

**INSIDE**



Building data, P3



History this week, P7

**AMITepoll**

**Do you think thawing of permafrost and glacial ice, as is currently happening in Siberia, can worsen climate change and cause several other unforeseen problems for humanity?**

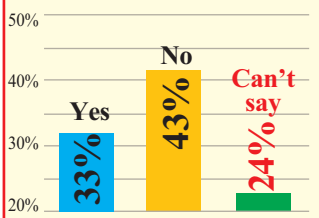
a) Yes b) No c) Can't say

To vote, log on to [www.theglobaltimes.in](http://www.theglobaltimes.in)

**POLL RESULT**

for GT issue August 9, 2021

**Do you think UN General Assembly's decision to establish a Permanent Forum of People of African Descent to address challenges of racial discrimination and xenophobia a right move?**



Results as on August 15, 2021

**Coming Next**

AIS Noida Contest Edition

# The golden way ahead

Project Pragati - Bringing India To Stand With The Rest Of The World

Saamya Arora, X B & Nitya Jain, VIII A  
AIS Saket

On the night of August 15, 1947, India made a tryst with destiny. It has seen 74 glorious years since then, and the arduous voyage of development attests to our distinctive experience of encountering both peaks and valleys. Even though we still have a long way to go, the journey ahead seems to be an upward one, courtesy - the numerous projects undertaken. These initiatives serve as vistas for development and are sure to steer the nation forward on the path of progress. As another Independence Day rolled by, we decided to take a closer look at some of these projects that are our ticket to a brighter future.

■ **Countdown to I-Day:** As India commences its 75th year of independence this year, the Ministry of Defence launched [www.indianidc2021.mod.gov.in](http://www.indianidc2021.mod.gov.in) to not only cover the live Independence Day event, but offer a lot more. It has new-age features like 360-degree VR view, digital symposiums, interactions with different schools, declamation competition, band performances, etc. A

packed itinerary for every day commencing August 1 onwards. This proves that India's technology is ready to connect us all in the times of this pandemic.

■ **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav:** Launched on March 12, 2021, to mark 91 years of Dandi March, the campaign paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi and other freedom fighters. A *padayatra* of 241 miles was carried out from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi and was completed in 25 days. For the same, various activities like mentoring YUVA scheme, open forum, film and tagline competition, quiz, logo design, and creative writing competition were organised online, proving that the way forward is by keeping our history in our hearts!

■ **e-RUPI:** The first step towards launching digital currency in India, e-RUPI is an e-voucher which will be person and purpose specific and can be delivered in a QR code or SMS through which funds will be transferred. Developed by NPCI with the support of

Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the NHA, this will bridge the digital gap amongst the unbanked population. This digital currency will prove to the world that the nation isn't so far behind in cryptocurrency and its likes!

■ **PM-DAKSH:** Shortened for Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi, the mobile app PM-DAKSH aims to make skill development schemes accessible to the people. Created by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with NeGD, the training programmes in the app will be implemented through government training institutes, sector skills councils, etc. Joining the target audience with the necessary skill set, the proof resides in our mobile phones that India's youth is no less than anyone else!

■ **Startup India Seed Fund:** Envisaging a robust startup ecosystem to nurture innovation, it is an action plan with 19 points for the Startup India initiative. It is a roadmap to create a conducive environment for startups, SISFS. With an outlay of 945 crore INR, the initiative aims to provide financial assistance to early-stage startups and is estimated to support 3600 entrepreneurs through 300 incubators in the next 4 years, proving that India is the land of dreams!

Thus, if there's one thing that Independence Day stands as a reminder of, it's that India will always rise above all odds as a victorious country, with many hands to kindle its auspicious fire of progress, whether on August 15 or on any other date.



# Reconnect with nature...

...Says Naturalist Richa Ranjan, Since Nature Is The Best Teacher



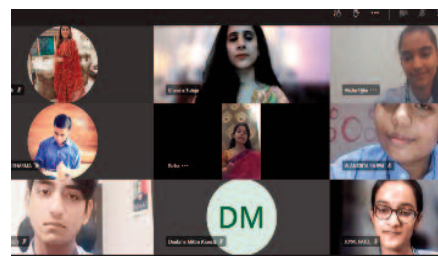
Richa Ranjan, Naturalist

Vaidehi Agarwal, XII A & Amulya Chaudhary, IX A, AIS Vas 1

Richa Ranjan, an alumna of IIT Roorkee, and former vice president, Morgan Stanley, is now a naturalist. Even after working in the corporate sector for 11 years, Richa found her inclination towards nature and the simple ways in which every person can live on the planet without causing any harm to the environment. Presiding over YP 2019-20 grand finale as a jury member, she shares her experience of becoming a naturalist and the benefits of the same with young minds. Read on as we bring you excerpts from the exclusive interaction.

**The motivation**

My parents introduced me to the bounty of nature from a very early age. I belong to Bihar and was used to visiting remote villages and observing their way of life. I used to contrast it with the way we live in the cities where even a minor headache and stomach upset has us rushing to the doctor. Then, when I became a mother, I used to get perturbed that there was no useful and reliable information about parenting, even though we are over-exposed to information via the inter-



Richa Ranjan at the YP grand finale

net. I realised we had several problems but no real solutions. My aim then became to understand and make use of natural solutions that are far simpler, inexpensive and sometimes even free of cost. So, that is how my journey started and is still continuing.

**The challenges**

Not so long ago, we were living very close to nature; we were almost in unison with nature. We knew what water signified, where it came from; we knew our crop cycles, we knew what to eat and so on. In the last few decades, however, we have accelerated our separation from nature. When I started to explore the natural way of living, I realised that there is a huge discord between how we are doing things today and how nature works. The biggest challenge then is that it has become almost impossible to reconnect with nature. But just know that reviving this knowledge can prove to be a huge opportunity for our race.

**The experience**

Using neem sticks, rock salt, and even turmeric to brush your teeth was part of our ancient culture. But we have totally given these things up now. Many people have told me that they had teeth and gum problems but when they started using these natural products, they felt a lot of difference. Recently, I have started conducting sessions called 'Kisaan Samvaad'. In one such session, I met an aged person who was facing a lot of health issues like diabetes and hypertension. Despite visiting many doctors, he wasn't getting better. I advised him to change his daily routine and food habits for a month. And so most of his problems vanished, proving that it doesn't take much to lead a healthy life. We really don't need to spend much as simple solutions are all around us.

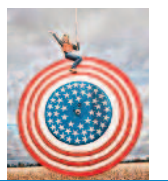
**The understanding**

The problem is that when we think of nature, we think of it as something external to us. The fact is that the 'Panchbutas' or the five elements - earth, water, fire, air and space - that make up the nature also make us. If we can arrive at this understanding and stop demolishing nature in the name of development, there is nothing stopping the future generations from living a better life.

Continued on page 6...



Beth John from USA built the world's largest yo-yo, which measures 11 feet 10.75 inches and weighs over 2095 kg.



World records

Yashika Aneja, GT Network

In a bid to decelerate children's burgeoning addiction to online gaming and judiciously stamp out the resultant psychological issues, Delhi HC has recently directed the Centre to hatch a national policy and also form a supervisory body that could monitor the content of online games. The directive is in response to a petition for the protection of children filed by the Distress Management Collective NGO that has been receiving such grievances from the parents quite frequently, especially now with the pandemic-induced restrictions in place. The said petition duly emphasises the need for schools to give precedence to counselling sessions that could elaborate more on the dire effects of excessive online exposure. It also highlights Cyber cell's role in remedying this addiction and eliminating the pecuniary exploitation that accompanies it. Though only time will tell whether the move proves to be the best course of action, here's what parents of Amitians have to say about the issue and the resolution thus proposed.

"The pandemic has been especially gruelling for the cohorts of Gen Z and Gen Alpha. But it still perturbs me to see that they have turned to virtual gaming arenas for the exhilaration that they earlier derived from socialising, pursuing a hobby or playing in an open field. It's time, thus, to take cognisance of the growing negative impact of online gaming. Government, parents and schools must collectively work towards preventing online games from taking precedence over daily activities. As for me, I have introduced the concept of 'tech confiscation hour'. And I think, for a more durable impact, the formation of a regulatory body would prove

# Is gaming safe?

## Don't Let Online Games Get The Best Of You!

highly fruitful."

**Vandana Sharma, parent of Madhav Sharma, AIS Saket, XI A**

"The level of online gaming addiction has become shockingly high today. As the classes are taking place online, children find it easy to befool their parents and play online games. Such measures are likely to prevent youngsters from becoming a target of online harassment. And, would furthermore be crucial in ensuring that they don't develop criminal and suicidal inclinations as is being reported worldwide. Schools can play an integral role in the implementation

of such policies and in ensuring that the students are not caught in the dark web of gaming infatuation. I highly appreciate the crucial step taken by our judiciary and sincerely hope some full proof guidelines for the same will be implemented soon."

**Neetu Jain, parent of Ayushi Jain, AIS Gurugram 43, X A**



"Long gone are the days of harmless games like car racing and Super Mario; today, these have been replaced by the likes of PUBG, Fortnite, and Call of Duty. These games endorse violent content that should have a certain age restriction. And also, promote expenses to buy items which make children accustomed to in-game purchases using their parents' hard-earned money. The kind of behaviour that these normalise might influence the vulnerable minds of teens and adolescents, giving rise to school violence, bullying and abusive language. For instance, we can take the example of

USA where school shootings have become prevalent. Thus, the Cyber cell must take strict actions to control the kind of gaming content being released for children; the game developers, too, must be held accountable for the creation of inappropriate content."

**Sangeeta Malik, parent of Manya Malik, AIS PV, VIII C**

"Online games and social media have become the order of the day. And it is hapless to see young children glued to their phones, instead of doing something productive. I am quite fretful about the situation and therefore, highly agree with the HC's decision. For it is pertinent to keep a check on online gaming to prevent the younger generation from a plethora of issues, both psychological and social. I also request school authorities to provide counselling to students regarding this matter, so that our juveniles are not diverted from the right path."

**Geetika Narula, parent of Aanya Narula, AIS Vas 1, X A**

"Although online games provide a fun escape from the harsh realities of the current times, they do have a tendency to turn devilish if not consumed with necessary precautions. Winning surely makes one feel great, but there are a few games that turn winning into greed. This greed can be dangerous and lead one to indulge in actions that they would regret later on. Furthermore, there is an abundance of cash earning games, too, that teach kids ways to make easy money with no hard work involved; some are even making them vulnerable to online scamming, therefore, the monitoring policy is the need of the hour."

**Payal Asthana, parent of Sneha Asthana, AIS VKC Lko, VII B**



# Around The WORLD

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



**USA**

**Longest game of basketball played in history**

Two dozen basketball players from Nardin Academy in New York created the Guinness record of World's Longest Game of Basketball. The game went on for five days and two minutes, and beat the previous record by 53 seconds. The event was overseen by Michael Empric, Guinness World Records adjudicator, and the game aimed to raise money for mental health awareness and resources.

**ITALY**

**World meeting for peace in Rome**

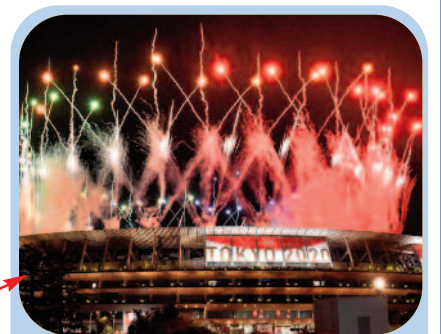
Sant'Egidio, a Catholic association dedicated to social service will conduct a World Meeting for Peace 'People as Brothers, Future Earth' on October 6-7, 2021, and for the same, invites have been sent to the most influential leaders in the world. The guest list includes Pope Francis, Great Imam of Egypt, German chancellor Angela Merkel and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, to name a few.



**AFGHANISTAN**

**Taliban claims capture of nine provinces**

Taliban, the military terrorist organisation in Afghanistan, has captured at least nine provincial capitals in less than one week. The action comes as a result of foreign militaries of US and NATO being scheduled to withdraw from the country by the end of the month. US intelligence assesses that Kabul, the country's capital, too, could fall to Taliban within 90 days.



**JAPAN**

**Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics comes to a close**

The Tokyo Olympics 2020, which started on July 23, 2021, have officially been declared closed by IOC chief Thomas Bach, bringing an end to the "most challenging Olympic journey". The global event was delayed by an year due to the pandemic and even faced threats of being cancelled multiple times. The event ended with USA bagging the most medals with China and Japan following behind, while India finishing 48th in the run.

**UAE**

**World's largest aquarium to be built**

In partnership with SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Abu Dhabi's Miral has announced that SeaWorld Abu Dhabi will feature the world's largest aquarium. To be completed by 2022, the marine-life park will present an 'endless vista', a 20m tall vertical window across multiple levels revealing stunning aquatic scenes.



**NEW ZEALAND**

**Borders to remain closed**

PM Jacinda Ardern has announced that the country's border will remain closed until the end of 2021. The country will also move to a new individual risk-based model for quarantine-free travel from 2022. Ardern stated that the priority currently remains with vaccinating their entire population against COVID-19.







Because of Ehlers Danlos syndrome, Gary Turner, a sideshow performer, can stretch the skin on his abdomen to 6.25 inches, making him the person with the stretchiest skin in the world.

# Building data

## All About The Interesting Field Of Data Architect

Saara Mathur  
AIS Noida, XI G

**S**ia, a 14-year-old was surfing through internet to complete her assignment on career options. As she was doing her research, she came across the career option 'Data Architect'. Sia scratched her head as she had never heard about it before. How can someone be an architect of data, she thought to herself. After all, architects are supposed to design the structure of buildings. With these questions in mind, she did more research and findings impressed her...

### Who exactly is a data architect?

A data architect is someone who puts together data strategies for a specific organisation, whilst also ensuring the quality and security of this data. They are the ones who assess the data and design of a particular organisation, and then combine, maintain and protect it. There are a lot of responsibilities one has to handle as a data architect other than just having to create the blueprints of data management systems. It may sound like a tough job, but it comes with its perks too!

**The job most similar to a data architect is that of a data engineer, though both jobs deal with data differently.**

### What are the roles and responsibilities of a data architect?

The responsibilities of a data architect include meeting IT teams and the management to devise a plan based on the organisation's requirements. So, it requires good communication and people skills. Strong problem-solving abilities to identify data challenges and creating the right approach to resolve them is another pre-requisite. They should also be able to manage a team of data engineers, data modelers, database administrators and junior architects. Apart from this, a data architect should also know about the industry in which they're working and how that industry manages their data.

### How can one become a data architect?

A data architect must have a bachelor's degree in computer science or a related field. They should have studied about data management, big data developments, programming, systems analysis and technology architectures. For a higher position, a master's degree is preferred. Also, technical skills required for being a data architect include knowing computer languages such as C/C++ Java, Python, Perl, etc. Along with these computer languages, they should be skilled at Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server, IBM DB2, UNIX, LINUX, MS Windows and ETL tools. One also needs to have an understanding of predictive modeling, NLP and text analysis.

### Who are the competitors?

The job most similar to a data architect is that of a data engineer, though both jobs deal with data differently. A data architect designs, organises, centralises and maintains data, whereas a data engineer engages in development, testing and maintenance to keep that data accessible. Other

jobs similar to a data architect are of a data analyst and data scientist.

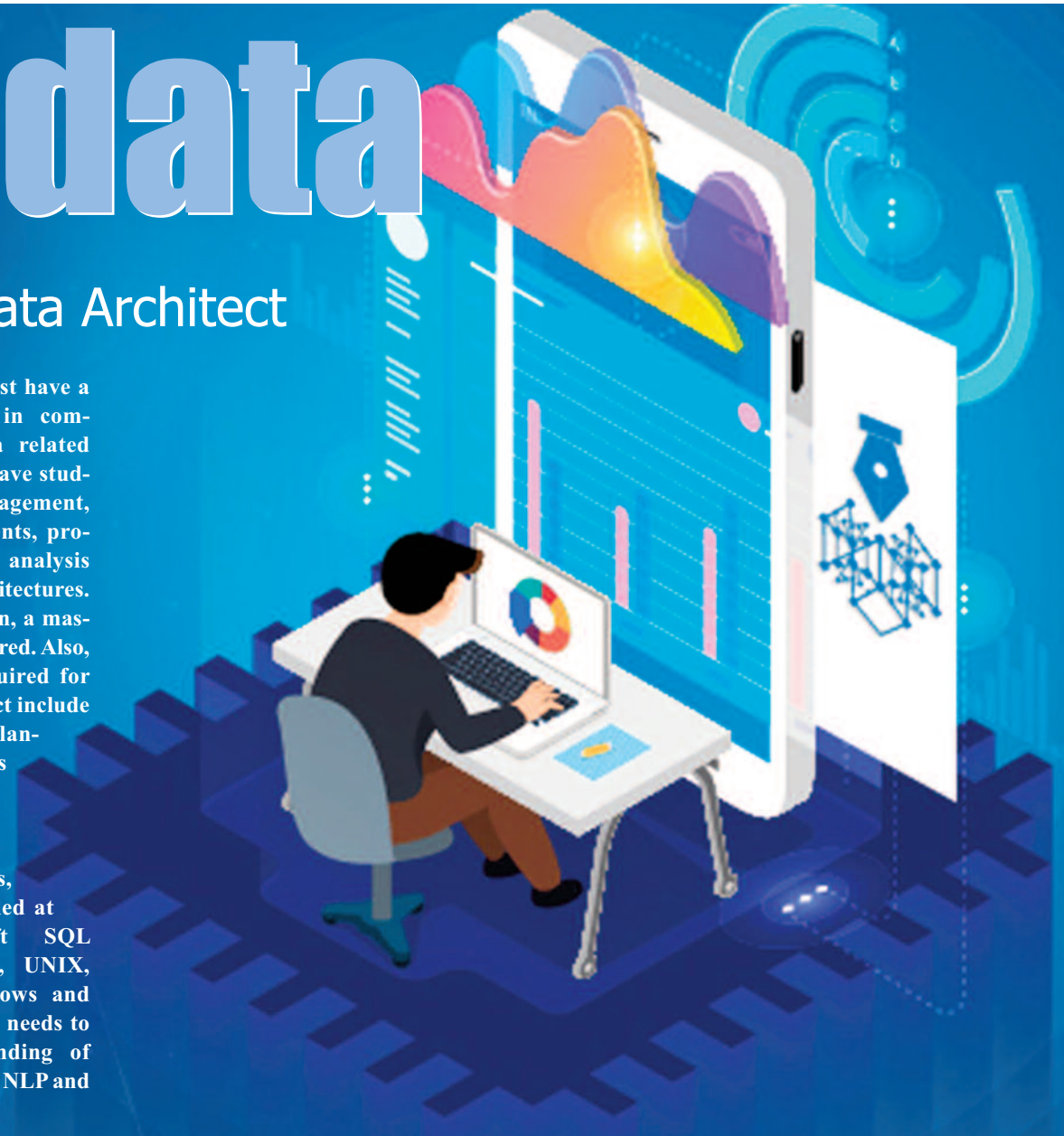
### What does it offer?

The average salary of a data architect in India is over 17 lakh per annum which can go as high as 31 lakh per annum and as low as 10 lakh. The

key aspect of being a good data architect is experience, where employers like to hire those with years of experience at data architecture and accordingly, the pay varies. A data architect with 1-4 years of experience earns around 8 lakh per annum, but a highly experienced data architect

with 5-9 years of experience takes home a salary as high as 20 lakh per annum.

In conclusion, data architects are important to every organisation since they deal with huge amounts of data. If computer science, problem solving, and visualising is your forte, this job is your calling.



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# (Almost) stranger than fiction

## Fiction Is Not Far Away From Becoming A Reality, After All!

Shrishti Tomar, AIS MV, Alumna

The world of fiction has given us a lot to ponder on. From flying cars to time machines, the advanced technology we see in movies and even comics (remember the Jetsons?) has left us in awe, and at times even longing for a transition from reel to real. While not all of our sci-fi aspirations meet reality, there are some that do. Case in point – some cool elements that we have seen on the silver screen which actually exist in real life, or at least have a close replica.

### VIBRANIUM

**What is it:** Fictional steel-based alloy  
**Appears in:** Marvel comics  
**Features:** High level indestructibility, with abilities such as power to absorb, store and release large amount of kinetic energy  
**Application:** Vibranium can find its real-life use in arenas such as aerospace, civil engineering and military.  
**Similar to:** Carbon Fibre can be seen



as the closest thing we have to Vibranium. Research also says that Carbon Fibre is stronger than many metals.

### KRYPTONITE

**What is it:** Fictional green crystalline material

**Appears in:** DC Comics

**Features:** Kryptonite emits a peculiar radiation that weakens the strength of Superman and can also kill him with prolonged exposure.

**Application:** Kryptonite's proposed use can be in lithium batteries, alloys, ceramics, etc.

**Similar to:** Jadarite, a white, powdery substance found in Jadar, Serbia



### EXTREMIS

**What is it:** Fictional genetic mutation technology

**Appears in:** Marvel Comics

**Features:** Using nanotechnology, Extremis grants human body, the power to heal and regenerate from physical damages.

**Application:** The most useful application of this technology can be in the medical field and in the military.

**Similar to:** Nothing as of yet, but a professor of Biomedical Technology in Georgia Institute of Technology says that the concept is not that far off. Plus, we already have HAL- Hybrid Assisted Limb and ReWalk Robot Exoskeleton, so Extremis is indeed closer to reality.



### ADAMANTIUM

**What is it:** Fictional metal alloy with an extremely stable molecular structure

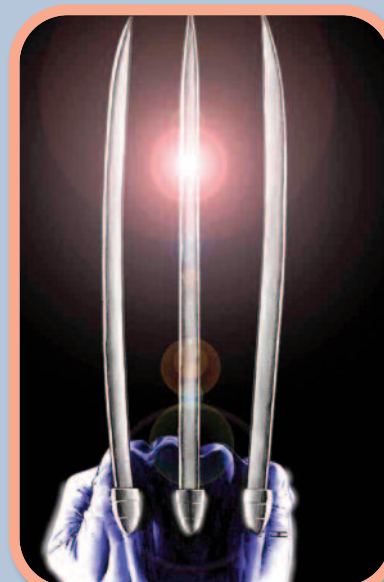
**Appears in:** Marvel Comics

**Features:** Adamantium has been de-

scribed to have titanium-like properties, with a dark, shiny gray tint. It is almost impossible to destroy or even fracture.

**Application:** Due to its properties, Adamantium can be an ideal material for protective gears but its weight may be a factor to keep in mind. Another hypothetical use can be in the arena of medical implants.

**Similar to:** While no one material in real life is completely similar to Adamantium, but similarities have been found in elements such as Graphene, a material 100 times stronger than steel, and Carbyne which is even stronger than Graphene.



Technology is dynamic, and at the rate in which it is evolving, the day is not far when we will see flying cars gliding through the air everyday. But more in tune with reality, the dazzling elements that fill us with wonderment may only exist in the world of cinema, but maybe soon enough, it can be a part of reality.

# Exotic Pitaya

Fruits and vegetables make up the largest chunk of our nutrition. However, their role is not just limited to a wholesome diet. Their significance permeates across economy, environment, health and social sectors, proving how they are, in fact, essential commodities to attain a sustainable world. Keeping the same in mind, the United Nations has designated 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables to make us cognisant of the diverse roles that they undertake. Shaking hands with this goal, GT brings you a brand-new series, wherein each part will explore the various facets of one fruit or vegetable, highlighting why it is important to preserve these precious gifts of nature.

Avni Munjal, X D &

Nesha Chandrasekar, VIII B, AIS Gur 43

**Hey! My name is:** Pitaya or Dragon Fruit

**I am also known as:** Selenicereus undatus

### About me

- Ancient Chinese legend says that I was created thousands of years ago in a battle by a dragon who blew a burst of fire containing the fruit.
- I grow on a cactus that blooms for one night per fruit cycle.
- I am pollinated by nocturnal creatures like moth and bats.
- My flower buds are edible too, and I taste the best when eaten chilled.
- People also call me strawberry pear or pitaya, and you can mix me with cucumber juice and honey to make a compound like an ale that can soothe burnt skin.

### My different avatars

- Pitaya Blanca (pink/red skin, white flesh and black seeds)
- Pitaya Roja (pink/red skin, red flesh and black seeds)
- Pitaya Amarilla (yellow skin, white flesh and black seeds)

### What I offer

About 100g of me can give you the following:

- Calories: 60
- Protein: 1.2 grams
- Fat: 0 grams
- Carbs: 13 grams
- Fiber: 3 grams
- Vitamin C: 3% of RDI
- Iron: 4% of RDI
- Magnesium: 10% of RDI

### I can help you with

- Cardiovascular issues
- Improvement of skin
- Lowering cholesterol
- Lowering blood sugar
- Stomach ailments
- Weight control
- Preventing memory loss

Illustration: Nesha Chandrasekar, AIS Gur 43, VIII B



ical and subtropical regions.

### Why I fear climate change?

Similar to most life forms that exist on planet Earth, I am also indubitably vulnerable to the consequences of climate change. Even though I grow on a cactus, I perform poorly in extreme temperatures because I depend on moths for pollination; moths migrate as a response to winds and extreme temperatures. Hence, the lack of pollination affects my production.

### Where can you find me

I am a tropical fruit that is native to Mexico and Central America. Vietnam is my biggest producer but I am also cultivated in other places of Southeast Asia. Other countries that I am grown in include, India, United States, the Caribbean, Australia, Mesoamerica and throughout the trop-







The record for the longest moustache, which measures 4.29 metres, belongs to Ram Singh Chauhan of India.



# The MASK 'mania' cs

The Pandemic Will Come And Go, But The Experimenters Are Here To Stay!

Vidhi Pandey, AIS MV, XII

Admit it, the year 2020 brought about sweeping transformations to our mundane world. While we shifted from social inclusion to social seclusion; from 'home from work' to 'work from home', our lives took a complete turn. And as we continued to change, in order to be able to adapt to the flurry of fluctuations, the entire world was further bludgeoned to participate in a never-ending show of masquerade. While some made wearing masks a rule, others made it a trend altogether. That said and done, we bring you some Alan Walkers around us who have completely taken this challenge in their stride.

## The fix-it fellas

What makes this category of maskers special is that no one, absolutely no one in the world can be more insightful and economical than them. Nothing in the world can convince them to change their centuries-old mask, no, not even if you tell them that the shop around the corner is giving away free masks. *Aakhir pehla mask pehla hota hai*, they say.

**Spotted:** Wearing dirty, smelly, hand-me-down masks whose string has become loose. So loose, the knots are visible from the back of the ears. Adjustment is their go-to word!

## The fashion freaks

For starters, these folks look as if they have been summoned straight from a



On a global level, about 52 million masks were manufactured in the year 2020. The mask industry is believed to grow up to \$28.8 bn by 2027.

fashion show. With designer masks matching their outfits to a tee, which everyone knows they got stitched from the nearby Ramesh & Suresh tailors, they could surely give Ralph Lauren and Cristóbal Balenciaga a run for their money.

**Spotted:** For this particular category,

nothing average is acceptable when it comes to fashion. The expensive price tags and rich quality cloth of their mask can be spotted from afar. Seems as if Blair Waldorf came to Brooklyn by mistake.

## The ignorant imbeciles

Now, making a trend out of a mask is one thing, but not wearing a mask is another. And that is exactly what this kind is adept at. That they are immune against any possible virus or bacteria is a disillusionment they seem to revel in. And till the time their little bubble

bursts, let's keep our masks in place because we ain't them!

**Spotted:** Quite simple. Any person who ventures out into a crowded market without wearing a mask and giving out unwarranted excuses like *"arre koi darne ki baat nahi hai"*.

## The hyper hygienist

Maybe you haven't ever come across this species because they happen to be extremely rare. In the attempt to do everything right, they end up doing everything absolutely wrong. Sanitiser-check, mask-check. Oh wait, \*removes the mask\* \*sneezes\*. What? The mask is supposed to be hygienic, right?

**Spotted:** Good for you if you never spot them in your life. \*Aachhoo\* 🤧

## Narrating A Typical Summer Day In The Life Of A Young Baby Boomer

Riya Gupta, AIS PV, XII G

Date: 12 June '72  
Time: 9 pm

I was dreaming of sweet, lushy mangoes, when I was suddenly awakened by the buzzing sound of mosquitoes on the terrace. I went down to my room to take a quick shower and sat down to eat a breakfast of delicious *aloo ke paranthe*. Sadly, I had gorged on all the alphonso mangoes yesterday, so I had none to eat as dessert today. Then, Maa sent me to fetch milk from the milk booth and after what felt like a life-time, I returned with a glass bottle.

When I reached home, my friends were waiting for me. We all then rushed to the playground and divided our teams. The scorching noon sun never deterred us from playing our usual *gili danda*, cricket or hopscotch. I tripped once and wounded my elbow, but the game was too important to lose. The joy and vigour that you gain from these wonderful games, it is just unparalleled. However, no joy can surpass that of the delicious lunch Maa cooked. At around 2 pm, I could hear her screaming my name, "Rahul, time for lunch!" My friends kept me busy with the games for another 15-20 minutes. Need I say what an earful I must have gotten from Maa?

Lunch was *dal*, vegetables and roti. Much to my delight, Nani had bought two dozen mangoes which she had already soaked in chilled water. She loves me so much! After hastily finishing my lunch, I attacked the mangoes. Maa also made me drink a glass of milk after that. Because it was a hot afternoon, all of us went for a quiet nap. I went to the terrace but then returned to my room and opened the windows. Suddenly, the weather out-

# From the

# 70s



When I reached home, my friends were waiting for me. We all then rushed to the playground and divided our teams. The scorching noon never deterred us from playing our usual *gili danda*, cricket or hopscotch.

side turned pleasant and I knew rain was visiting. Ah! The cool breeze on my face, how amazing! Before I knew, I had dozed off and was only woken up by my friends who pounced on me. It was time for evening games; Carrom, Ludo, you name it. Besides, it was my turn to host Rohan, Varun, Jai, Priya and Varsha. They are my close friends. We play every day. Nani also accompanied us and as usual she won this time, too! However, as a treat, she sneaked us eight annas to buy Coca-cola. We then ran out of the house squealing in delight. Drinking something cold would surely provide some respite from the heat.

We all roamed around the streets for a while, climbed trees at a speed that could be bone-crushing. From the eight annas, I managed to save two annas, which then went in my *gullak*. Could I miss the prospects of buying two new kites for Makar Sankranti? At 8 pm, Baba returned from work, and all our neighbours came to clamour around the television to watch Doordarshan. After finishing my meal, I went up to the terrace to spill water on the floor. Baba helped me set up the *charpai* for everyone.

Okay, now, I think it is time to go to bed. I plan to beat nani at carrom tomorrow at least! Yes, that is for sure! Quickly wish me luck you all!



The heaviest weight lifted by a human beard is 63.80 kg and it was achieved by Antanas Kontrimas of Lithuania.



World records

## Innovative spirit



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

All Amityans are special to me and each one of them gives me a different reason to feel delighted. While they win over hearts with their exemplary behaviour on a daily basis, there are times when they bring home laurels that prove they are socially and morally responsible as well, even at such a young age. The feat achieved by students of AIS Noida at the BI Young Scientists Talent Virtual Fair is yet another instance that reflects this praiseworthy quality in my beloved Amityans.

I am overwhelmed with pride that, for this competition, their young minds have created projects which not only address a wide spectrum of global issues, but are also insightful and pragmatic. Ranging from issues of biodiversity and artificial intelligence to home automation, these ideas show us that the farsighted innovators of our Amity family have put their mind and heart in providing viable solutions for the 21st century. Their efforts are especially praise-worthy as helping the community fight against the pandemic and its fallout lies at the core of these projects. This speaks volumes about the fact that these children nurture a deep love for their society. Using technology as the path to bring change, they have shown us how bright our future is.

At Amity, we always strive to nurture this spirit of innovation in students through various initiatives like Vasudha and Dhananjay Mohan Science Symposium, as I believe that science and technology are tools to mould and enrich a holistic life. It is heartening to see that these initiatives are thriving as successful hubs of experimentation and encouragement for such thinkers. After all, it is the zest for life and a quest to make a difference that shapes true winners. 🇮🇳

## The spirit of patriotism



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

Today, my heart overflows with joy as I peruse GT's Independence Day special edition, conceptualised so outstandingly by the young journo of Amity International School, Saket. We, at GT, thank all the exceptional writers and editors for this apt

tribute to the spirit of patriotism.

Patriotism, however, is not limited to one single day or moment. It's definitely not about tricolour-painted faces on social media. Real nationalistic fervour is about making your community and nation proud in whichever field you belong. Take for instance, the recently held Tokyo Olympics. Every Indian was misty-eyed and filled with pride and patriotism when Mirabai Chanu clinched the silver medal, and when Neeraj Chopra got us the coveted gold medal. Then there were Bajrang Punia, P V Sindhu, and our men and women's hockey teams, all of whom won a billion hearts with their stellar performances. Most of these winners have faced several hardships and overcome numerous hurdles to bring home this glory. It is because of these achievers that every Indian felt honoured when our National Anthem was played at the felicitation ceremony.

These moments of jubilation should inspire all of us to inculcate a similar spirit of excellence in ourselves. Patriotism, after all, is a burning desire to see the nation prosper with one's efforts. As we begin with the 75th year of Independence, let's strive for the same passion which won us the Olympics triumph, and adopt patriotism as a way of life forever. Here's wishing everyone a Happy Independence Day! 🇮🇳

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Published for the period August 16-22, 2021

# In tune with nature

## Let's Stop Exploiting The Environment, Propounds Richa Ranjan

Continued from page 1...

### The balance

All the natural processes are cyclical; increase and decrease, regeneration and decay are an integral part of nature. But in the name of development, we have come up with our own measurement standards. When we say GDP, one of the most commonly used success measurement tools today, we feel it needs to increase year by year. Consequently, in a bid to achieve the desired outcome, no matter how selfish it may be, we extract so much from nature and exploit it endlessly. Thus, there's a need to strike a balance between our needs and wants. If we create a world that is based on the principles of nature, we will certainly be a happier society.

### The acceptance

If you notice, even an infant knows when it is hungry or needs to sleep. We are attuned to nature from birth itself. But as we grow older, we allow external influences to corrupt us. But we can still change this. When you eat



something, try to understand the effect it will have on your body and mind. For food not only affects us physically but also mentally. Don't give in to cravings for addictive junk food items as they have a negative impact in the long run. Besides, food is a very powerful tool that can decide how close we are to nature and to ourselves.

### The wakeup call

It's not like we didn't need good health or immunity before the pandemic, but now we are more conscious of these issues. So, use this as an opportunity to alter the way you live. Connect with the elderly and take their advice as to how they lived in their youth. Try to understand what

they used to eat, what was their lifestyle, what they did to cure minor ailments, etc. Spend time connecting with the earth by walking barefoot on sand or soil. Start composting. For this is a great way to understand nature.

### The lifestyle

Connecting to our ancestral wisdom is the way to go forward. There are certain things I recommend for long term benefits— using *daatun* for teeth and gums, using the concept of *nasya* (putting oil drops in nostrils), and choosing milk sources that are indigenous rather than hybrid. Opt for food that is fresh, seasonal and grown locally. For right kind of food, an active lifestyle and practising yoga will help you maintain a good health.

### The advice

Try to spend as much time with nature as is possible. In addition, be more vigilant of the smallest of details in nature - watch what ants or birds are doing, notice how a seed grows into a sapling, because nature truly is the best teacher. 🇮🇳

# What is life?

## It Is But A Beautiful Amalgamation Of Feelings And Emotions

Ishani Singh, AIS Noida, XII

Helen Keller once quoted "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart." Life, my friend, is a rollercoaster of emotions. Be it undying love, deep hatred or overwhelming frenzy, it's all about how we feel the intangible. It is indeed about how we deal with them to live an effervescent life.

### Happiness in the little things

Small children find contentment in the smallest of things they get. Even a small ball for them is everything. They get the brightest of smiles for the tiniest of things done for them. On the contrary, teenagers would not even consider the ball as a gift let alone be happy for it.

### A mother's love

The love between a mother and a child is something which is deep set and indelible no matter what happens. A mother gives up her entire life making efforts for her child to be physically, emotionally and spiritually well. The sole aim of her life is to see her child healthy and exhilarated.

### The love for God

Reverence for God portrayed by diligent devotees is also an indication of something indescribable and ethereal. All of us are quite aware of Mira Bai's paramount love towards Lord Krishna. Such was her faith and devotion that she has become an epitome of the incorruptible and self-effacing love of the Almighty.

### The illogical hatred

The extreme contrast to love is hatred. The modern world is bombarded with intolerance, violence and discrimination. Hatred of this kind can reach such vulgar extent that people outrageously commit crimes to hurt others of their own species. Such spite and sadism outreaches my comprehension.

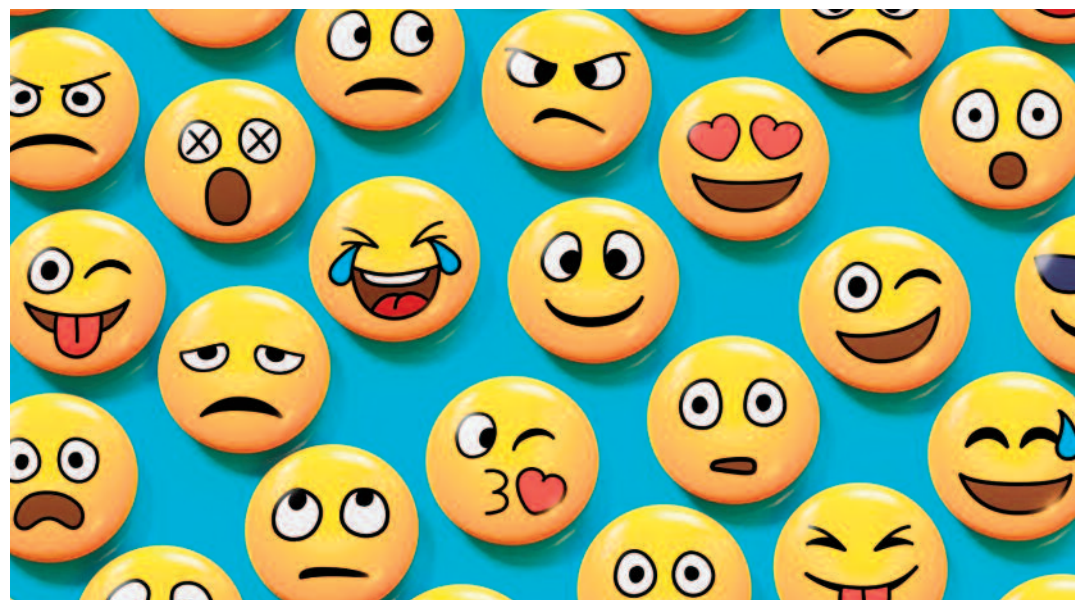
### The menacing anger

Human beings today are repelled with even the smallest of things. Such impetuosity and irascibility is dooming. It not only is something that harms others but is self-harming, too. Let's learn to be a little patient and a little more tolerant because there is nothing

more blissful than being at peace with one's own self.

### All you need is a balance

Every creature that the nature has given rise to experiences love and hatred in different forms. From the deep love shared by two birds to the extreme animosity between a predator and a prey, life indeed holds emotions in abundance. What then really matters is how we attain a balance between the two, living a life full of love and gentleness, miles away from the one of cruelty and malevolence. For these negative emotions rob you of your power to be happy and you just cannot let that happen to yourself. Never! 🇮🇳



## GT M@il

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'A cup of positivitea' on page 6 published in the GT edition dated August 9, 2021. The article talks about a girl named Jane

Doe who hated herself for the way she looked. However, not only Jane but almost every girl today is forced to indulge in such self-doubt, because the world we live in is full of

'beauty standards' that are im-providently shaping our lives. Women today are expected to wear makeup, stay skinny and young - these standards hit them the worst and as a result, they start hating their natural selves, and deprive themselves of all the marvellous moments of life. But one should never forget that human body is just a cover

which would ultimately turn to ashes one day. And in the process, the only thing that would be left of it is the human soul. So, stop worrying about the way you look and let your soul glow and define your worth. Spread body positivity and love the skin you are in!

Yashi Singh

AIS VYC Lucknow, XII C



Issue: Page 6  
August 9, 2021





The tallest hat in the world that can be worn and walked in is 4.8 metres tall and was worn by Odilon Ozare.

# HISTORY *this* WEEK

**W** eeks, 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 August 16-22 that played their role in shaping our society.

## AUG 16 2003 The world of sports

Cristiano Ronaldo, hailed as one of the best professional footballers in the world, signed on with Manchester United and scored a 4-0 home victory over the Bolton Wanderers at the Premier League. With this, he also made his debut for Portugal at the age of 18. He soon climbed his way to the top and won many prestigious awards and trophies. These include five Ballon d'Or awards, four European Golden Shoes, and seven league titles, such as UEFA Champions Leagues, UEFA European Championship and UEFA Nations League. Ronaldo also holds the records for most goals (134) and assists (42) in the Champions League and is tied with Ali Daei for most international goals (109).



**AUG 21 1986** Usain St. Leo Bolt, considered the greatest sprinter of all time, was born in Jamaica. At the 2008 Beijing Olympics, he set a new world record of 9.69 seconds for the fastest 100 m sprint, subsequently winning the gold medal. In London 2012, he set another world record of 9.63 seconds and in Rio

2016, with a time of 9.81 seconds, he became the first person to win three consecutive Olympic golds in the 100 meters. He has been christened 'Lightning Bolt' by the media owing to his stunning achievements and awards such as IAAF World Athlete of the Year, BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the year (thrice) and Laureus World Sportsman of the Year (4 times). He retired after the 2017 World Championships.



**AUG 19 2018** Serbian professional tennis player, Novak Djokovic, beat Roger Federer 6-4, in the Cincinnati Masters and became the first to claim all nine ATP Masters 1000 events since the start of the series in 1990. He shares an all-time joint record of 20 Grand Slam men's singles titles with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. He is currently ranked no.1 by the Association of Tennis Professionals and has been at this position for 332 weeks.



## The world of politics

**AUG 18 1920** The 19th Amendment was officially ratified, hence becoming part of the US Constitution. This historic approval enfranchised nearly 26 million American women by the time the 1920 US Presidential elections came around after

decades of relentless movements set in motion by revolutionaries such as Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. As celebratory as this feat was, it failed to fully enfranchise African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, and Native American women, thus warranting the National Women's Party to work towards it soon after.



**AUG 18 1963** James Meredith became the first African American student to graduate from the University of Mississippi with a degree in Political Science. He was admitted to the university on October 1, 1962, after being turned down twice, with



**AUG 19 1934** Around 90% of the German citizens approved a referendum giving Adolf Hitler complete power, by combining positions of 'Führer und Reichskanzler' (leader and chancellor). At first, President Hindenburg appeased the Nazis by appointing Franz Von Papen as chancellor, who lifted the ban on Hitler's Brown Shirts. However, Hitler was not appeased and coveted the Chancellorship. When Papen was forced to resign, Hindenburg appointed Hitler as chancellor in 1933. This was not enough as well, and soon after Hitler used the Reichstag fire to suspend civil rights. He also purged the Brown Shirts and went on to consolidate his power by merging the presidency and chancellorship, and becoming the infamous dictator of Germany.



the aid of the federal government. His enrolment and subsequent graduation are seen as a pivotal point in the history of civil rights in the United States. The President of the United States at that time, John F. Kennedy, sent federal troops and U.S Marshals to control the riots on campus. James later went on to become American civil rights movement figure, writer, political adviser

## The world of entertainment

**AUG 21 2020** Dynamite, first English song by the popular Korean boyband, BTS, was released. It was a worldwide success, debuting at #1 on the Billboard Hot 100, making BTS the first Korean act to top the charts. The song sold 2,65,000 downloads in its first week, making it the biggest pure sales week since Taylor Swift's 'Look What You Made Me Do' in 2017. Dynamite stayed at number 1 for three consecutive weeks. It quickly became a fan favourite, and its upbeat, catchy and explosive lyrics and style increased the boyband's fanbase.



**AUG 17 1968** The first Miss Black America pageant took place, celebrating beauty beyond colour and superficiality. The message behind this pageant was 'Black is beautiful too'. The 19-year-old winner, Sandra Williams, surprised the crowd during Q/A round by saying that men and women should do equal housework because she thought 'the male is getting awfully lazy'. With a crown, a trip to Puerto Rico, a modelling contract, and a trophy, Williams wanted this to be the first of many positive messages to Black women. The Miss Black America pageant continues to this day.



## The world of celebrations

**AUG 19 1906** Philo Farnsworth, American inventor and television pioneer, was born. Credited with the invention of the world's first working all-electronic TV system, Farnsworth made several crucial contributions to the early development of TV despite the fact that electricity didn't even exist until he was 14. Just before his 15th birthday, he worked out a principle of the image dissector and went on to demonstrate its first working version in September 1927. It used electronic scanning in both the pickup and display devices of what has become the modern TV set. He was also a recipient of the IEEE Morris N. Liebman Memorial Award.



## The world of inventions

**AUG 16 1944** Scottish engineer, John Logie Baird made the first mechanical television, which was able to transmit pictures of objects in motion. He gave the world's first demonstration of a fully electronic colour television display. His 600-line colour system used triple interlacing, using six scans to build each picture. He was an innovator who invented the first successful mechanical television, the first publicly demonstrated colour television system and the first purely electronic colour television picture tube.

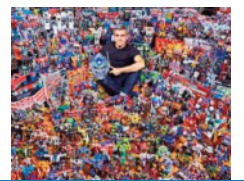


**AUG 21 1888** William Seward Burroughs, an American writer, visual artist, and a spoken word performer, received a patent for the first practical adding and listing machine, also known as a calculator. Burroughs began his career as a bank clerk and this is precisely what inspired him to work on his invention. He thought of a mechanical device that would make it convenient for accountants and bookkeepers to do their monotonous tasks, along with the ease of calculating and correcting errors in a smaller time frame. The 'Burroughs Calculator' was a non-printing key-driven machine introduced in 1912.





Louis Georgiou, a UK man, holds the record of the largest personal collection of Transformers memorabilia.



# The transmutation of life

## Storywala



He lived in his ancestral home with nothing else but his music to accompany him.

“Bu-but we ju-st wanted to hear your music. It is really beautiful.” “Yeah,” the other one agreed. “Your piano was like candy to my ears. We just couldn’t help it!”

The overwhelmed pianist’s heart melted with benevolence. With a smile, he managed a “thank you.” The smallest of the lot said, “You must be a very popular pianist!” These words raised his spirits. “Thank you for the compliment, but I am no faddish musician,” he replied. “Well, you should be!” she said. He smiled a little wider now. “Thank you, child, but it is getting late now. You all must go home!” The children said their goodbyes but before leaving, the girl turned and said “I hope you become popular one day!” “That I will!” he whispered to himself after they were gone.

Next day, he decided to let his music run out of the boundaries of his music room. As the claps of little children rang in his head, he realised that his art came to life when someone was there to appreciate it. Not everyone might like it, but without spectators his music would always remain a forgotten memory haunting the corners of these four walls. Maybe if he allowed his tunes to flow out of this house, someone else might find their peace in it just like him. And sure enough, within a few years he had become a sensation, and for this beautiful transmutation of life, he only had those three children to thank. [G I](#)

Shreyash Raj

AIS Gurugram 43, XI

It was in the city of Venice that a pianist lived. Though prodigious, he was afraid of showcasing his talent to the world, dreading their laughs and mockery. He lived in his ancestral home with nothing else but his music to accompany him. Every day, he spent his time in what he liked to call the ‘music room’. He would practice for hours in front of a French window in complete isolation.

It was just another day that his fingers mindlessly ran over the keys of the piano, his eyes closed, when he heard a loud sound of clapping. His eyes shot

open and he scanned his surroundings. The room looked empty to him, but then, where did the clapping come from? He shook his head, thinking it a figment of his imagination and carried on. The next day came and so did his practice session; he again submerged himself into his music and again he heard that same loud sound of applause. Dread filling him, he reluctantly opened his eyes and looked around. Sure enough, he was alone but this time he knew he wasn’t imagining it. Suspiciously, he searched every corner of the house but all in vain. Unease filled him and he went to bed feeling on edge. The next day, anxious that he

might hear the sound again, he thought of not playing the piano at all, but his love for music overpowered his fear. So, again he sat at the piano, this time with hesitance in his palms. As soon as he began to practice, the sound of applause came once again. Instantly his fingers froze. With all his gathered might, he sprinted in the direction of the sound. Expecting to see a supernatural entity and about to scream his head off for help, all fear ran out of him as he saw three little children looking at him through the glass of the window. The tiny tots giggled amongst themselves but stopped as he glared down at them. “We-we’re sorry,” said one of them noticing his bad mood,

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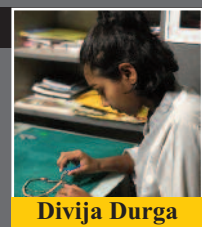


## Tribal necklace

Divija Durga, AIS Noida, X

### Material required

- Shoelace-1
- Chain-1
- Threads (different colours)
- Glue
- Wire
- Clasp
- Charms



Divija Durga

### Methodology

- Cut out strands of different coloured threads, each measuring about 5 times the desired length of your tribal necklace.
- Fold all the threads in half to make them firm.
- Now, take the shoelace and start winding the threads around it tightly. Apply glue every now and then, and also, alternate the colours to make a pretty colour block pattern.
- Once the desired length of the necklace has been achieved, cut the extra shoelace and wrap the ends with wire.
- Now, make a loop on each end, and attach a clasp to each loop.
- Take some additional thread (preferably golden) and wrap it around the front part of the necklace, attaching charms simultaneously.
- Add a piece of chain to the front part of the necklace to finish the look (refer to the picture).
- Your tribal necklace is ready! Wear it to compliment your clothing.

## BRUSH ‘n’ EASEL

Ananya Agarwal  
AIS Noida, VIII A



## WORDS VERSE

# A stormy sunset

Shyla Basu

AIS Pushp Vihar, XII

She is soaring above clouds so black  
They seem to be hiding her dark wings  
Among them is the ball of gentle fire  
The brilliant sight makes her heart sing

How her eyes yearn to drink in the scene  
Of the golden setting sun at the skyline  
Its slow transformation into blood orange

Slowly dipping under an edge so fine

She dares to peep from under her claws  
The clouds like gentle waves of charcoal  
Ferocious and rumbling with thunder  
They’re threatening to swallow her whole

With a final glance at the dusky sky  
She falls to touch the blue ring  
Knowing she’d risk again to see  
Her stormy sunset on the upswing. [G I](#)



# India is my country

Erisha, AIS Noida, VIII L

It has been 74 long years  
Since our tryst with destiny  
Freedom from the bondage  
That engulfed us for centuries

It has been quite a journey  
For each one of us alike  
From famine to self sufficiency  
And revolutions green and white

Today we stand unchallenged

Such is our nation’s might  
Indeed, blessed is our country  
With immense bounty aplenty

The pristine Himalayan beauty  
The crystal Southern waters  
The dense Kaziranga forests  
And the great Western deserts

Wherever I go, whatever I do  
This is my oath to my nation  
India will be within me always  
To her, indebted I shall forever be! [G I](#)





The fastest anyone has ever eaten a bowl full of pasta is in 26.69 seconds and it was done by Michelle Lesco.

# The colours of freedom!



15 August, 1947, has been a brilliant reminder of all that we have fought for as a country. Orange, white, green, and a sprinkle of blue - these are not just colours but rather narrate the history of the Republic of India. To celebrate the same spirit of independence and liberty, the students of Amity International School, Saket, pay homage to the life-changing day.

## Yaad karo kurbani

Recounting The Tales Of The Unsung Freedom Fighters



### Muslim Vellori

Even though his name is not uttered too many times today, it does not diminish the prominent

role he played in fighting for India's independence. Born in 1883 as Mohammed Abdul Wahid Khan, he was famously known by the name 'Muslim Vellori' and as he grew up, he developed anti-British sentiment. After meeting Mahatma Gandhi, he took an active part in various independence fights like the Khilafat movement. He was even jailed by the British multiple times for his provocative speeches. Vellori was also an active social worker and helped a number of orphanages throughout the country by raising funds.

**Astuj Singh Shah**  
AIS Saket, IX C



### Surendra Sai

Sacrificing his life in the fight against the British East India Company, the story of Surendra Sai is

not known to many people. Born on Jan 23, 1809, Surendra Sai, along with his other associates, strongly resisted the British rule in Western Odisha. They were even successful in keeping them away for a very long time. He had a rightful claim on the throne of Sambalpur after the death of the king. However, the British government didn't let him become the successor. This is because he didn't let the British exploit them to establish their own power. He was finally jailed for his resistance and died in Asirgarh Jail, fighting the British rule till the very end.

**Sambandh Mohapatra**  
AIS Saket, IX B

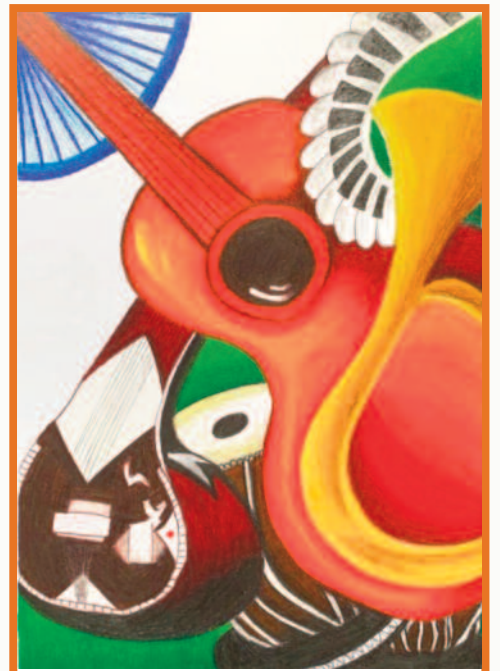


Illustration: Amayra Jain, AIS Saket, IX B

## The tunes of independence

As we celebrate the vibrations of India's independence and freedom, **Harshita Prashant, I D & Ananya Soni, I A, AIS Saket**, bring you the songs to play, so you can indulge in the true patriotic charm.

■ **The song: Maa Tujhe Salaam, by A R Rahman**

**What's sung:** "We love and salute our country, Mother India. We will never forget India; it is the best country in the whole universe!"

■ **The song: Ae Watan, by Arijit Singh**

**What's sung:** "Our country will always be in our hearts. We pray for its prosperity and long life. Wherever we go, our land's wishes and dreams will stay with us!"

■ **The song: Mera Mulk, Mera Desh, by Kumar Sanu**

**What's sung:** "Our country is a sign of peace, growth and love. We are proud of India for its diversity, festivals and people!"

■ **The song: Aao Bachho Tumhe Dikhaye, by Kavi Pradeep**

**What's sung:** "India is a melting pot of vibrant, beautiful cultures. Its land is that of sacrifice and bravery. We must always respect the soldiers and our country, and keep its true spirit alive."

■ **The song: Teri Mitti, by B Praak**

**What's sung:** "We must take immense pride in the martyrs and soldiers of our country. We want the country to blossom and everyone to be happy."

## The day of August 15, 1947

The Citizens Of India Tell Their Stories Of Independence

### The question answered

**Yajika Dagar, AIS Saket, XI C**

"If in a country, women are demented and oppressed, is the country even respectful?" the shouts were heard loud and clear from all the women chanting the same question. Their rights were never taken seriously, even in 1940, so all they could do was fight back and demand a better world. Little did they know, their questions would be answered very soon. Today, on August 15, 1947, the dawn was bright and clear, and with hope for an equal status and respect for all, a free country emerged. Their struggle was tough; demanding rights wasn't easy, but the Indian Women's Charter of Rights gave them what they deserved - equality and fundamental rights for all women that should never have been vetoed in the first place. An independent India was rising and shining, full of optimism for enacting on diverse subjects such as wages, security of employment, atrocities on women, land rights, political participation, women's representation in the media, and matchless equality. Every woman looking at the *tiranga* was proud. They had fought for their country's right, and today, they had it. Just as they had fought for their own rights and now they had it. They knew that a lot was still left to be achieved. The journey was far from over, but as they glanced at the bright blue sky, they could finally take a breather, a smell of independence filling their lungs, as they rejoiced in the free land which would give them what they deserved.



Illustration: Ananya Satish, AIS Saket, XI F

### The land of my own

**Tanya Ganguly, AIS Saket, XI C**

Chaos ensued as the partition swung into action. The clarion call to leave for the land beyond, supposing our brethren rule. They say that we, as minorities, should leave this land because who knows how they'll treat us? I laugh at these allegations because I know my country. I know my land and I know I would be safe here; our interests and rights would be taken into consideration. After all, we just gained independence, and together, in minority and majority, we will build our free India. They tell me to leave, but how can I ever leave my home? They want me to move to the other

side of the border, a foreign place, amid the unknown, which seemed to be ruled by a feeble cynicism and religious homogeneity. Why would I leave my land? Why would I leave the people here who have loved and cared for me; helped me and shared joys and sorrows with me? The promise made today is not only to me, but is of my own and for ours. Isn't the soil, the air and the water of this land a part of who we are? We will live in this crucible of pluralism and harmonious living. I refuse to leave. The very essence of India is stitched together by the diversity of its people. The people of my faith shall survive and thrive, here in India. I stay here amongst my countrymen, bearing love for my motherland. A land not a stranger to me for even the smallest of moments.

### The old and the new

**Ishika Sharma, AIS Saket, XI D**

As the fellow princely states move to accede to India, I keep wondering if there is a reason for me not to do so. I know I am the king of my state, and I pledged to always protect them and keep their best interest in mind, so the decision requires a great deal of pondering and assessment.

The National Congress has put forth an equal share in business, with the edge of us being able to make laws with them, rather than signing treaties like aliens. The development of trade, commerce and communications throughout the past two centuries have linked our states to the rest of India. We, the Maharajas, Nizams, and Nawabs, now live in a unitary economic entity, and to come together is inevitable. In the face of looming threats of communal violence and communist movements, the idea of India and the common interests of the princely states assures my people safety and self-expression.

I have made up my mind; together with India we are, a part of India we are!

My state is now a part of the Union it ought to have been. With the preservation of our unique identity and the spirit of unity we possess, we are now Indians, belonging to the land we were raised upon, and not side-lined as an enemy state. As we gain independence, we all pledge that we will bring honour to the name of this country! *Jai Hind, Jai Bharat!*



Zac, a parrot in San Jose, California, USA, holds the world record for opening 35 canned drinks in one minute.



# Patang ki udaan

## Flying The Kites, Reminiscing The Freedom

Pooja Chandna, XII C &  
Raabia Ali Abidi, VIII B, AIS Saket

The tradition of kite-flying is an intrinsic part of the Independence Day celebrations. As India tees off its 75th Independence Day celebrations, the skies will fill up with a horde of seemingly tiny colourful quadrangles. But how did these colourful creations come to us in the first place?

Kites are believed to have come to India with Buddhist missionaries from the East through the Silk Route. After kites were introduced in India, they were named in Hindi as *patang*. Soaring high in the sky, they symbolise the free nation that India became on this very day. Back in 1928, during the famous protest against the arrival of the Simon Commission, the slogan "Go Back Simon" was coined. Though our people were oppressed, their hearts were free, so they devised a medium of protest through kite-flying. All around the country, kites with the slogan 'Go Back Simon' written over them were flown. Kites became the wings of freedom for them as their patriotic morals soared high. It seemed as if there was a riot of kites in the bright blue sky.

And so flying kites became a tradition for Indians on Independence Day to praise autonomy from the British tent. Now on every August 15, the heart of every Indian leaps when their own work of art reaches dizzying heights and almost disappears in the dotted sky, like a speck of dust.

Illustration: Shreyan Biswas, AIS Saket, XI C



## Freedom

Akshaj Bhalla, AIS Saket, X C

The freedom on our minds today  
Was once much far from away  
It came after massive bloodshed  
And turned our soil forever red

Many martyred served the nation  
Many hung handling the situation  
A million innocent lives were lost  
A whole generation it had cost

To worsen even this bad condition  
Came the news of the partition  
Countless suffered, millions died  
The smallest of children cried

But all today take this for granted  
Forgot the seeds of freedom planted  
Turn a deaf ear to those screams  
That took away the young dreams

Illustration: Adhya Arora, AIS Saket, IX C



Over the years, both kite-flying and kite-making skills have evolved. From the ancient delicate ones made of paper and wooden sticks, they are now made with flexible materials that make them more resilient. Shaped like a dia-

mond, they have a centre spine and a bow-shaped intersecting spine that gives structure to the kites. And as our Independence Day nears, everyone rushes to get their hands on the tricoloured kites, symbolising a reminiscence for the fight once fought and won.

# I love my India

## Poetic Expressions By Young Ones

Honour shall be bestowed on them  
Who fought in the situation grim  
Those who inspire with their wisdom  
They are the martyrs of freedom.

## When the sun melted away

Samaira Sachdeva, AIS Saket, X C

They say the sun melted away  
When the soldiers went to war  
They withstood the orange fire  
They lit up in ash on the pier

While mothers only saw gloom  
And wives and kids' despair  
His comrades knew to bloom  
And fight for what is fair

And the blue sky so serene  
Dark in day and lit up at night  
But it is present all along  
Filled our soldiers with might

They say that wives wore white  
As they saw no colour in life  
And to honour that and that only  
The symbol of our nation has white

To see their fathers and brother die  
The little boys so green decide  
To win their freedom back  
For their children to see no dark

So boys who played in streets  
Plucked out from their lives  
Vivisect the nation's plight

And test their own might

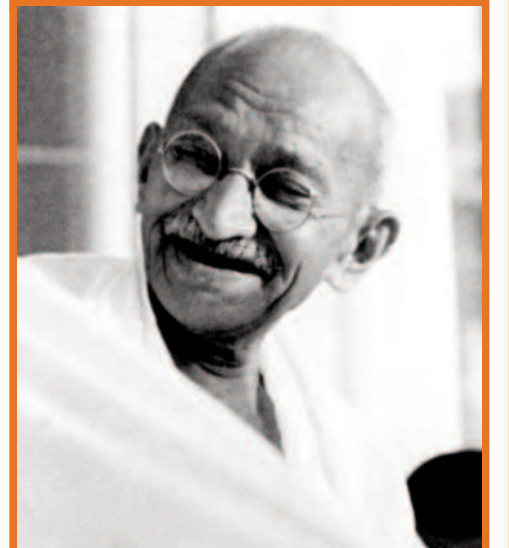
And now they stand in solidarity  
In a world better than our own  
But smile at us from far above  
At the seeds they have sown

And so, the old fable goes  
Those men and women say  
How the mighty soldiers were  
When the sun melted away.

## Our Bharat

Sunishka Goel, AIS Saket, IV B

Look at me, I am a proud Indian  
I have roamed many pavilions  
So that one day I could say  
East or west, my India is best  
We have a very rich heritage  
Beautiful history and sage  
Our unique different cultures  
Presented via all sculptures  
Made up of mother earthen clay  
Every piece unique, without fail  
Has a story behind its make  
Our freedom fight and struggles  
Was so difficult, full of trouble  
We should always stand and praise  
All people who helped us raise  
Independent and lovely Bharat  
India - beautiful in its own way  
Love and peace is what we pray  
To share with other countries  
So there's no hatred or tease  
The pain that our soldiers take  
Gratitude is small gift to pay  
They make us oh so proud  
And make us fly in the clouds  
So at the end of the day  
All of us could proudly say  
East or west, Bharat is the best!



## Facts and fancies

### ...Of Our Beloved Nation

Agrim Bansal, AIS Saket, V C

- Only Khadi and Village Industries Commission has been granted the licence by the government to manufacture and supply the Indian flag.
- Mahatma Gandhi didn't participate in the first ever Independence Day celebrations as he was fasting to protest against the religious riots that were plaguing Bengal.
- Midnight was chosen to declare the independence of India as astrologists believed August 15 after the dawn of sun would be considered inauspicious.
- Pakistan's Independence Day was shifted to August 14, a day prior to ours, so that Viceroy Mountbatten could be present at both the ceremonies.
- The boundary for India and Pakistan was designed by Sir Cyril Radcliffe and it was released on August 17, 1947.
- The national song, Vande Mataram, by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, is a poem written in Sanskrit and was first included in his 1882 novel Anandamath in Bengali.
- The name India comes from the river Indus which was home to Indus Valley Civilisation, considered to be one of the first civilisations in the world.
- The Indian national flag is designed by Pingali Venkayya, who was a farmer-turned-freedom-fighter.
- Congo, South Korea, North Korea, Bahrain, and Liechtenstein also celebrate their Independence Day on August 15.

## Quiz time!

Suhani Gupta, AIS Saket, VIII C

- Q1: When was India's national flag first hoisted?  
Q2: Which PM of India never unfurled the tricolour at the Red Fort?  
Q3: Who raised the Indian national flag on August 16, 1947, at Red Fort?  
Q4: Why was August 15 chosen as the date of independence for India by Viceroy Mountbatten?  
Q5: How many gunshots are fired in honour of Independence Day?  
Q6: At what time and date was India declared independent?  
Q7: Who was the first president of the Constituent Assembly of India?

Answers: 1. August 7, 1906 2. Chandra Shekhar Singh 3. Jawaharlal Nehru 4. In re-count of the Japanese surrender in WWII in 1945 5. 21 6. 00:00 on August 15, 1947 7. Dr Sachidanand Sinha





Muhammad Rashid from Pakistan holds the record for smashing 35 green coconuts with his head in one minute.

# Hindi Natya Utsav

## Enhancing Love For Hindi Language With Theatre Arts



Virtual lamp lighting ceremony at the Utsav



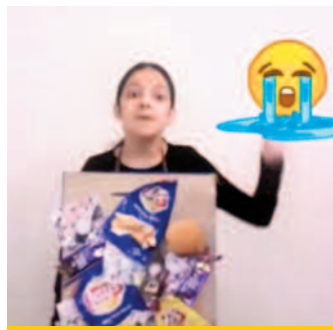
A young theatre enthusiast shows her acting skills



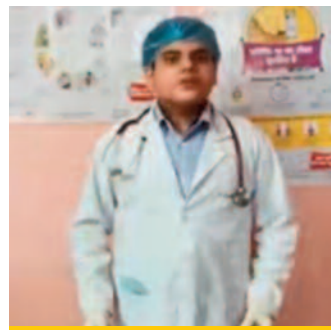
A young actress in action



Acting skills on display



A call to reduce plastic



A theatrical ode to doctors

### AIS Mayur Vihar

The school held its ninth Hindi Natya Utsav, an annual inter-Amity competition of Hindi theatre and drama, virtually on July 19, 2021. The theatre competition envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, aims to enhance the love for

Hindi language in young minds through creative engagement in theatre and drama. A total of 27 students from different branches of Amity Group of Schools participated in the event replete with impactful Hindi dramas based on social issues. The acts were judged by Dr Mahima Gupta, associate professor, Amity Institute of Education. Held in two categories

- juniors (VI-VIII) and seniors (IX -XII) - the event witnessed participants dressed in vibrant costumes enthralling the audience with their acting skills. Themes in junior category were *Aatma Nirbhar Bharat* and *Swasthya Ke Prati Jagrukta*, while *Pauranik Patra* and *Samajik Samasya* were themes in the senior category. In the junior category, AIS PV secured

first prize, while AIS Saket and AIS Jagdishpur both bagged second prize, and AIS Gur 43 stood third. AGS Gur won a consolation prize. In the senior category, first prize went to AIS VKC Lucknow, while AGS Gur and AIS Mohali bagged second and third prizes respectively. AIS MV won a consolation prize. The overall rolling trophy was lifted by AIS PV. 🇮🇳



Participants at the event

## Ignited Spirit 2021

### An English Theatre Fest

#### AIS Pushp Vihar

The eighth edition of Ignited Spirit, an inter-school festival of theatre, was held virtually on May 16, 2021. More than 85 students from eminent schools of Delhi/NCR participated in the annual event graced by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF. The aim of the event was to nurture the children in the art of theatre. The competition held in two categories, seniors (IX-XII) and juniors (VI-VIII), was based on a common theme of Indian plays and short stories. Out of more than 85 video entries received, 12 entries in each category were shortlisted by eminent jury members for the final presentation.

In the junior category, Maanya Sharma (VII) of AIS VKC Lucknow won first prize, Sanjana Chauhan (VIII) of AIS Pushp Vihar, won second prize and Yuvraj (VII) of AIS VKC Lko bagged third prize. Anoushka Manoj (VIII) of AIS Noida was declared runner up in Best Actor category. Shriya Pasricha (VII) of AIS Gurugram 43 and Samara Chauhan (VIII) of AIS PV received the special mention award. Winners of the senior category were Yashika Dagar (XI) of AIS Saket and Suhani Chauhan (IX) of AIS PV, who secured second and third positions respectively. The fest concluded with words of wisdom by Chairperson, who urged the students to nurture their inner creativity and become holistic learners.

## Victory @ Science Talent Fair

### Budding Scientists Prove Their Prowess



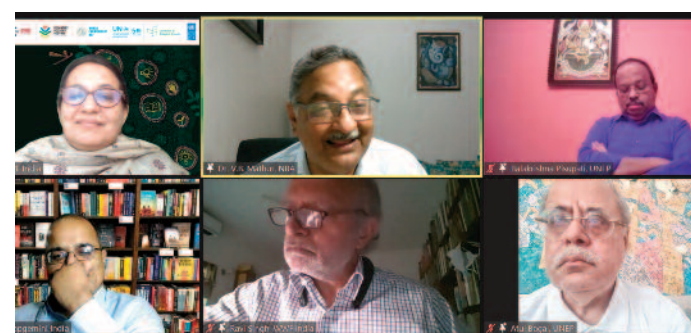
A glimpse of announcement of the event

#### AIS Noida

Young minds of the school proved their scientific acumen, and won laurels at BI Young Scientists Talent Virtual Fair held from Feb-July 2021, with results announced on June 30, 2021. Organised by Bridge Intellia Knowledge Solutions, the fair was based on the theme 'Science and Technology'. Approximately

5000 students from all over India participated in the competition. At the national level, Shairaa Patney (I), Keshav Singhal (IV), Anisha Aggrawal (VII) and Akshat Sharma (XII) stood first. Sparsh Joshi (IV), Parthamaish Chaturvedi (VII) and Urja Kohli (XII) came second. Pratyaksha Agarwal (III) secured third position. Nirvaan Singhal (Nursery), Chehak Maheshwari (V), Raghav Gupta (IX), Nikhaar

Chandra (XII) and Maitryi Gupta (XII) finished as runners up. Saish Gogia (KG), Shanaya Tyagi (III), Ekaansh Gupta (III), Saanvi Puri (IV), Bhavika Gosain (IV), Amaira Gupta (V), Saisha Aggarwal (V), Siddharth Chopra (IX), Eshan Niyal (IX), Ridhima Gupta (VI), Naina Khurana (VI) and Kashish Wadhwa (VI) were awarded national winners gold certificates. Shanaya Arora (KG) and Anisha Aggrawal (VII) were awarded national winners silver certificate. The 'Most Creative Project Award' was bagged by Alankrita Chakraborty (KG) and Aahana Bhakuni (I). Nihita Narang Sharma (KG) won the 'Most Appreciated Project Award', while Sanchi Kumar (III) and Soumyashree Dey Choudhary (IV) won the award for 'Best Digital Presentation'. All the winners were given cash prizes and e-certificates. 🇮🇳



Experts share their ideas with students during the conference

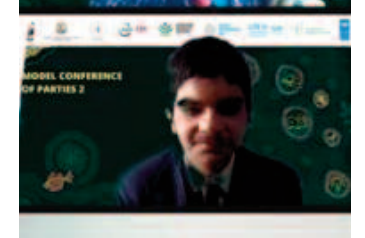
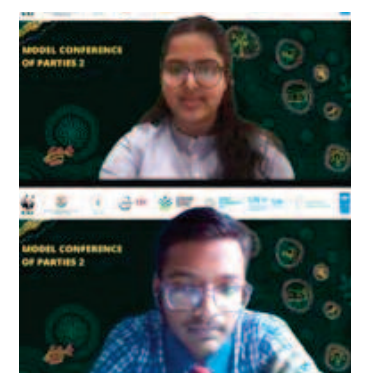
## Meet MCOP-II

### Conference For Biodiversity

#### AERC

Six students from Class IX-XII of Amity Group of Schools, participated in the Model Conference of Parties-II (MCOP-II), a national digital conference on biodiversity conservation, hosted by WWF from June 4-12, 2021. The theme of the conference was 'Our solutions are in nature' and required students to think critically and creatively about the actions needed to achieve the goals of CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) as per the 2050 vision. The opportunity to participate in the conference was given by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, along with facilitation from Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC). Sidra Husain (X) and Simone Nayyar (XI) from AIS Noida, Shivam Mukherjee (X) and Saumya Chauhan (XI) from AIS Pushp Vihar, Maanya Gupta (X) and Ananya Agarwal (XII) from AIS

Gurugram 46 participated at the conference. A total of 72 students from 28 states and 8 union territories of India participated in the prestigious event. All the participants drafted action plans to achieve the goals like zero loss of freshwater, conserving ecosystems, reducing carbon footprint, developing healthy and natural ecosystems, and reducing biodiversity loss by 2030. They presented their action plans to a jury comprising eminent experts of biodiversity and environment conservation. Students collectively drafted 'The Delhi Declaration' with practical outcomes, copies of which were handed over to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, The State Environment and Forests Departments and State Biodiversity Boards. Simone Nayyar from AIS Noida presented the commitments prepared by MCOP-II. Eminent guests and key speakers such as Ravi Singh, secretary general & CEO, WWF India; BV



Young minds discuss their ideas

Uma Devi, additional secretary, MoEFCC; Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, executive secretary, Secretariat of the CBD; Dr Aleksey Zavarzin, CEC regional vice chair, ECARO and Atul Bagai, head, UNEP's India office were present at the event. 🇮🇳

**About MCOP II**  
Organised by WWF, in partnership with MoEFCC, NBA, UNEP, UNDP and IUCN-CEC, MCOP simulates the Conference of Parties (COP) which is the governance body of Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) for students of India. It aims to give them an insight into the functions and decision-making processes of international forums/conventions for biodiversity conservation. It allows the students to design their own action plan to protect nature.



A student describes Olympics

#### AIS Vasundhara 6

Class VIII students conducted a special assembly to celebrate World Olympics Day on June 23, 2021.

## Olympics Day assembly

The assembly began with a prayer and thought of the day, following which students narrated poems and speeches based on key elements of Olympics and the remarkable sportsmen of Olympics history. They also enacted skits to highlight the importance of Olympics, its purpose, main events, and interesting occurrences. In their discussions, they focused on how

sports and games forge lasting bonds between people beyond the boundaries of religion, ethnicity, culture and race. They also highlighted the quest for equality, signified by the march of the team ROC (Refugee Olympic Committee) at the recently held Tokyo Olympics 2020. The students celebrated the spirit of humanity and games through the special assembly. 🇮🇳



Biff Hutchison from Idaho, USA, holds the world record for highest jump on a pogo stick at 3.36 m: twice the height of an average human.

All top quotes contributed by Pragati Singh, AIS VYC Lucknow, X A



# Mera Bharat Mahaan!

## An Enthusiastic Tribute To The 2020 Tokyo Olympic Legends Of The Nation

Koyal Das, AIS Gurugram 43, X B

With our eyes glued to the television screens, we watched with rapt attention as PV Sindhu earned her last point at the bronze medal match, as Neeraj Chopra made his golden throw, or as the Indian men's hockey team brought a medal home to India, all resulting in the nation's highest-ever haul in Olympic history. These moments and many more at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics have made the last few weeks magical for us Indians. What else then could be a better Independence Day gift for our patriotic population? Nothing that we can think of. So, this Independence Day, let's delve deep into the moments that brought glory to the country and celebrate those who made it possible.

■ The miracles began on July 24, 2021, with Saikom Mirabai Chanu as she lifted a total of 202 kg weight, winning the silver medal in women's 49 kg weightlifting competition. Chanu's first breakthrough, however, came at the Glasgow edition of the Commonwealth Games in 2014, where she won the silver medal in the 48 kg weight category. A few years post that in 2017, she won the gold medal in the women's 48 kg category by lifting a competition record 194 kg in the World Weightlifting Championships held at Anaheim, United States. Her growth as a weightlifter has been commendable and we are here for it, every

bit of it!

■ Next Olympic legend to bring laurel to the country was PV Sindhu, who, having played the winning round with her ready stance and attentive eyes, won a bronze medal in women's singles badminton on August 1, and became the first Indian woman ever to win two individual Olympic

medals. She also represented India at the 2016 Summer Olympics (Rio), where she became the first Indian shuttler ever to reach a final and to win the silver medal at that. Talk about girl power!

■ Nation's hearts swelled with pride as Lovlina Borgohain won the bronze medal on August 4 next, becoming the third Indian boxer ever to win a medal at the Olympics. Borgohain is the first female athlete and the second boxer from Assam to represent the state in the Olympics. Breaking free from the norms thus, this boxing sensation

is here to slay! Are we ready? Hell yes!

■ As Wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya secured the silver medal in the men's freestyle 57 kg event on August 5, having endured a painful injury in the semi-finals a day before, the nation could not help but appreciate in awe. Dahiya started wrestling in his early teens and has previously

triumphant men have become the most successful hockey team in Asia. And so to say that we are proud of them, would be an understatement!

■ Carrying on the legacy, Bajrang Punia became the bronze medalist on August 7 in the Men's freestyle 65 kg wrestling event. The bronze medal match ended in an 8-0 score line in favour of Punia, making him the only Indian wrestler to win

3 medals at the World Wrestling Championships.

That's his power!

■ Last but not the least, Neeraj Chopra truly won the hearts of the entire nation with his magnificent 'Golden Throw' at the Men's Javelin Throw Finals, that won him a gold medal and made

him the second individual Indian ever to win a Gold in Olympics after Abhinav Bindra. The spectacular jump right after the throw and the javelin reaching 87.58m proved that Indians are indeed the best in the game!

But as we appreciate the winners, here's a toast to all those who missed out on a medal but still won hearts. For, be it the Indian women hockey team's semi-final debut that quenched India's long-starring Olympic dream of qualifying for the semi or Golfer Aditi Ashok's near brush with victory and the subsequent massive jump in her global rankings from 200 to 154, we, Indians, have proven once again how our nation's athletic prowess and self-worth is not something that can be measured by the number of medals we score, but by the efforts, the hard work we put in to give our best in everything!



## A political spectacle

### Looking Into The Ever-Changing Lifestyle Of A Politician

**6:00 AM**

#### Unassuming morning walks

A rite of passage for almost every politician is to take an almost-ceremonial walk through the neatly trimmed hedges of the lavish government quarters (starchy white khadi kurta and *namaskars* mandatory).

**Before:** A pre-election morning walk means going beyond the usual path and heading to the nearest impoverished area, with carefully planned photo ops of course. Sitting with the people and looking like a 'man of the masses' means extra brownie points among the electoral population.

**After:** Once the big day is over, early morning walks give way to graceful hand-waving from the balcony, if you win. If not, go take a stroll like a common man; it's a free world, after all.

**12:00 PM**

#### Rowdy election rallies

For a politician, rallies are the hub of all the action. It's the heart of any political campaign and is packed to the brim with people, sitting on chairs, on the ground and even on the nearby foliage and water tanks.

**Before:** Taking out a political rally right before

an election means only one thing- promises, and more promises, intertwined, of course, with the occasional dig at the opposition. A pre-election rally has the politician on his toes and constantly on guard for stray questions.

**After:** Applicable only if the odds were in your favour. Loud slogans and louder cheers resonate through the streets as garlands and more garlands are thrown in the air.

**4:00 PM**

#### Primetime screaming matches

We all know the intense political debates that our parents crowd around the TV for; the ones with the sombre silences and questions directed to politicians that lead to a lot of fresh memes.

**Before:** Nonsensical arguments run amok when a politician goes on TV for a semi moderated (read unmoderated) debate. As all roads lead to Rome, guess what? All questions lead to one answer- it's the opposition's fault.

**After:** As the elections come to a pass, so do the national debate appearances. Answering straight questions with looped answers is a must for a politician when (rarely) appearing for primetime debates, especially after winning the election.

It is said that change is inevitable. Is it true? Well, ask a politician!

Anika Joshi

AIS Vasundhara 1, XII

Ah, the life of a politician- full of ups and downs and plenty of turnabouts, quite literally. Their lives constantly change,

as do their political alliances and when it comes to their daily grind, even a psephologist could point out the differences that come over a politician before and after Judgment Day aka elections. Read on to know what goes on in the life of a politician before and after.