the Earth's temperature in check.

**What's the hurry:** Humans emit 32 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> on average every year, especially by burning fossil fuels, and simultaneously raze to ground about 13 million hectares of

forest land, thereby incapacitating the resilience of mountains against climate change. Moreover, the average global temperature has already increased by 1-degree Celsius. And so, as per the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), if the net fossil fuel emissions are not halved in another 11 years or so, extreme weather conditions, biodiversity loss as well as food scarcity, and poverty would eclipse the fate of mankind a hundred percent.

**Proponents of mountain tourism**

**Why:** As an oasis of spiritual peace and calm in an increasingly urbanised world, mountainous regions attract around 15-20% of the global tourism; on average. About 50 million people across the globe visit mountains each year to relish the natural beauty and cultural diversity, and further indulge in several recreational activities such as hiking, snow-boarding, ice-skating, paragliding, etc. Going by the recent reports, tourism in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) alone contributes about 71.5 billion USD to the nation's overall GDP. To add to that, mountain tourism also creates economic opportunities and enhances the

living standards of the indigenous people, encouraging local culture and crafts simultaneously.

**What's the hurry:** Developing tourist infrastructure in mountains involves clearing down of forests, building of roads, tunnels, and other lodging facilities, etc., which not only blemish the visual landscape, but also severely upset the ecosystems and exacerbate disaster damages alongside. The litter left by the tourists further pollutes the rivers, streams, and slopes, affecting the lives and livelihoods of those who rely on these resources the most, ie, the mountain people. In this regard, Indian hill station Manali alone generates 30-40 tons of waste every day during peak tourist season. If only tourists showcase their responsible side, that tourism and natural beauty can flourish together.

To stimulate maintenance of mountains is thus paramount, and one can definitely start small in ways aplenty. For as they say, mountains know secrets that we need to learn; it might take time, it might be hard, but if we just hold on long enough, we will find the strength to rise up and how! 🇮🇳

GT M@il



Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'I'll do it tomorrow' on page 5 published in the GT edition dated March 29, 2021. The article skillfully examines the art of procrastination or rather the science behind procrastination, and gives us readers intricate instructions on how to rein in and combat this common habit. For all of us have fallen prey to this ever-victorious tendency to postpone things or ignore important tasks at one time or the other, but now we have some sure shot ways to overcome this hurdle once and for all. All thanks to GT! Not only has the issue been taken note of, but it has also been handled and resolved with all the understanding and precision that it commands. 🇮🇳

Gouri Srivastava  
AIS VKC Lko, X B



Cephalotus follicularis have large pitchers that secrete nectar to encourage flies to enter the trap.

# HISTORY *this* WEEK

Weeks, years, decades, centuries...as time goes by day by day, the world keeps progressing into a newer direction. But as our eyes always stay glued to the telescope, trying to get a glimpse of the shining future we work so hard to create, it is important to take a break and appreciate how far we have come. Let us look back at the pages of history falling between **April 5-11** that played their role in shaping our society.

## The world of inventions

APR  
6  
1938

American chemist, Roy J. Plunkett and his technician, Jack Rebok, accidentally discovered



the chemical compound polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), now known as Teflon. An essential coating used for non-stick pans and pots today, teflon was initially a result of an unexpected polymerisation experiment. While Plunkett was researching chemical reactions of the gas perfluoroethylene to synthesise new types of refrigerant gases, Rebok found a defective cylinder of this gas and no pressure was found when the valve was opened, even though the cylinder weight was the same as full cylinders. When they opened it, a slippery white powder with unusual properties was found. It was a chemically inert solid lubricant in powdered form with a very high melting point. The invention was patented on February 4, 1941.

## The world of celebration

APR  
5  
1919

Navigation history was created when the ship SS Loyalty, a ship



owned by Scindia Steam Navigation Company, sailed from Bombay to London, marking the beginning of the Indian shipping saga without any British assistance. The ship, originally called RMS Empress, was owned by Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia of Gwalior and served as a hospital ship during World War. After the war, the ship was sold to Walchand Hirachand, a businessman and railway contractor, who then set up the navigation company with other investors, hence kickstarting the Indian maritime empire. Every year, this day is celebrated as National Maritime Day, as unknown to many.

APR  
7  
1950

World Health Day took effect on this day, after its inception in 1948 at the First Health Assembly of the World Health Organisation.



World Health Organization

The commemoration of this day is mainly to emphasise mental health, maternal and child care, and climate change. Each year, WHO chooses a particular theme in the health segment to create awareness on a worldwide scale.

## The world of entertainment



APR  
5  
1985

About 8000 radio stations around the world simulcasted the song 'We Are The World', a benefit single

for the famine victims in Africa. Written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie, and produced by Quincy Jones, the single, recorded in January 1985, was sung by about 19 renowned artists including Bob Dylan, Michael Jackson, Lionel Richards, Bruce Springsteen and Billy Joel. The single also bagged the Grammy Awards for Song of the Year and Record of the Year.



APR  
8  
1781

The 'Violin Sonata No. 27' by the world-famous musician Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was premiered for the first time. Organised into three movements, it

was the last piece he composed for Archbishop Hieronymus Colloredo of Salzburg. Mozart completed the composition of piano and violin duet within a short deadline, ie, late night the day before the concert. And since he had to provide written composition for the leader of the Salzburg orchestra, Brunetti, he wrote down his part and kept the piano part in his head. On the day of premier, Mozart played the composition out of his head, making it one of the most beautiful and original pieces ever created by him.

## The world of sports

APR  
5  
1984



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar became the highest scoring player of the National Basketball Association, breaking Wilt Chamberlain's all-time career score record of 31,419 points with his 31,421 points. He acquired the winning points when he received a pass from Magic Johnson and he launched his signature shot, the skyhook and sealed his place in the books of history. After this, he played for another five seasons and finished with a total tally of 38,387, the most points by any NBA player in history.

APR  
9  
1965



The world's first ever multi-purpose domed sports stadium called AstroDome was opened. Situated in Houston, Texas, the stadium was primarily named the Harris County Domed Stadium and nicknamed 'The Eighth Wonder of the World'. It also became the first-ever major venue to install artificial turf, also known as, Astro-turf. It is further known to have sheltered refugees from New Orleans after the disastrous hurricane, Katrina. It is also known for holding notable matches of basketball, tennis, boxing, baseball, motorsports, and many concerts of famous singers such as Elvis Presley and Madonna.

## The world of politics



APR  
8  
1950

The Liaquat-Nehru Pact was signed between the neighbouring countries of India and Pakistan. Both the countries recognised the refugees affected by the

atrocities of the partition-led violence and crimes such as looting of land and property, abduction of women and forceful conversion. The treaty was signed by the Prime Ministers of both the countries in New Delhi. Minority commissions were set up in both countries soon after the pact was signed, and this led to one million refugees migrating from East Pakistan to West Bengal in India.



APR  
9  
1991

Georgia was declared independent of Soviet Union. After 70 years of constant demand, the Soviet Union

finally agreed to hold an independence referendum, asking voters if they supported the restoration of the independence of Georgia as per the Act of Declaration of Independence of Georgia of May 26, 1918. The referendum was approved with 99.5% of voters in support. Thus, Georgia declared itself as the fourth Soviet republic on this day.



APR  
10  
2009

The then President Josefa Iloilo announced on a national platform that he was abrogating the Constitution of Fiji. He dismissed all the judges and nullified all the constitutional appointees and declared himself as the head of state with all the power.

This was an outcome of the Court of Appeal ruled on April 9 that the ruling Frank Bainimarama's government is illegal and that President should appoint a new Prime Minister. Iloilo imposed emergency rule in the state, marking the beginning of a chain of events that changed the modern history of Fiji, now known as '2009 Fijian Constitutional Crisis'.

## The world of literature

APR  
10  
1925



The Great Gatsby was published on this day and remains a timeless classic to date. It's an American tragic novel written by F Scott Fitzgerald. The author depicted a perfect blend of romance, money-madness, and the attractions of leisure life. Even after a century since its release, it continues to appear on university and high school courses throughout the entire world and is regarded by many as a must-read for its insights into American history and culture in the early twentieth century.

Butterworts have gluey, glandular leaves to attract, snag and digest bugs.



It's a trap!

# The mysterious power

Storywala

The young lass, dressed in her red cape and the dog by her side set out on her journey.



Koyal Das

AIS Gurugram 43, X

Once upon a time, there lived a little girl in a village who always wore a red cloak. But that was not the reason why she was called 'Special Red Riding Hood'. Born sightless - even though she was bestowed with beautiful, green eyes - she was everyone's favourite child. When she was barely two, her parents gifted her a puppy to keep her company. As years passed and Special Red Riding Hood grew up, people noticed how the dog would protect her ferociously all the time. They believed the dog had some mysterious power that made it sensitive to dangers no one else could even notice.

One day, Special Red Riding Hood's mother said, "Your Granny is ill, take some cookies to her across the woods. Go straight to her house, do not dawdle on the way, and do not talk to strangers, because the woods are dangerous."

The young lass, dressed in her red cape and the dog by her side, set out on her journey. The familiar scent of pine, chirping of birds and the cold swish of the fall wind made the girl believe that nothing could go wrong in this magical place.

But she had not even covered half of the distance when suddenly she heard a shuffling sound. "What are you doing out here, little girl?" said an unfamiliar but rather scruffy voice. It was none other than the wolf of the

woods. The dog started barking so hard that Special Red Riding Hood knew there was danger ahead. She began to run and stopped only when she could no longer hear the wolf chasing her. A few moments later, she heard another voice that belonged to her Granny, "My darling, come to me. I was on my way to your home." "Granny, weren't you sick?" said Red Riding Hood. "Yes, I was. But not anymore. Come along, I will take you to your home," remarked her Granny. The girl held her Granny's hand and they began their journey back to Red Riding Hood's house. But what she failed to notice was that the dog kept barking the whole time. Suddenly, they stopped at a dark place. Then came the booming

voice of the wolf, "You have caused me a lot of trouble, now I shall devour you whole." Fear gripped the girl's heart, and before she could react, her dog had flung itself at the wolf. All she could hear now was growling and scratching and barking, so she ran once again, this time in the opposite direction of all the noise. The next thing Special Red Riding Hood remembered was waking up in her house where people were talking in hushed tones. She called out for her dog. "The dog's been lost ever since we found you." She knew now that the dog had been killed in trying to save her from the wolf. With tears rolling down her cheeks, Special Red Riding Hood understood that the only special power the dog had was the power of love! 🐶❤️

## WORDS VERSE

# Our India

Diya Jain, AIS Saket, IX

It's a paradise on earth  
A cornucopia of cultures  
A dwelling of utmost warmth  
With cuisines so scrumptious

The soil as priceless as gold  
Streams as white as pearl  
Long wheat stalks swaying  
When the winds unfurl

It epitomises true multiplicity

It's natural beauty unrivaled  
Diversity coupled with unity  
The light shall never be dulled

Snow-capped Himalayan hills  
Amazingly carved Ellora Caves  
Of mosques and churches  
It is an abode of every faith

An array of traditional dresses  
And mystic mythologies divine  
This is our majestic India  
And like this it shall remain 🇮🇳



# Soar high

Bhanvi Nayer

AIS PV, X E

Like an eagle, soar high  
Never be afraid to touch the sky

Be brave enough to dream  
However hard it may seem

Amidst the dark, never lose hope  
Because there is always scope

Work hard even if you succeed  
Optimistic attitude is the need

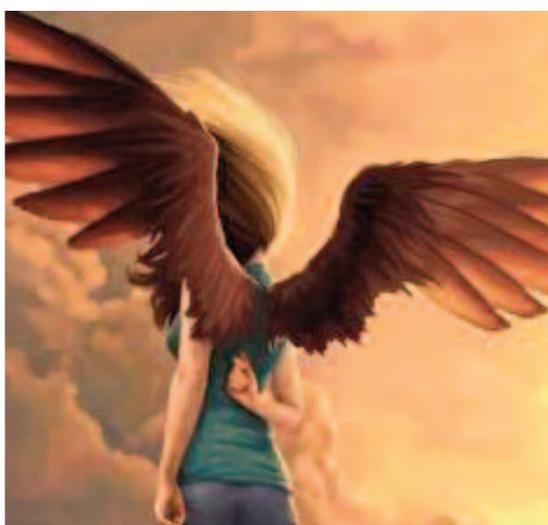
If you have a clear vision  
You'll achieve your ambition

Challenges are part of the journey  
The path will be harsh and stormy

Overcome them with your might  
For then you'll see a future bright

Be determined till the very end  
In the face of hardships, never bend

This is how you'll learn to fly  
And like an eagle, soar high! 🦅



Vidhita Bal

## Crunchy fritters

Vidhita Bal, AIS Gurugram 46, X

### Material required

Boiled potatoes.....	3
Cheese cubes (grated) .....	2
Cottage cheese.....	1 cup
Green chilli (chopped) .....	1
Cornflour .....	3 tbsp
Bread crumbs .....	3 tbsp
Coriander powder.....	1 tsp
Black pepper .....	1/4 tsp
Salt .....	to taste
Oil .....	for deep-frying

### Procedure

- Mash the boiled potatoes in a bowl and add grated cheese to it. Mix well.
- Add coriander powder, green chillies, salt and a little oil in the bowl. Stir the mix.
- Now, take cottage cheese in a plate and knead well.
- Once done, mix some black pepper in it.
- Add this peppered cheese in the potato mix and blend well.
- Divide the mix in equal portions and mould each into any shape of your choice.
- Now, take some water in a bowl and add cornflour to it. Stir well to make a paste.
- Dip the raw fritters in this paste one by one and then roll them in the bread crumbs. Refrigerate for 10 minutes.
- Deep fry the fritters in hot oil till they turn golden brown.
- Take them out with a strainer and drain the excess oil on an absorbent paper.
- Your crunchy fritters are ready. Serve them hot with ketchup and mayonnaise!

## Riddle me this!

Shaunak Naval Gangahar

AIS Saket, IX

1. What is always in front of us but we can't see it?
2. What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, and has a bed but

never sleeps?

3. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?
4. What breaks yet never falls, and what falls yet never breaks?
5. What goes through cities and fields but never moves?

Answers: 1. Future 2. River 3. Footsteps 4. Day and night 5. Road

## BRUSH 'n' EASEL

Tanisha Kapoor  
AIS VVC Lko, XII



It's a trap!



To stick and grasp its prey, King Sundew aka *Drosera regia* uses its sticky sword-like leaves that are about 2 feet long.

# The secret visit

## Short Story



Shambhavi Sharma  
AIS PV, VIII

“No, mummy no!” screamed naughty Laura, as she ran into the woods. The woods, adjacent to her home, had always been her favourite spot. Being a frequent visitor, Laura had all the routes of the woods memorised. As she took a stroll in the woods, she suddenly, noticed a large hole in a tree. “Weird,” she thought to herself as she had never noticed the hole before and decided to sneak a peek at it. As she peeped in, a strong force of pull made her fall into the tree. She moved and moved through many circular twists and turns. And when she stopped,

she found herself in the most wonderful place ever- chocolate ice cream walls; instead of fruits, the trees were full of ice cream balls. She couldn't resist and tried to grab one of the ice cream balls but didn't succeed. Moving on, Laura spotted several kinds of ice cream cones and sticks, “Amaazing!” she exclaimed. Suddenly, she heard a strange voice, “Don't let her go. She needs to go to the King, Commander Ice has ordered,” she heard. As her eyes came in focus, she saw some cones and a stick rushing toward her. It took her a few minutes to realise that these were ice creams, shouting their heads off. It was then that a thought struck her - “Where

am I?” She looked behind and there was a narrow tunnel from which she had entered this strange place. She had to do something... something... anything she could think of... but no... they had caught her. They took her to the huge palace, stoned with ice creams and then into the main courtroom of the palace, the King's chamber. The King furiously asked her, “How did you manage to enter this secret place?” Scared of the King's roaring voice, Laura narrated her story and even said, “I am sorry, I had no intentions to disturb you all.” After listening to Laura's narration, the King ordered his ministers, Commander Ice, Mr Cream and Minister Lolly to send Laura

She looked behind and there was a narrow tunnel from which she had entered this strange place.

to the royal ice journey which gives a complete tour of the entire city. Laura was wild with excitement inside but did not show it outside. She was surprised that instead of punishing her, the King offered to show her the city. She passed through Lolly Plaza, Yum Cream Iceport (an airport!), Cream n Ice mall, Histocream Lolly museum, and the Temple of Ice Creams. The main tourist spot was the Marshmallow Mountains which melted into the river Lollypik. Laura enjoyed herself as much as she could at Lollypik river and the icy sand beach. She visited all the tourist spots and tasted all the ice creams. She returned home safely with King's permission and the promise that she will never let any other human know about this special city. She realised that there was no such city or world better than the one she had discovered in the tree and it was best to keep it a secret. 📖

So, what did you learn today?  
A new word: Stroll  
Meaning: To walk in a leisurely way

## POEM

### Founder President

Arshia Vishnoi  
AIS Vasundhara 6, V

East or west, Founder President is the best  
We admire him more than the rest

He inspires us to grow up to be great  
And work hard for our good fate

Hope he touches heights never seen before

And becomes successful more and more

He has given us a tremendous institution  
For which, there is no other substitution

I want to thank him for everything he does  
Being great and always creating a buzz

Thank you for having a heart of gold  
Teaching us to always be super bold! 📖



## It's Me

### Know me

**My name:** Agastya Pahwa  
**My school:** AIS Pushp Vihar  
**My Class:** II  
**Born on:** October 3

### My Favourites

**Teachers:** Komal & Shefali ma'am  
**Subject:** Mathematics  
**Friend:** Dhruven Bansal  
**Game:** PS4 – Crash Team Racing  
**Cartoon:** Paw Patrol  
**Food:** Cheese garlic bread  
**Mall:** DLF Mall of India, Noida  
**Book:** The Little Red Riding Hood

### My dreams and goals

**Hobbies:** Drawing and painting  
**I like:** Playing lawn tennis  
**I dislike:** Giving up  
**My role model:** My father  
**I want to become:** An airforce pilot  
**I want to feature in GT because:** I like to read 'It's Me' column and it's my favourite section in the newspaper.



## PAINTING CORNER

Arohi Kansal  
AIS Noida, VII



Akshita Rathore

## All 'doll'ed up

Akshita Rathore, AIS Mayur Vihar, VI

### Material required

- Large pots-2
- Small pots-4
- Enamel paint
- Paint brushes
- Pencil
- Earbud
- Screwdriver
- Rope
- Wool
- Rubber bands

### Method

#### Paint the pots

- Take two large pots and four small pots, and paint them all white to create a base.
- Once the pots are dried completely, take one of the large pots and paint it in skin colour. This will be the face of the doll. You can pick the shade of the skin according to your preference.
- Next, with a pencil, draw eyes, eyebrows, nose and mouth of the doll.
- With the completion of rough sketch, use a thin paint brush and black paint to outline the facial features of the doll. To enhance the eyes and the eye brows, you can do detailing with some other colours as well.
- Take the second large pot and paint it pink for the dress of the doll. This will act as its body. You can do detailing on the dress with a different colour like white (Refer to the picture).
- Take the other four smaller pots and paint them in pink as well. Similarly, you can do detailing on these as well.

#### Preparing the arms

- Take one small pot and place it upside down. Next, cut a rope 2.5 feet long and run it through the drainage hole on the pot. Tie a large knot onto the end of rope inside the pot.
- Pick another small pot and repeat the same.
- Now, take the open end of the rope tied on one of the small pot, and run it through the drainage hole on an upside-down larger pot that is the face of the doll. You will now have a cord running up through the arm and down into the body pot drainage hole, peeking out at the bottom.
- Repeat the same on the other side with the second small pot.

#### Preparing the legs

- Take the remaining two small pots. These will be the legs of the doll.
- Take one small pot and place it upside down. Next, cut a rope 2.5 feet long and run it through the drainage hole on the pot. Tie a large knot onto the end of rope inside the pot.
- Pick another small pot and repeat the same.
- With an electric screwdriver and with the help of an adult, make two holes which are 10-15 cm apart from each other on the base of the large pink pot (body of the doll) and the front side. Make sure the holes are thick enough for a rope to pass.
- Now, take the open end of the rope tied on one of the small pots and run it through one of the holes made on the large pink pot. Tie a knot.
- Repeat the same on the other hole with the second small pot.

#### Attaching the head

- Once you are sure that everything is secure, keep the face of the doll on the large pink pot. (Refer to the picture)
- This will make the body of your doll whole.
- Take pieces of wool of brown or black colour and plait them to look like hair. Secure them at the end with a rubber band.
- Make two such plaits.
- Paste these plaits on either side of the face of the doll. Your pot doll is ready!

Big Floating Bladderworts live in water and use their cup-shaped leaves to trap tiny aquatic creatures.



It's a trap!

# A long way to go

But We Have Come So Far In This Journey!

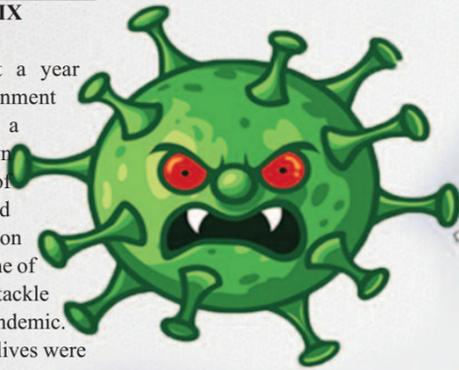


Medhansh Mittal  
AIS Noida, IX

It's been almost a year since the Government of India issued a national lockdown amidst the outbreak of Coronavirus. It had taken a massive toll on all of us, with each one of us worrying how to tackle this unanticipated pandemic. The fact that a lot of lives were claimed in a whole year, more than we ever expected, only added to our worries. The result - it negatively impacted our mental health. However, the pandemic also taught us a lot of life lessons at the same time.

## "The Earth is all we have in common"

The question about the pandemic was a godsend message for human beings and cannot not be answered holistically, but it seemed to favour the environment. Following the outbreak of the coronavirus, many countries had to adopt the lockdown in some or the other way that restricted the people's movement. In pre-COVID era, environmental degradation was on the line as we had our own material con-



cerns in mind, resulting in resource depletion. But the pandemic showed us the mirror and that we are heading on the path of destruction anyway.

## "Home is where the heart is"

With parents working from

home and kids not having to go to school, this was the best time to bond as a family. People all over the world got creative with at home DIY activities. These transformed into fun family activities, reinstating that a family that enjoys together, stays together indeed, be it a boring

chore to a fun ludo game! All in all, it proved to be a great way to relieve stress and boost mental and emotional health.

## "Health is truly wealth"

The time was all about prioritising one's health, and in turn, it

encouraged us all to be 'Aatmanirbhar' i.e., self-reliant. Hence, instead of heading to fancy restaurants, we all made our own homes a makeshift eat-out and relished home-made healthy foods. Moreover, sweeping, mopping, dusting and cleaning cobwebs not only resulted in

a clean home, but also a healthy work-out session. Since our homes became a temporary school, office, playground- basically everything, we could finally find time to explore our passions and work on our inner-self through indoor activities like yoga.

## "Awareness is the key"

All said and done, it's been a whole year and each one of us has been strong enough to come through. However, it's not over yet, the pandemic has not been curbed and it still is hovering over all of us. So, don't throw away your masks yet; don't forget your sanitisers and do not be a part of large public gatherings. A lot of us are under the impression that now that the vaccines have been rolled out, the virus has nothing against us. But remember, coronavirus is out there in all forms and shapes, and the vaccine is just a preliminary source of hope that we have currently. Therefore, there is no wiser way than to keep ourselves and the others duly informed about the ongoings of the pandemic and act accordingly.



## WORDS VERSE

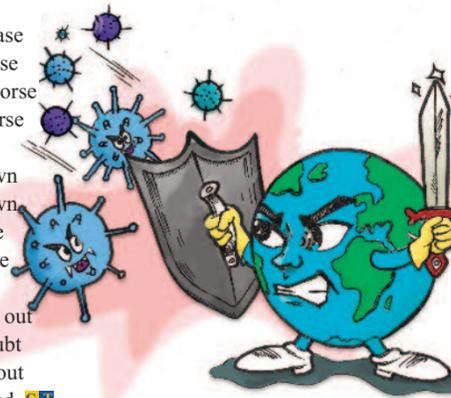
### The outbreak

Aastha Bhatia, AIS Gur 43, X D

COVID is now a widespread disease  
That jolted us when we were at ease  
No one thought it would be this worse  
That life would truly become a curse

For this virus has made many frown  
And has looted many of their crown  
Many couldn't even afford a nurse  
As they tried to manage their purse

So, I hope for the world to not die out  
But then it does leave us all in doubt  
Freaking us out and making us shout  
In pain, discomfort and stress aloud. 🇮🇳



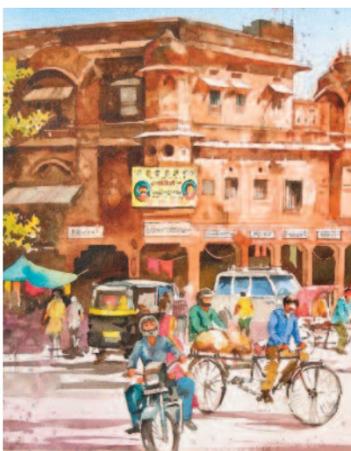
### Take me back

Anyaan Talwar, AIS Gur 46, V

Corona days have brought a lot of fears  
Shaking the lives of many far and near  
Take me back to the days of fun and play  
Hope corona gets over without any delay

I miss the hustle bustle of the streets  
Miss the eatery visits for yummy treats  
Miss the time when we had lots of guests  
And when we could truly indulge in feasts

I also remember my lovely school days  
And hope to meet my pals soon someday  
Thus, this is a wish straight from my heart  
That we get the old days back and restart. 🇮🇳



### The self-healing earth

Bhanvi Nayer  
AIS Pushp Vihar, X E

Look around, there's no pollution  
Looks like lockdown was the solution  
Factories and industries are shutdown  
Possible only because of lockdown

Pollutants in the air have decreased  
And all the noise has seemed to cease  
One can now hear the birds chirping

Filling the sweet air with their singing

As I stand alone in my balcony  
I can feel earth's steady recovery  
The earth looks so green, so clean  
The most beautiful sight to be seen

It feels like I'm in a surreal dream  
Living on an earth so pristine  
So, let's pledge to live in harmony  
Today, tomorrow and for eternity. 🇮🇳

### Artistic Expression



Arshia Vishnoi, AIS Vasundhara 6, V



**Nepenthes aristolochioides** snares flies using its hunchbacked pitchers that are greenish-yellow in colour with burgundy speckles all over.

# KVPY 2020

## Young Scientists Fetch The Big Fellowship



Anikesh Parashar, AIR 24

AICE

Amity students came out with flying colours at the Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) 2020 fellowship aptitude examination held on January 31, 2021. Anikesh Parashar of AIS Mayur Vihar secured all-India rank 24 in stream- SX (Class XII students). Out of 34 students from various branches of Amity Group of Schools who appeared for the examination, 15 secured all-India ranks in the range of top 1-500 in both stream SX (Class XII students) and stream SA (Class XI students). These rank holders will receive a monthly fellowship of 5000 INR per month along with an annual contingency grant of 20,000 INR once they begin to pursue undergraduate in basic science courses. On further pursuing post-graduation in basic sciences, the amount will increase to 7000 INR per month with annual grant of 28,000 INR. Owing to the ongoing pandemic situation, there was no interview round for the year 2020 and the aptitude exam, too, was conducted online, with the final result being declared on March 16, 2021. The exam for this presti-

### Winners Stream - SX (Class XII)

S. No.	Name	School	AIR
1	Anikesh Parashar	AIS MV	24
2	Achintya Gupta	AIS Gur 46	127
3	Tejas Anand	AIS MV	149
4	Aryan Sharma	AIS MV	206
5	Shivika Dudani	AIS PV	241
6	Abhinava Anwasha Mohanty	AIS Noida	241
7	Ark Verma	AIS PV	255
8	Ayush Gupta	AIS MV	273
9	Ameya Mishra	AIS Gur 43	311
10	Vidunram A R	AIS Gur 43	502
11	Aditya Chugh	AIS PV	1005
12	Naman Pranav Parikh	AIS Vas 1	1005
13	Viviana Longjam	AIS PV	1038
14	Aryan Gupta	AIS Noida	1096
15	Akshat Gupta	AIS PV	1173
16	Devansh Singh	AIS Vas 1	1173
17	Himanshu Sharma	AIS Saket	1227
18	Harshita Gupta	AIS Noida	1340
19	Lalit Chandra Routhu	AIS Gur 46	1476
20	Durgesh Nandini	AIS Gur 43	1498
21	Shaurya Agarwal	AIS MV	1498
22	Priyal Jain	AIS MV	1552

### Winners Stream - SA (Class XI)

1	Manan Rastogi	AIS Noida	108
2	Arnav Gupta	AIS Noida	182
3	Aarth Bhardwaj	AIS Gur 46	217
4	Aditya Aggarwal	AIS Saket	335
5	Sparsh Jain	AIS Noida	335
6	Shobhit Raj	AIS Noida	401
7	Siddhanth Singh	AIS MV	618
8	Arnav Tandon	AIS Noida	629
9	Rohan Bagati	AIS MV	781
10	Vyakhya Gupta	AIS Gur 46	802
11	Pratistha Saxena	AIS Gur 43	851
12	Naman Gupta	AIS Vas 1	851

gious annual fellowship was coordinated by Amity Institute of Competitive Examinations (AICE). The winners tally along with their ranks has been mentioned in the table above.

#### About KVPY

Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) is a national level fellowship programme in basic sciences, initiated and funded by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and administered by Indian

Institute of Science. The programme has been conceptualised to encourage exceptionally bright and highly motivated young students with scientific temperament for pursuing basic science courses and research careers in science. The fellowship also aims to identify students with talent and aptitude for research and motivate them. It also seeks to ensure holistic growth of the best scientific minds for research and development in the country. [GFI](#)



Game 'Code Imbibe' instills good values along with the fundamentals of programming

# Innovative toys

## Toycathon 2021, All About Reimagination

AIS Vasundhara 6

Four projects by the young wizards of science and a team of teachers from the school were selected to be showcased at the grand finale of the first ever Toycathon 2021 held from February 27, 2021 to March 2, 2021. The first of its kind event, conceptualised to encourage innovation in indigenous toys and games of India was held under two categories, namely physical and digital. While students made it to the finals amidst 17760 concepts presented at Toycathon, a team of teachers from the school also reached the finals under teachers category. The opportunity to participate in the event held under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan initiated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi was provided by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, with a vision to nurture the innovators of 21st century who can build a happy future on the foundation of their own roots. The projects showcased at the grand finale were:

**Code Imbibe:** Displayed under the 'physical category', the project by Manan Gupta, Nibir Das, Aditya Bichkar from Class VIII, and Khushi Soni from Class XI, was a unique coding board game for the young minds of 5-8 years to understand fundamentals of computer programming and good human values together. By manipulating the colour cards with coding, the players could learn to differentiate good virtues like empathy, patience, hard work, etc., from the bad ones such as anger, arrogance, laziness, etc.

**Proud Indians:** Presented under 'digital category' the game was created by Aarul Agarwal, Aarush Khandelwal and Atharva Gupta from Class VIII. It was a digital game where players could kill the demons and learn more about the

Sudarshan Chakra and Indian mythology.

**Survive and Thrive - The Tribe:** This digital board game too, was presented under the 'digital category' and was designed to create awareness about Indian tribes and their traditions. Advait Sood, Arein Jain, Garvit Verma, Sarthak Sidhant, Ekoshi Paul and Krishan Sharma from Class IX created the game.

**Speaking Buddies:** Created by teachers, Deepali Chauhan (PRT), Suniti Gupta (PGT physics), and Sonia Kalra (TGT science), this one was a smart phonics reading kit designed for visually impaired children. Fitted with an audio assistance and tactile sensors, the board could help the visually impaired children to easily identify phonics sounds in their formative years. It was displayed under 'teachers category'.

All in all, the competition was a unique opportunity for the students, teachers and toy-experts to showcase their innovative skills by re-designing traditional Indian toys. Also, promoting physical and mental fitness, respect for cultural diversity, and facilitating specially-abled children.

#### About Toycathon

Toycathon 2021 was conceived to challenge young innovative minds of India to conceptualise novel toys and games based on Indian civilisation, history, culture, mythology and ethos. Held for the students of Class VIII-XII, the event required them to ideate and write the problem statements and innovation involved in toys designed by them. An inter-ministerial initiative, it was organised by the Ministry of Education - Innovation Cell with support from All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Textile and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.



A glimpse of Proud Indians



Time to know the Indian tribes



Speaking Buddies



Robotics champion Akshat Sharma with his CORONBOT

# Coding the victory

## Winner At ICCIKE 2021

AIS Noida

Young robotics champion Akshat Sharma of Class XII won first prize at an international inter school competition of Computational Intelligence held as a part of 2nd International Conference on Computational Intelligence and Knowledge Economy (ICCIKE 2021), organised by Amity University, Dubai, from March 17-18, 2021. He won the award for his innovative Robot 'CORONBOT: The Corona Warrior', designed to read the health conditions of an individual and give a complete report based on an AI model supported by Alexa. It can be used to predict whether a person is susceptible to catch COVID-19 infection or not. He has been conferred with 500 AED as prize money along with

an e-certificate. A total of three teams from the school participated in the virtual conference. Akshat Sharma participated in the individual category. The conference was held to encourage scientific and innovative thinking of students from Class X-XII in the field of Computational Intelligence. Participating teams had to create a 3-minute video to showcase their works based on IOT, Robotics and Mechatronics, Information and Knowledge Societies, Artificial Intelligence for 2021 and beyond. The aim of the conference was to provide a platform to the researchers across the globe to share their knowledge in the field of Computational Intelligence. All the participants will also receive e-certificates soon. [GFI](#)



(L-R) Harshal, Kabir and Shaurya Chauhan

# Olympiad champions

## Young Achievers Of Amity

AIS Vasundhara 1

Students from Class III shone bright at the Unified International Math olympiad, while Kabir Chhabra and Harshal Sinha secured all-India rank 86 and 56 respectively in English olympiad. They were presented with Britannica Kids online subscription worth 2500 INR, a certificate of appreciation and a medal. [GFI](#)

10, 2021. Shaurya Chauhan secured all-India rank 62 in Math olympiad, while Kabir Chhabra and Harshal Sinha secured all-India rank 86 and 56 respectively in English olympiad. They were presented with Britannica Kids online subscription worth 2500 INR, a certificate of appreciation and a medal. [GFI](#)



## Are You Out Of Pranks? Borrow Some Ideas From These Next Level Pranksters

Arsh Gupta, AIS Gurugram 43, X

The first day of April brings with itself loads of enjoyment. People are filled with gusto and zeal to play tricks and pull each other's legs. Even each one of you reading this article must have tried to pull practical jokes at least once in your life, and if you want to pull them again this year and are running out of ideas, here are some old but gold samples for you to take inspiration from!

### Spaghetti trees?

On the 1st of April 1957, broadcasting company BBC rolled out a 3-minute documentary on spaghetti, claiming that spaghetti grew on trees called 'spaghetti trees'! People were so hoaxed by this that hundreds of them even called the channel placing orders for personal spaghetti trees. Seriously, BBC?

### Hoaxed by a newspaper!

In 1878, the New York Graphic announced that the famous inventor, Thomas Alva Edison, had designed a machine capable of producing food-cereal mix from soil and wine from plain water! The audience, fooled by the news, really looked forward to the machine in anticipation without knowing that they have been punked!

### Hello, it's me!

This is surely one of the most hilarious leg-pulls in this list. In order to play a prank on the British singer Adele, some of her friends hosted a contest for Adele impersonators. Adele herself showed up at the contest (with a false nose so she would not be recognised) and fooled everyone. Proves that you really can't prank the prankster!

### Pinanas for sale!

A supermarket chain in Britain called Waitrose once rolled out ads announcing the availability of a unique fruit called Pinanas which were a

# APRIL FOOLS' DAY



Imaging: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network

combination of bananas and pineapples. And so, as soon as the news reached the masses, hundreds flocked to the supermarket, only to find a

50% discount on strawberries and no Pinanas as claimed in the ads. Marvelous marketing skills, we say!

### Funbelievable deals!

Online retailer, eBay, is known for taking the spotlight every year around the 1st of April. The hilarious pranks and deals, that one can easily find on its web page, will definitely make everyone's rib tickle. One such year, in a similar endeavour, eBay launched a new segment called 'Unbelievable Deals' which included Flying Carpets, Electoral Votes, One's Face on Mt Rushmore, and much more.

### 007 shock!

This one is sure to give all the James Bond fans a mighty shock. In 2018, a poster was released consisting the photo of Hollywood star Tom Hardy, alongside Daniel Craig. The poster announced that Daniel Craig had quit, and that Hardy would now play the role of James Bond. It left all the fans confused and shocked and it was only after an uproar was seen that they revealed it as a prank. Oh, thank God!

### Active volcanoes!

Once a man, so determined and devoted to the April's Fools, threw thousands of tires into a dormant volcano in Alaska and set them on fire, fooling the local populace into thinking the volcano was active. Needless to say, it did cause quite the stir, and at the end, people were glad they weren't actually dealing with an active volcano.

### A fake wedding!

Hollywood actor, George Clooney is reputed to be the industry's most famous prankster. One of his most hysterical jokes till now is definitely the time when he gave his fans a fake location and time, telling them that he was finally getting married. It was only after people had reached the location and were waiting that they realised that it was all a hoax.

So, what prank are you pulling on your friends this time?

# Resonance of the sayings

## Agree Or Don't, Words And Ideas Have The Potential To Change The World

Mahi Modgil  
AIS Gurugram 46, X A

Ever felt encouraged by an endearing watermelon telling you that 'you're one in a melon'? You know you have! We often find ourselves turning towards such inspirational quotes or sayings to motivate ourselves when the going gets tough, don't we? For inspiration can come to us in any way, shape, or form, and undeniably, words play a huge part in giving us that little push we need to stay driven. These harmless little parades of words can have a very powerful effect on us, and if looked at carefully, their appeal predominantly boils down to a combination of three things—good wordsmithing, motivational psychology, and a measure of self-selection. As a good wordsmith combines the best of motivational words from his extensive word stock and bequeaths each with a life of its own, there's no power in the world that can resist this force, except for the idea of self-selection. Well, self-selection process is something that narrows down the

population of people who are drawn to motivational sayings. Basically, it segregates people in two separate sections, one consisting of people who truly want to feel motivated, and the other filled with those who care, but maybe not enough to work hard. Because obviously, people who tend to feel inspired by motivational quotes are going to find them more resonant than those who don't find or do not actually want to see the phrases or sayings to be particularly meaningful. But beyond that, the implicit message that someone believes in you is, according to us, incentive enough to feel encouraged or to try harder to achieve what you want. And most people do have an appetite for such well-expressed wisdom, motivational or otherwise. For no matter how much one detests the concept of seeking validation, your inner need to please gets the best of you eventually. Apart from that, human beings are also highly aspirational. We look up to such motivational sayings or for that matter influential people in our lives and pay heed to what they say. These quotes affect

us on a primal level. For words from those powerful have a certain gravitas; these people are perceived as accomplished and wise to have reached great positions in life. Their perceptions thus make the message much more striking. But of course, we shouldn't follow every single thing "influential" people say. One should be vigilant enough to know whom NOT to follow, and truth be told, we all have a few common names on that list, don't we? \*wink\* Regardless, the power of words can never be overlooked. Words can destroy or create, kill or heal. And further fused with rhythms and aphorisms, their power doubles and their effectiveness enhances a great deal. Now, Elsa's "Conceal, don't feel" (Frozen) hits everyone right in the feels, doesn't it? And that is how a single quote, a group of words becomes so powerful that it inspires you to change your thought process and yourself for the better. Thus, buying an aesthetic quote board or making one yourself might not be so useless after all.

