

This special edition has been brought to you by Amity Intl. School, Noida, as a part of the GT Making A Newspaper Contest. Each page of this unique edition carries a special story handcrafted by the school's editorial team as a part of the competition. The inter-Amity newspaper making competition witnesses Amity schools across Delhi/UP/Haryana churn out its own 'Contest Edition' which are pitted against one another at the end of the year which decides the winner at GT Awards. So, here's presenting the first edition of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2020-21'.

### AMITEpoll

**Do you think encouraging GM crops would double farmers' incomes and relieve rural distress?**

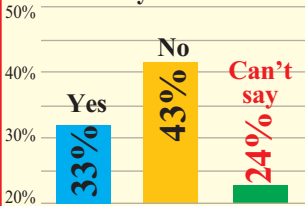
a) Yes b) No c) Can't say

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

### POLL RESULT

for GT issue August 16, 2021

**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?**



Results as on August 21, 2021

### Coming Next

Results Special

# THE GLOBAL TIMES

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021

[www.theglobaltimes.in](http://www.theglobaltimes.in)

## The final recourse

### We Continue To Tread A Tightrope As Nature Struggles For Survival

Kreetik Thakur, AIS Noida, XII D

**C**arbon footprint. Global warming. Climate crisis. These pairs of words are indisputably some of the biggest threats we have looming over us today. Even after being conversant with a legion of possibilities, say carpooling, afforestation, solar alternatives, etc., that could have helped shrink the intimidating social cost of carbon, we realised that indeed there are (read: were) umpteen ways, but alas no will to adopt them. And now, even if the entire population of the planet were to follow the above, we have so little time to compensate for the damage already done. But then, what if we tell you there are still a few ideas, experimental yet, to mitigate the climate crisis. After all, we have developed the technology to completely terraform Mars, so what is stopping us from doing the same for Earth?

#### The plausible solutions

In what can be termed as a mammoth approach, Dr Roger P Angel, from the University of Arizona, suggested using 350 trillion USD to launch a trillion tiny mirrors into the Earth's orbit to reflect 2% of the sunlight reaching the planet. In another instance, Glaciologist Dr Jason Box, from Ohio State University, has proposed blanketing ice caps, quite literally, to reflect sun's rays and keep the glaciers from melting. The list does not end here. In 2008, Bill Gates, in alignment with NASA, thought of an idea to engineer man-made clouds using a sea water spraying ma-

chine, shooting sea water into the air where it would turn into clouds to reflect the sun's rays. Adding to all of this, is the most deliberated concept till now, i.e., launching sulphur molecules into the atmosphere, which can block enough sunlight to cool the planet.

In July 2012, Californian Businessman Russ George

*dropped about 91 tons of iron sulphate into the Pacific Ocean to boost phytoplankton growth, which would in turn help in reducing carbon emissions, however, without proper permissions. Which means that we still have some scope left to salvage the planet with unprecedented methods, whilst also grappling with the questions of sustainability and the parallel impacts these will have on the already suffering planet. That said, are we even in a position to weigh the pros and cons, since these might be our safest and only bets, and considering that we are so pressed for time?*

#### The consequent complications

In all of the modi operandi suggested above, there is one common issue underscoring each of them. The mirrors will eventually fly off into space or burn up in the atmosphere while crashing to Earth. Wrapping glaciers with white blankets can probably slow the rate of melting, but cannot completely stop it. Constructing clouds will take up energy and will cause unpredictable rainfall patterns as a by-product. As a matter of fact, the hydrogen sulphur molecules will decompose over the course of seven decades. Then it is only quite intelligible that blocking the rays is but a temporary way out. If, even after taking all of these measures, our carbon emissions keep growing, the environment will unfortunately have to deal with greenhouse gases trapping excessive heat all of a sudden, with zero time to adapt.

*An article by The Guardian revealed that our glaciers lose 267 gigatons of ice per year. This is an upshot of another fact published in a report that our carbon emissions have increased by 50% from the year 2000. While a few decades of respite don't seem bad, humanity will most likely continue to live unsustainably for this time period. Does this mean that we must advance with these techniques, at the expense of the environment, nonetheless?*

Continued on page 6...



Illustration: Lavanya Roy, AIS Noida, XI I

## The man of many hats

### Colonel Rajyavardhan Rathore On His Love For Sports And More

Sanjali Sharma, AIS Noida, X L

**A** politician, Olympic medallist, and a retired Indian Army officer all rolled into one. He is also the recipient of the prestigious Arjuna Award, Khel Ratna award, and the coveted Padma Shri Award. Having clinched 25 medals across various international sports platforms, it was only merited that he went on to serve as the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports in the Government of India till May 2019. Now, with so many accomplishments to his credit, it was irresistible to not squeeze into the valorous journey of Colonel Rajyavardhan Rathore.

#### From being one of us...

I am an ordinary person. Like anyone else who has made noteworthy achievements, I too work hard towards accomplishing my goals. Besides, one must be ready to make sacrifices and never let failures set them back. All of these essential factors, along with the unconditional support of my family, have helped me achieve my goals.

#### To being an earnest soldier...

As an army officer, I have always abided by the rule of 'namak, naam aur nishan'. This translates to fidelity to the salt which you have partaken, the name of your regiment and the nation, and the colours of your regiment and the nation. This is the honour code which soldiers live by and die upholding. It is always 'nation first' and you must be prepared to be deployed in any situation for the country's safety. Each



Rajyavardhan Rathore with GT reporter

person in the Armed Forces has to train hard, excel in military skills and physical prowess to be a part of a team.

#### To being an excellent sportsperson...

I have participated in quite a number of sporting events, national and international. With each competition, I learnt something very significant. Clinching a silver at 2004 Athens Olympics taught me and other athletes that an Olympic medal is not out of reach after all. Winning a gold at the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth was a reiteration of India having arrived on the podium of world sporting events. I believe that every Indian who achieves something contributes to the elevation of India's standing in various fields. And in most cases, the driving force is national pride.

#### To being an efficient politician

As a sportsperson, I had experienced the bureaucratic

blocks as well as the lack of empathy from several sports associations and federations. So, when I became the Sports Minister, I wanted to change the scenario. Prime Minister Modi's vision of 'Khelega Bharat, toh Khilega Bharat' has been a clarion call for various sporting agencies/bodies and rural youth to excel and prove themselves in sports. In a nation of 1.38 billion people, we have a huge amount of dormant talent, especially in rural India. It was then only a matter of identifying this talent and nurturing it to attain results, and our Khelo India schemes and

### INTERVIEW

Khelo India Games aim to achieve just that. In

addition, we have also been promoting regional sports, tapping talent using technology, giving more importance to sports in schools, creating sporting infrastructure in rural areas, etc.

#### To being an exemplary human...

Life is never meant to be simple, and to achieve things, there will be a number of struggles which we will have to overcome. So, figure out what you like and assess your aptitude, set out your goals to build a conducive environment to achieve them, and work as hard as you can throughout. At the same time, make sure that you enjoy what life has to offer! 🇮🇳



Colonel Rajyavardhan Rathore







Could we BE more excited for the CE?  
Shubhika Garg, XII I & Suhani Sirohi, XI I  
AIS Noida, Page Editors



# From waste to vogue!

## Looking At Waste From The Lens Of Inventiveness

The Global Times is pleased to be a part of the The World Teenage Reporting Project on Climate Champions. An initiative of Youth & News Media Prize, the project showcases noteworthy stories by teenage reporters from around the world focusing on what their cohorts and other adults have been doing to save the planet. Presenting the story 'From waste to vogue' by young GT reporters Shubhika Garg and Suhani Sirohi. Last year, The Global Times took part in the project that showcased stories by teenage reporters from around the world about what their cohorts were doing to help during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To know more about the The World Teenage Reporting Project visit - <https://www.globalyouthandnewsmediaprize.net/>



Ashita Singhal with her diligent team

When we think of fashion, all that comes to our minds are catwalks, runways, boutiques and designer dresses. But behind all that glamour and clamour, stands the second most polluting industry in the world. Alarming, isn't it? Ashita Singhal, a fashion designer by profession came up with a solution - Paiwand, a unique initiative aimed at repurposing textile waste.

Her efforts recently bagged her a spot in the Forbes India 30 Under 30 list. So, without wasting anymore time, let's get straight to the business, because just like you, we hate waste, too!

### Waste, waste, everywhere

Waste is the only raw material which is abundantly available- this is what Ashita Singhal firmly swears by. This also happens to be the thought behind 'Paiwand', the upcycling textile studio which she set up in 2018. Ashita realised that conscious designers do not want to shred or throw away their textile waste. Although they are willing to upcycle, they do not have the time or resources to do so. This discovery became an impetus to understand the market gap and a business opportunity to be explored. And thus, Paiwand was born, based on the local saying 'paiwand lagana' meaning 'to repair'. "It is the very ideology behind the venture, which aims to achieve hybridising and connecting, i.e., hybridise our choices



### Suhani Sirohi

Meet Suhani Sirohi, a Class XII student from AIS Noida. A voracious reader and calligraphy dilettante, she always had a keen interest in the English language. She's been writing reports for The Global Times since grade IX and has documented several school events in her capacity as the sub-editor.



### Shubhika Garg

Meet Shubhika Garg, Alumna of Amity International School, Noida. Senior sub-editor of the school at one time, she is now studying Law to align her interests of debating and reasoning in order to uplift and empower the society. She strongly believes in changing the world with a mic in one hand and confidence in another.

About the Authors

and connect with nature," Ashita says, reiterating the need to reconsider our outlook towards waste.

### Weaving the change

Ashita realised the gravity of fashion waste while she was a student at the prestigious Pearl Academy of fashion. "It was shocking, how a batch of 30 students would produce kilos of waste in a three-hour class. This prompted my research on fashion waste. The statistics were horrifying and awakening at the same time," she recalls. Paiwand attempts to solve the problem of textile waste with a two-pronged approach. "Our focus is to reuse fabric waste, whilst reviving handicraft techniques of India," says Ashita. She believes that Indian heritage has always been augmented by age-old eco-friendly practices. The upcycled products feature an array of craft practices ranging from Nakshi Kantha of West Bengal to applique and patchwork of Gujarat and Orissa,



### Accolades

- Elle Décor International Design Award
- Lexus India Design Award
- India's Best Design Project
- Elan Award for Excellence in Circularity

Laureate International Universities Network, USA, Paiwand has now hit the spotlight with its unique innovation supplemented by an unparalleled business model. However, every journey, especially the one embarking on change, is filled with roadblocks. Paiwand's is no different. Initially, it was challenging to convince weavers to use waste as a raw material to develop textiles. "The weavers considered this as my hobby and did not take my work seriously," reveals Singhal. Her team also tells us how most of the weavers had shifted from weaving, considering its minimised potential in this mechanised era. Thus, finding weavers in itself became a challenge. Paiwand has come a long way since then. From just two weavers from the outskirts of Delhi in 2019, it is now a team of 15 members, including weavers, artisans and tailors. Paiwand recently showcased their apparel collection at FDCI x Lakme Fashion Week 2021.

including even the rag rug weaving of Panipat. Whilst these products showcase Indian heritage, they also exemplify how dynamic textiles can be.

### The runway to sustainability

Starting with a business grant of 25,000 USD by

Since its inception in 2018, Paiwand has collaborated with more than 25 fashion houses, and upcycled 500 kgs of textile waste so far. During this process, it remarkably managed to prevent the emission of 5100 kgs of carbon dioxide and save more than 30 million litres of water. Sounds like a great start to save the planet, doesn't it? 🌱



Ashita Singhal at Paiwand manufacturing unit



Inside Paiwand





I mean, it's sort of exciting, isn't it? Breaking the damn keyboard?

**Dalaisha Aggarwal, XII J & Shreya Saxena, XII N**  
AIS Noida, Page Editors



# The nation is calling!

Let's Hear It Straight From The Steel Frame Of India, Shall We?



**Sanjali Sharma, X L,**  
**Dalaisha Aggarwal, XII J &**  
**Shreya Saxena, XII N**  
AIS Noida

**C**ivil service. These two words together describe one of the most challenging professions existing in the country. But then, however tough it might be to step into the realm of bureaucracy, it is never impossible. We know that you have your doubts, but we come prepared to put all your scepticisms to rest.

Courtesy: GP Singh, IPS officer; Mahaveer Singhvi, IFS officer; and Dr N K Sahu, IES officer. They are here to tell you all about life as a civil servant, so that you can decide whether or not you have what it takes.

## IPS Gurjinder Pal Singh

IPS Gurjinder Pal Singh is presently serving as the Additional Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh. He has put in more than a quarter of a century towards creating a safe and secure environment for his countrymen.

He has also worked extensively to control the Naxalite tensions in Balaghat where he served as the SP. Currently, apart from being the additional DGP, he is also the Director, State Police Academy, Chhattisgarh.

### Foraying into the field

My journey into IPS was never a planned move. It was while I was pursuing my post-graduation in management in NITIE, Bombay (now Mumbai) that I found my calling - civil services, and thus began my journey. My probation started in Gwalior and I have served in more than a dozen districts, even in Maoist infested areas, in

various capacities ever since. Besides active policing, I served on a non-police job on deputation as Director Sports, Chhattisgarh for almost 3 years. Overall, it has been an enriching experience.

### Sine qua nons of the service

To quote Abraham Lincoln, "Public is not to be underestimated as fools." As a civil servant, one should have a passion

to work for the public. If this is kept in mind, the basic prerequisites to be eligible to appear for the exam are that you should be between 21 to 30 years of age, as on August 1 of the examination year, with certain exceptions for reserved categories. The candidate should have a bachelor's degree in any discipline from any recognised university. The rest completely depends on your zeal to serve the nation, come what may.

### Competencies to compete

IPS officers are considered as the foundation of law and order in the country, and hence a vigorous training goes a long way in building skills and competencies. We have to command the civil and armed police forces; for this, an 'Integrated Training' format is used to focus on the fusion of three dimensions: sensitisation (personal and social), orientation (ethical and legal), and competency (domain and inter-segmental). The National Police Academy aims at nurturing human values in all its areas of activity to prepare trainees not only to be good police professionals, but also good

human beings.

### Predicaments of the profession

This profession requires you to be working indefinitely long hours, as the goal is to ensure public and national interest at large, irrespective of time. Also, we must deal with sudden unprecedented challenges, such as ensuring that the lockdown is upheld by the public during the pandemic, amongst other things. There are tribulations, but you should know the trick to tackle it all.

### Tips to crack the test

Primarily, be an avid reader, be it newspapers or magazines that keep you informed. Try to interact with previous toppers and achievers to understand the right frame of mind required to pass the exam. Strategise your preparation to be more productive.

### Words of wisdom

There are four mantras for success which, according to me, everyone should follow - focus, discipline, hard work and perseverance. However, do not overlook your health and hygiene amidst all this because that is paramount to maintaining higher concentration during study hours.



## IFS Mahaveer Singhvi

Mahaveer Singhvi was selected into the Indian Foreign Service in the year 1999. Since then, he has undertaken several important assignments in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in various roles. He has been conferred with several laurels as Business Leader in Government Department Award by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and British Chevening Fellowship by Oxford University.

### Foraying into the field

I joined the Indian Foreign Service, after completing a few professional courses such as CA, CS, ICWA and MBA. Since then, I have served in several capacities as undersecretary, deputy secretary/director in various divisions of the Ministry such as Development partnership; Multilateral Economic Relations, Central Europe, East and Southern Africa, SAARC & BIMSTEC; Counter Terrorism, etc. Presently, I am serving as Joint

Secretary, looking after India's counter terrorism cooperation with foreign countries.

### Sine qua nons of the service

Firstly, every candidate must have an inclination to serve the public. S/he should have an interest in governmental affairs. Besides, the candidate must possess a degree from an Indian university or an equivalent qualification, in order to be eligible for civil services. Those in the final year of a degree course can also appear in the Preliminary Examination conducted every year by UPSC.

### Competencies to compete

Should you wish to be a successful IFS officer, you must have an extensive interest in international affairs, diplomacy and strategic issues. You should also be comfortable with having to serve abroad and travel to other countries, as that comes as an inevitable part of the service. Behaviourally, in my view, to be a successful diplomat, one should be reserved but at the same time gregarious in tandem with having tact and prudence.

### Predicaments of the profession

The most challenging thing for IFS officers posted outside the country is to stay away from their motherland. One may also have to work in countries which are struggling with their internal problems and that can be a momentous challenge. Being extremely responsive, responsible and alert at all times to deal with varied demands of the service is also crucial.

### Tips to crack the test

Prepare a suitable timetable, constantly revise the topics and dedicate time to topics that are trickier to grasp. Keep yourself updated on current affairs and everything happening around the globe. Knowledge is the key!

### Words of wisdom

There is no short cut to success. To be successful, one must follow the path of three Hs - honesty, hard work and humility. Don't get disheartened by failures or setbacks as they are never permanent. Keep trying until you succeed. This is the sure shot mantra to success!

## IES N K Sahu

IES N K Sahu was the economic advisor in the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, the Nodal Ministry which carried-out the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC). He is the only person who worked for this project since its inception till it came to the final stage. His PhD thesis is on "Analysis of Forced Commerce in Indian Agriculture" (unpublished). He has also authored a book titled 'Electoral Politics in Federal India: MP Local Area Development Scheme'.

### Foraying into the field

I was always intrigued by the subject economics, and this, in fact, led me to joining the Indian Economic Service (IES). As a professional government economist, I have explored a number of areas. I have served in various ministries/departments in Union Government, such as planning commission, small industries, programme implementation, agriculture, tribal affairs, rural development and human resource development. Though our cadre controlling ministry is Ministry of Finance, I mostly worked in social welfare sectors. It has been a long journey of learning and there is no end to this voyage.

### Sine qua nons of the service

To be in this field, apart from having a bachelor's degree in any field, one must be thoroughly abreast with the recent trends and techniques. One must also be aware of all

the economic trends and should constantly keep reading so as to build on their knowledge. The rest of the requisites remain the same, i.e., having a bachelor's degree in any field from any institution of your choice.

### Competencies to compete

A fairly good understanding of the fundamentals of economics is a must. Skill development is necessary as it enables one to design various types of interventions as well as monitor and evaluate these interventions. As a professional economist, one must be adept at arriving at alternatives with as little negative costs (economic and social) as possible to the society.

### Predicaments of the profession

In this domain, it is of utmost importance to update oneself continuously. One simply cannot afford to be under-researched or oblivious to the recent developments or the problems that a nation might be facing. Updating oneself continuously and focusing on certain areas is thus imperative.

### Tips to crack the test

Decide early (in college days), keep interest in everything happening around you and maintain a relatively good standard in study. You must have alternatives to fall back on in case of unfortunate and unwelcome outcomes.

### Words of wisdom

If you enjoy economics as a subject in school and college, you might be cut out for this field. Remember that good marks are not the only indicators that you understand the subject well. Hard work and smart preparation techniques will help you achieve your goal of being an IES officer more adequately.







Algarina is all-gaga (alga) because Fungusander is a fun-guy (fungi)... Bazinga!  
**Tanisha Karmakar, XII N & Arhaan Gupta, XI M**  
 AIS Noida, Page Editors



# A shared existence



## A Creative Glance At The Symbiotic Relationship Between Fungi And Algae

**Tanisha Karmakar, XII N & Kavsha Raina, XII J, AIS Noida**

In the vast damp swamp of a forest called Mossland, there lived a young, sanguine and beautiful creature known as Algarina. She was one amongst the huge population of algae residing in the quagmire; however, she wasn't no ordinary alga. A gifted cook, she was often lauded for her ability to prepare scrumptious food for her fellow beings.

In the daytime, Algarina, using her beautiful bright green skin, along with the help of a photosynthetic procedure, would capture and store sunlight and then cook delicious meals with it. Thus, it didn't come as much of a surprise when King Algus, the monarch of Mossland, appointed her as the royal chef. This didn't go down well with other algae, who enraptured by envy, started to spread rumours about Algarina, rumours that her food could be poisonous. The rumours spread so fast that King Algus fired her. Unable to bear the humiliation, Algarina decided to leave her warm and moist home, and take refuge elsewhere.

While wading through the dense forests, Algarina realised that she was getting closer to the kingdom of MarshLands. Now, this kingdom was infamous for its scorching heat. Algarina's skin began to feel tight and parched. All the moisture of her body was slowly draining out. She could no longer walk, and fainted. When she woke up, she found herself under the shade of an umbrella. Pale and weak, it was still standing tall, protecting her from the heat. She got up and looked around. To her surprise, the umbrella enunciated. He introduced himself as Fungusander. He told Algarina how he stumbled upon her lying unconscious while he was on his way home, and that he decided to bring her home till the time she regained her health.

Touched by this act of compassion, Algarina re-

**The science of it**  
**Lichens are made of two closely interacting organisms - algae and fungi. The Fungi feeds on simple sugars that are created by algae via the process of photosynthesis. The algae in turn are provided mineral nutrients and optimal living conditions.**



vealed how she was banished from her kingdom. Fungusander felt enraged. Knowing that she couldn't repatriate to her homeland, he offered her to reside in MarshLands. Algarina was beyond grateful, but was reluctant of accepting such a huge favour. Seeing her dilemma, Fungusander disclosed that he was, in fact, the prince of the kingdom and that he would designate her as the chef in order to cancel out any feeling of obligation. He even told her that the fungus family were terrible cooks since they were achlorophyllous and that it would be a favour to them if she agreed to make meals. Algarina instantly approved of this deal and expressed her gratitude. From that day onwards, Algarina, using her fine skills, began to cook for Fungusander and his fellow eukaryotes. In return, she was given shelter amidst her new-found family. The whole forest came to know about this symbiotic existence and welcomed Algarina like their own.

Years passed and inspired by Algarina, more algae set foot in MarshLands, thus forming more of such symbiotic allies which they termed lichens. Eventually, with this strong support and kinship, they also got rid of the contaminants and toxins in order to sustain harmony in the kingdom of MarshLands. And then, as they say, they lived happily ever after.



Illustration: Nisha Ramesh, AIS Noida, XI B

# Glowing Guava



**F**ruits 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.

**Raggya Trivedi**  
 AIS Gurugram 46, V H

**Hey! My name is:** Guava  
**I am also known as:** Psidium guajava (Guava)

**My different avatars**

- Common guava
- Yellow guava
- Lemon guava
- Red guava

**About me**

- I am an evergreen, shallow-rooted shrub or small tree.
- My homeland is Caribbean, Central America and South America.
- I can be easily pollinated by insects and am pollinated mainly by the common honey bee.
- I am known for my extremely slow growth rate for several months before a rapid acceleration takes over and I finally grow up.
- It might take me two to eight years to fully bloom from a seed.
- Some of the most basic and common propagation methods for my cultivation are cutting, grafting and air layering.
- I am also a favourite of all the shampoo companies as people like my smell, so I have become a staple shampoo variant.
- The wood of my tree is said to be resistant to insect and any sort of fungal attacks
- I am an edible fruit and can be eaten raw or cooked. My leaves can also be used as fodder.

**What I offer**

- About 100 grams of my consumption will give you:
- Calories - 68
  - Carbohydrates - 14.32 g
  - Sugar - 8.92 g
  - Fat - 0.95 g
  - Dietary fiber - 5.4 g
  - Potassium - 417 mg
  - Vitamin C - 228.3 mg
  - Water - 80.8 g

**I can help you with**

- Inflammation
- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Caries
- Wounds
- Pain relief
- Fever
- Diarrhea
- Rheumatism
- Lung diseases
- Ulcers

**Where you can find me**

Like I said, I am native to the Caribbean, Central America and South America, which tells you that

I am mainly cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. Depending on the cultivation, my fruit can range in size from as small as an apricot to as large as a grapefruit. Sometimes you can even find me with white, pink or red flesh. My skin is mostly green or yellow. I am a very highly adaptable being, which is why I can be easily grown as a container plant in temperate regions, but beware, for my ability to bloom and set fruit will be somewhat less predictable then! I am also on my way to becoming a popular bonsai species and am very popular in India and Eastern Asia.

**Why I fear climate change**

Yes, it is true that I am a tropical fruit so everyone assumes that I thrive in

warmer climates and have the time of my life. I am tolerant of environmental stresses; you could say I have a thick skin, but it is not all sunshines and rainbows for me. A grown up version of me can tolerate more, but since my growing period is so long, my younger versions are very delicate at the time and can be badly affected by climate change. I am susceptible to drought and cold, so the constant temperature rise and decrease can affect my production. Also, the development of the peel requires mild days with a cool night temperature, and if climate change takes that away, my production will be ruined!







Sometimes I'll start a sentence and I don't even know where it's going. I just hope to find it along the way.  
**Aayushi Bawa, AIS Noida, XI F**  
 Page Editor

## Nokia - A Phone That Lasted Longer Than Any Smartphone Ever Did

Samiksha Dubey, AIS Noida, XI J

They say, if ever a daunting apocalypse dawns on the face of the Earth, and destroys every inch of the planet, I would still be found intact under all that dilapidated debris. Well, hello! I am Nokia 1011, the progenitor of all the Nokia cell phones. Basically, *rishte me toh hum tumhare baap lagte hain*. Albeit all these Gen Y and Z folks have already put the 'vintage' stamp on me a long time ago, I am still a millennial, technically. I am a 90s kid after all! For your information, my model number indicates my date of birth, i.e., November 10, 1992. I was once a proud possession brandished by everyone back in the 90s and 2000s. And why not, for in the era where people had to literally sustain phone books and memorise contact details of their family and acquaintances, I came with the unprecedented ability to store 99 phone numbers.

Most of you must not be au courant of the fact that I come from a Finnish background and although today we are known for being one of the best smartphone companies in the world, my family had started off on a drastically different note back in 1865. Fredrik Idestam and Leo Michelin had first established my foundation as a ground wood pulp mill called Nokia Ab, and that's where it all started. Eventually we entered the arena of electricity generation in 1902 and towards the mid-1900s, Nokia Corporations came into being, as a merger of three companies that produced paper, car, communications cable, TV, etc. Thereafter, we experimented with a number of avenues like digital switches, mobile radio telephones for Finnish military, and

# Buzzing since '92

Pic: Pranav Arora, AIS Noida, XII G



even mini-laptops. Well, the rest is history as you can see! Contrary to popular belief today, once

I was the harbinger of convenient communication for the upcoming generations. Although I have no classy

semblance, I am classic indeed. No colour, no camera, no Bluetooth, no memory card slot- nothing at all, but

oh boy, does my fashionable spy-gear like extendable antenna set me apart. All the teenagers these days who laugh at the thought of me being their first phone and call me "dabba" should really bow down in reverence, considering I brought about the innovation of SMS-ing. In a fast-paced world, perhaps I was the only one valuing patience and trying to get you to do the same. Come on, having to click a hundred times just to say 'good morning' was a joyous struggle indeed!

It would be a lie if I don't acknowledge the kind of fame that I was bestowed upon once upon a time, but all good things come to an end, right? As swanky as I must have seemed then, I have become as unimpressive today, courtesy- the flashy technologically rich smartphones that have undermined me and my purpose. But that doesn't mean I have lost all purpose in this expeditious world; thanks to people like Mr Sreedharan, a 72-year-old kind hearted man, perhaps an old-school for you, but a rare gem who prefers personal relationships and minimalist technology rather than being a part of the crowd. I burst with pride every time he refuses to accept a smartphone from his children. We're like best buds!

While the rest of the world writes me off for every new toy that is dangled in front of them (yes, smartphones), Mr Sreedharan still wanders around in old alleys looking for repair stores, making sure that I continue to reside in his chest pocket, always close to his heart. Technology might be making the world smaller, but for folks like him, I am still doing my utmost to connect people!



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And now I'm thinking again, isn't there something we can do about something we can't do anything about?

Vanya Tandon, AIS Noida, XII J  
Page Editor



## Word Power



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

There are many ways to enhance one's quality of life and having a good vocabulary is certainly one of them. A command over language not only improves the understanding of school textbooks, it also plays an important role in

developing children as deep thinkers who can express themselves better. Amity's first-ever Vocabathon (Read page 11) that was held virtually this year, therefore, is yet another significant step in the direction of providing a holistic education for our students.

I believe that nurturing students to become better wordsmiths will help them in not only gaining focus and discipline, but also aid in boosting their memory and emotional intelligence. Enriching one's linguistic abilities, in fact, should begin right from the formative years, and this is why this inter-school competition has been designed for all age groups. Those of you who are applying to universities abroad would be aware of the emphasis that is laid on a good score in vocabulary tests. Just like these tests, the vision behind Vocabathon is also not to just test how many words you know, but whether you have the potential to unravel their true meaning and the wisdom to use them correctly.

Indeed, words have the potential to create and disrupt. Thus, a master of words should also be a master of his own mind. Perhaps that is why the great Sufi mystic Rumi has said, "Raise your words, not your voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder." Used appropriately and with good judgement, words have the ability to heal and the power to herald change in a positive direction. Words give you wings of expression and communication that allow you to fly towards the horizon of success. I wish to gift every Amitian these wings with which they can create, choose and celebrate their own sky. 🇮🇳

## Resilience is the key



Renu Singh  
Director Principal  
AIS Noida

I, on behalf of Amity fraternity, am eternally grateful to our visionary Chairperson ma'am for providing young learners with a perfect launchpad in the form of The Global Times, where the children's creative urges are realised naturally. Our Founder sir and Chairperson ma'am have always emphasised on positive attitude, sustained efforts, and innovative ideas in the learning process. They have provided all the learners with excellent infrastructure and unfathomable opportunities which enable them to bring a positive change in the world. Drawing impetus from Chairperson ma'am, the students endured all the challenges bravely in 2020-21 and did not let the pandemic rob them of their creative enthusiasm while working for the contest edition. And here they are, with this fantastic edition!

It gives me immense pleasure that Amity Noida's Editorial Board is the first one to churn out a spectacular contest edition. Despite the world thrown upside down, I am highly impressed with the way the students have unfolded the varied perspectives and issues plaguing our world today. Amitians are an incredibly talented bunch of students who have demonstrated their steadfast commitment to learning even in the face of the chaos created by the virus. Pandemic created a new world view for the students, and the success of online mode of learning proved that nothing can hamper the soaring learning curve of Amityans. I congratulate the team for creating such an outstanding issue which encompasses all the aspects pertaining to the change we witness around! 🇮🇳

# To put the fluence

## Analysing The Culture Of Influence One Step At A Time

Vanya Tandon, AIS Noida, XII J

The word-of-mouth of the digital age- Influencers. As we see this new phenomenon pervading through social media, it can be said that the influencer culture has indeed transformed the internet landscape over the years. With several upcoming digital creators carving a niche for themselves in the virtual space, engaging users through a plethora of topical issues, or even brand marketing in a relatable approach, influencing has developed into a safe bet as a social media career. While the fact that influencer is a tempting career opportunity is undeniable, there is more to it than what meets the screen.

### The prelude

Influencer culture has seemed to replace traditional advertising over the years. A Business Insider research says that influencer marketing is likely to become a 15 billion USD industry by the year 2022, and we can't see why that wouldn't hold true. While it has been noted that 84% of the millennials don't like usual advertisements through radio, television, etc., another research has it that 71% of customers are more likely to buy a product based on social media reference, which is currently under the reign of influencers.

### The pressure

Now that we can shake on the fact that influencer culture is the new alternative for effective marketing, it begs the question – is it as rosy as it looks? Let us answer this with another question. What makes one an influencer? Easy – followers. Followers are cur-

rency in the virtual domain. The market value of a follower is proportional to the number of influencers, and this is exactly where the pressure game begins (focus on "begins"). In a bid to create more followers, influencers often find themselves fighting

of being perceived as too image conscious, or accused of focusing more on brand image rather than their social media community. Fear of constant comparison with fellow influencers also pervades this new found realm.

### The problem

When pressure is not creating diamonds, it is bursting pipes and it would take a blindfold to say that it is the latter with these social media celebs. The exhausting portrayal of a 'perfect life' (read: pretend perfect) on social media not only takes an emotional toll on the creator; but also creates unrealistic standards from the viewer's perspective. While the concept of influencing was earlier limited to what the influencer chose to share with the target audience, it soon metamorphosed into what the audience wanted the said influencer to share, completely altering the creative direction. This was further believed to cause conflict in the creator/influencer's mind, which in turn leads to inauthentic posting of content, just to keep the follower count intact and growing. The end result - anxiety, depression and mental health issues. Thus, stories of countless influencers quitting the social game amidst mounting pressures barely come as a surprise. Many even reported to "never have been happier" in the wake of their quitting calls.

With over 500 words spelt, what exactly are we trying to say? That just like everything else the influencer bandwagon too has its flip side, something that may not be visible on your screen. So, before you are influenced to take this up, think over. 🇮🇳



Graphic: Jaskeerat Sarin, AIS Noida, XII D

## The final recourse

Continued from page 1...

### The explicative proposition

It just so happens that the solutions, either impermanent or hazardous, are problematic to the core. However, that should not at any cost undermine the central point in question, i.e., we must act at the earliest. With the total greenhouse emissions reaching a new high of 59.1 gigatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, it can be said that turning to these alternatives can in fact buy some time for the planet. Meanwhile, we can work on other technologies to offset the already skyrocketing emissions. Howbeit, if businesses continue polluting the skies, relying on the sulphur molecules, and justifying their actions

on the go, then no further efforts will succeed in calming down the sudden boiling pot that the Earth will become.

The UNEP suggests that in order to limit global warming temperature to 1.5 degree Celsius, we need to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 7.6% each year starting from now to 2030 as an endpoint. Had we acted on this advice 10 years ago, we would have only needed to reduce the same by 3.3% per year. This further implies that we cannot take climate crisis for granted anymore, believing that researchers will eventually resolve the grim situation. A shift in attitude is still an indispensable part of the process, failing which, we may end up with a far worse situation than what we began with.

## Peace in chaos



Priti Khullar  
GT Coordinator  
AIS Noida

Unfurling of pandemic led to a new way of life. Though, it was heartening to see clearer skies and birds singing, fair amount of fear and anxiety lurking all over, was hard to be overlooked. Everything was uncertain and unsettling; students were plain jaded from all the hours spent at home. Thus, while struggling with skittering attention and frayed tempers, working on the contest edition was like a breath of fresh air for them. When the world was under seize due to the deadly virus, the editorial board of Amity Noida displayed matchless resilience and dedication, and created a spectacular edition.

My sincere gratitude goes to the venerated Chairperson ma'am for providing us with this wonderfully effective learning platform- 'The Global Times' where learners are drawn to the alchemy of language. With immaculate direction and guidance, ma'am has provided immense opportunities to Amityans, which are instrumental in their holistic development. Amongst them, working on the contest edition, for one, provided the students with the much-needed booster dose of rejuvenation and innovation. There was rarely a day when I wasn't spellbound by the spontaneity and enthusiasm of the team. Their persistent exploration and expression of ideas over innumerable zoom calls and WhatsApp groups, was simply amazing.

Under the guidance of our director principal Renu Singh, the budding journalists of AIS Noida have consistently held up superior standards through their closest simulation of real world journalism. I wish them all the best! 🇮🇳





People assume that writing is a strict progression from beginning to end, but actually from a non-linear, non-subjective viewpoint, it's more like a ball of wibbly-wobbly, timey-wimey stuff.

Anwesha Samanta, AIS Noida, XII B, Page Editor

# The Pegasus Panic

## The Lowdown On The Pegasus Spyware Controversy And The Parties Involved

Anwesha Samanta  
AIS Noida, XII B

After what can be called a months-long investigation, Amnesty International and Paris non-profit Forbidden Stories recently released a report that identifies over 50,000 high-profile targets from across 50 countries under secretive surveillance. Courtesy: An Israeli spyware known as Pegasus, infamously so. The list of scrutinised victims includes eminent political figures, activists, journalists, lawyers and students from all over the world. Ever since its revelation, the much-publicised report has been flagged as a matter of serious concern by several political commentators. Further, it also raises uncomfortable yet important questions on privacy, surveillance and security. But what's the fuss all about, anyway, you may ask? Here is all that you need to know about the incident that sparked controversy all over the globe.

### The P for Pandemonium

Possibly the most dangerous spyware ever made, Pegasus is capable of copying messages, harvesting photos, stealing passwords, and tracking your location, effectively making your phone a 24-hour surveillance device. It can potentially record every single action, all your conversations, the people you meet, the places you visit, the transactions you make, all from a single click. And before you know it, the hacker has absolute access to your phone, possibly even more than you, while you remain blissfully unaware.

### The E for Egregious

After a statement by the NSO group confirmed that the software is sold exclusively to vetted government agencies, several governments have drawn flak for purchasing the software in order to spy on their political opponents. Originally meant to be used against criminals and terrorists, the recent investigations suggest

continuing abuse of the spyware in the hands of authoritarian regimes.

### The G for Gainsay

Amidst global outrage, most governments have come forward to either deny any wrongdoing, or to severely downplay the seriousness of the issue at hand. However, with all the evidence stacked against them, it would be downright foolish on our part to simply deny the grave implications of the Pegasus scandal and move on. Authoritarianism and technology together make quite the dangerous combination. Political action is the only way forward.

### The A for Aftermath

Around a thousand individuals in India, including opposition leaders, academicians and journalists, have been identified as potential targets so far. The list also goes on to feature several activists linked with controversial cases, pointing towards possible fabrication of evidence, which raises questions on the independent nature of our democratic institutions. Elsewhere, the spyware has been linked with state-aided assassinations, mass surveillance, crackdowns on dissent and more.

### The S for Sabotage

Researchers trace the earliest appearance of this malware back to 2016,

infecting phones through what is called 'spear-phishing' — a technique wherein the Pegasus code is installed on the device by clicking on a malicious link. Since then, however, it has been found out that Pegasus attacks can also be achieved without any interaction from the device's owner — a simple WhatsApp call could make the target vulnerable to the spyware, even if the target doesn't answer the call.

### The U for Unacceptable

Today, the number of smartphone users worldwide is about 3.8 bn people, that is to say, 48.20% of the whole population. Given the state of affairs, it is absolutely deplorable how these malware practices have the potential to breach the privacy of such a large population relying on technology. The question remains as to how one can ensure their security when such unrecognisable conspiracies are executed with so much ease. The answer's still unknown.

### The S for Security

Ever since the controversy surfaced, it has been evident as to how the whole conspiracy is strategised, while the idea of safety is still a blur on the internet space. However, it becomes even more of an individual responsibility to steer clear of what can remotely be the devil in disguise. A few steps to keep yourself out of such traps are to avoid installing from third party websites, always download trusted and official applications, be mindful while giving permissions to online portals, never blindly open links or mails and messages. It's better to be safe than sorry, they say!



**Enjoyed the article? Fill in the blanks to test everything you learnt!**

Pegasus, a spyware developed by the Israeli firm.....(1), was allegedly used by several governments to spy on their critics, as per a joint investigation by..... (2) and .....(3). According to a statement by the firm, the software is sold exclusively to ..... (4) and is intended to be used only against..... (5). When it was first discovered, Pegasus was infecting devices through a technique called.....(6). Since then, however, it has been found that the malware can also be installed without requiring any.....(7) from the target device's owner.

**Answers:** 1. NSO Group 2. Amnesty International 3. Forbidden Stories 4. Vetted government agencies 5. Criminals and terrorists 6. Spear-phishing 7. Interaction







Welcome to the real world. It is sad.  
You're gonna love it.  
Yana Tewari, XI F & Ishani Singh, XI E  
AIS Noida, Page Editors



# Pinky promise

Aditi Banerji  
AIS Noida, XII I

Tick. Tock. The mouse ran up the clock. Just an hour ago, there was laughter. Giggles and wiggles. Noodles and strudels. Sweet bliss flowing through the air, chatters of a life here, another there. A glass shattered, but still no one cared. A pinky promise for a second play date was made under the Lego house. I hold her left hand, and feel home. And then, everything freezes. Icicles pirouette down the sky. I look down at my still extended right hand. I quickly brush the snow off my coat and tread forward along the way. It had been 15 years that I escaped this place for good, ran away much farther than home. I was a young girl, with hands of fire. I ran away from my parents, from Claire, from everyone and everything I ever held dear.

My eyes wander to the stationary shop with the ever so sweet Mr Higgs, the playground that never stopped laughing, the cineplex, the arcade center...

I close my eyes. Claire's looking the dainty darling that she is, wearing her best friend's necklace, the one with half a

## Storywala



Pic: Dhruv Arora, AIS Noida, XII H

heart, the one that I gifted to her on her 18th birthday. I fall face first on the icy road, breaking my icy stupor...

Claire was the only one who believed in me. She helped me rebuild my lab - the lab of my

dreams, after dad burnt it down. If only she didn't. If only there was some way to warn her, if only I had known what was to befall that day...

I start running frantically now, I need to find her. I need to tell her,

I quickly brush the snow off my coat and tread forward along the way.

it was all for her. She loved the snow, and I loved my lab coat. The plan was perfect. One click and she would have had snowflakes on her plate whenever she wanted. But, something went wrong that night. A case of a Lego stuck in between the levers. And, that made all the difference.

Alas, I see her, with her arms beckoning me, but her face is contorted in fear. I rush to her just like I did that night in my lab, but found her frozen, as solid as glass, just like now.

The fateful night came rushing right in front of my eyes. Just as I had pressed the lever of my snow-making machine expecting dainty little snowflakes that I would gift Claire only to see her beautiful smile... a loud boom deafened our ears!

The entire system collapsed with a deafening thud, froze the city, and I had to leave 15 years ago, because I was a girl of fire running away from ice. I looked at her one last time, her hand was still extended in a pinky promise.



## Choco-chip cookies



Sidhika Bhasin

Sidhika Bhasin, AGS Gurugram, XI

### Ingredients

All-purpose flour	1¾ cup
Salt	1 tbsp
Baking powder	½ tsp
Butter (melted)	1 cup
Sugar	1½ cup
Egg	1
Egg yolk	1
Choco-chips	1 cup

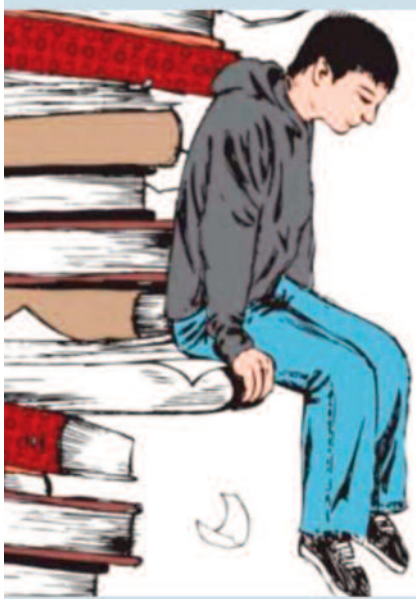
### Recipe

- In a bowl, add butter and sugar together and mix until they are completely dissolved.
- Add in an egg and one egg yolk, and mix until the egg is properly combined.
- Sieve the flour and then add it in the same bowl along with salt and baking powder. Mix everything well.
- Add choco-chips into the mixture and start kneading it. It will soon turn into a dough.
- On a baking tray lined with parchment paper, scoop out small pieces of the dough according to the size of cookies you want. Make sure to keep at least a distance of 5 cm between two pieces as the cookies will expand when cooked.
- Place the cookies in the oven at 180 degree Celsius for 10-12 minutes.
- Once they are done, take them out, let them cool down, and then enjoy your yummy cookies!

## WORDS VERSE

### Examophobia

Josephine C Simon  
AIS Vas 6, Alumna



Long awaited days of anxiety  
Got through it with courage mighty  
Thinking all day about my grade  
Always made me feel so afraid

I couldn't find any joy till mom said  
Don't feel sad, it's just a phase  
It sums up all your efforts of days  
At the end, it surely does pay

My teacher handed me my result  
That put me through a lot of insult  
But indeed, I realised my mistake  
For it was my fate at stake

Ultimately after such a tedious day  
I learnt my lesson well, in dismay  
A lesson that will help me shine  
For a stitch in time saves nine!

### A goddess amongst ruin

Deeksha Puri, AIS PV, Alumna

Amidst ruins of ephemeral war  
Lie scenes of destruction and chaos  
Rubble obscures chains now broken  
Engraved with "Societal Standards"

The water stream that is nearby  
Doesn't flow with mere water  
It flows with blood of martyrs  
Who have sacrificed lives in war

Atmosphere seemingly changed  
From an air of "Toxic Masculinity"  
To scent most warm and welcoming

Like that of our Mother Earth

Amongst the chaos lies a corpse  
On its true stone deathbed  
It is fully covered in crimson  
Yet a familiar figure lies near

It is she – descendant of goddesses?  
Adorned with bangles of equality  
With determination and strength?  
Her face a hue of peace through war

Eyes painted with stories to tell  
"It is a war that had to be won  
It is I who has slain Mighty Demon"  
She proclaims as she pays her "respects"

To he who embraced death  
To he who had to embrace death  
The gravestone simply reading  
"Here lies the Patriarchy." 🇮🇳



## CAMERA CAPERS

Dakshesh Bharal, AIS PV, Alumnus

Send in your entries to  
cameracap@theglobaltimes.in



The sight of a thousand suns



The light of a thousand guns



The bright of a thousand orisons





These poets have a brilliant emotional range (unlike Ronald \*eye roll\*)  
**Vrinda Rastogi**, AIS Noida, XI E, Page Editor

# A shooting star



Short story

**Tanya Khurana**, AIS Vas 6, VII

My five-year-old sister and I were sitting outside on the balcony after dinner. Usually, we both would help our mother clean up the table and kitchen, while dad did the dishes. But today he had asked us to watch out for a shooting star since it was a moonless night. Just before dinner, he had also shared some interesting facts about shooting stars, after I told him that my teacher was talking about them in class. I learnt from him that a shooting star is not really a star, but **grit** from space colliding

at very high speed with air up in the sky. Many shooting stars are produced by grit no larger than a grain of sand. Both of us had a pair of binoculars in our hand as we waited. My sister had one arm propped up on the parapet and was peering through her binoculars. "Anvi, you do realise that the shooting star will appear in the sky and not in our neighbour's living room, right?" I sighed. Even though it was dark, I could see her cheeks turn crimson. Without taking her eyes off from the binoculars, she hurriedly pointed them up towards the sky again. Dad was sitting right behind us and he

Just before dinner, he had also shared some interesting facts about shooting stars, after I told him that my teacher was talking about them in class.

was saying that he once saw something called a 'meteor shower' with his dad and it was beautiful. It is like numerous shooting stars falling together. "There it is!" Anvi suddenly exclaimed, pointing to a flash of white light across the vast, black sky. "Make a wish!" I instantly squeezed my eyes shut. In my head, I wished for a laptop, a pink cashmere sweater that I had been eyeing for the longest time, and a new video game. I was so sure my wishes were going to come true! "What did you wish for?" I asked my younger sister excitedly as she opened her eyes. "Oh, nothing much." She said modestly, "Just that you, Mommy, Daddy and I can be happy forever." I stared at her with my mouth open as I felt guilty for my selfish wishes at the sight of the beautiful shooting star. **GT**

**So what did you learn today?**

**A new word:** Grit

**Meaning:** Small loose particles of stone or sand



## Recycled bottle

**Abhyudaya Vashistha**, AIS Gur 43, VII

### Material required

Glass bottle -1  
 Fabric rose -1  
 Pipe cleaners (green and yellow)  
 Quilling paper strips (pink and yellow)  
 Quilling tool  
 Fevicol  
 Scissors

### Procedure

- Take a glass bottle and wrap it whole with the green and yellow pipe cleaners as shown in the picture.
- Now, take a yellow quilling strip, and with the help of a quilling tool, make a loose coil. Glue its end and clinch it a bit to give it a drop-like shape. Make 5 such paper drops.
- Repeat the process with the pink quilling strips to make 5 more paper drops and 1 circle.
- Using Fevicol, stick them on the glass bottle in the shape of a flower (refer to the picture).
- Now, take a green pipe cleaner and mould it to form a bow. Paste it on the neck of the bottle.
- Take a fabric rose and paste it on the bow-shaped pipe cleaner.
- Lastly, take a yellow quilling strip and wrap it around the bottle, a little below the quilling decor.
- Congratulations! You have successfully recycled your glass bottle. Place it atop the shelf in your room and flaunt!

## Riddle fiddle

**Amish Wankhade**  
 AIS Gur 46, VIII

1. Imagine you are stuck in a closed room filled with water. How do you get out?

2. Where will you find Friday before Thursday?

3. What word in the English language uses all five vowels plus Y in an alphabetical order?

**ANSWER:** 1. Stop imagining 2. Dictionary 3. Facetiously

# What's my worth?

**Sanjali Sharma**, X L & **Ananya Pareek**, X B, AIS Noida

I'm unworthy of being loved  
 And I simply can't say that  
 I'm as beautiful as the sea  
 All I know for certain is that  
 My maimed face is appalling

I am weak and I lack grace  
 It is completely untrue that  
 I'm pretty and beautiful  
 All of me believes that  
 I've grown older hearing this

Molten face, flushed cold tears  
 Earrings dangling on my ears



Memories evoking my fears  
 The society humiliates me  
 For the pain I've endured

That all I am is a victim  
 I don't have strength in me  
 You're wrong if you think so  
 I am tough, down to my core.  
 An acid attack **victim** warrior **GT**

Now read the poem backwards...

Making a Newspaper Contest  
 AIS Noida  
 2020-21

Illustration: Swadha Tripathi, AISN, XII J

## It's Me



### KNOW ME

**My name:** Swaminathan Udaiyappan  
**My Class:** KG  
**My school:** AIS Gurugram 43  
**Born on:** May 6, 2015

### MY FAVOURITES

**Teacher:** Shaveta Puri ma'am  
**Subject:** EVS  
**Friend:** Prisha Sahni  
**Game:** Anything related to cars  
**Cartoon:** Car Toons  
**Food:** Carrots and sambhar

### MY DREAMS AND GOALS

**Hobby:** Drawing  
**I like:** Pets  
**I dislike:** Dolls  
**My role model:** Father  
**I want to become:** A pilot  
**I want to feature in GT because:** I want to make friends.

## PAINTING CORNER

**Kinjal Agarwal**  
 AIS Gurugram 43, VII







Which is the most enjoyable job? Being a page editor, because the job of a page editor is 'rewording'!

Pavani Joshi, XII J & Ananya Tomar, XII A  
AIS Noida, Page Editors



Illustrations: Swadha Tripathi, AIS Noida, XII J

# Fall of the iron curtain



## All You Need To Know About The Cold War And More!

Pavani Joshi, XII J &  
Ananya Tomar, XII A  
AIS Noida

The Cold War refers to the series of tensions and confrontations between the Western Bloc led by the United States and the Eastern Bloc led by USSR, after development of nuclear arsenals on both sides, towards the end of World War II in the year 1945.

### The conflict

■ The war was a result of the biggest ideological and

political tension between belligerents USA and USSR, which were the only remaining superpowers after World War II.

■ The debate was whether liberal democracy and capitalism led by the West was better than communism and socialism by the East or vice versa.

■ Both sides had the capacity to retaliate against an attack and to cause so much destruction that neither could afford to initiate a war against the other. As a result, the name Cold War was coined.

### The participants

■ The western alliance was formalised into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in April 1949. An association of twelve states which declared that an armed attack on any one of them would be regarded as an attack on all of them.

■ The eastern alliance, known as the Warsaw Pact, was led by the Soviet Union. It was created in the year 1955, and its principal function was to counter NATO's forces in Europe.

■ Countries outside the two blocs played a role in reducing Cold War conflicts and averting some grave crises. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) - founded in 1961 by India, Egypt, Indonesia, Yugoslavia, Ghana - included such countries which largely remained neutral in their response to the Cold War.

### The turn of events

#### I) The Berlin Wall (1961)

■ This was the greatest symbol of Cold War. Constructed in 1961, the Wall divided East Berlin from West Berlin, thus dividing Berlin both physically and ideologically.

■ On November 9, 1989, the spokesperson for East Berlin Communist party announced that the residents of East and West Berlin were now free to cross the border.

■ More than 2 million from East Berlin visited West Berlin, celebrating by knocking out chunks of the Wall. East and West Berlin, officially reunited on October 3, 1990, a year after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

#### II) Cuban Missile Crisis (October 16, 1962 - October 28, 1962)

■ The most dangerous point of the Cold War, this crisis lasted 13 days. Triggered by the installations of nuclear weapons in communist ruled Cuba by then leader of USSR, Nikita Khrushchev, this was the closest both the belligerents came to a nuclear war.

■ To world's great relief, it didn't escalate into a full-blown nuclear war as both sides decided to prevent conflict.

#### III) Nuclear non-proliferation treaty (1968)

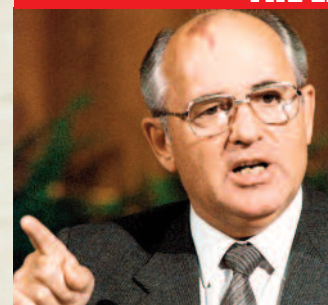
■ This aimed to prevent use and development of nuclear weapons, and restrict the massive build-up of weapons during the Cold War and put an end to 'Arms race'.

#### IV) Disintegration of USSR (December 25, 1991)

■ Putting an end to the Cold War, the Soviet Union collapsed, and 15 new republics emerged.

■ Russia officially became the successor of USSR.

### THE LEADERS



**Mikhail Gorbachev**  
Facilitated end of Cold War



**Joseph Stalin**  
Led the Soviet Union



**John F. Kennedy**  
US President during the Cuban Missile Crisis



**Nikita Khrushchev**  
Leader of the USSR during Cuban Missile Crisis



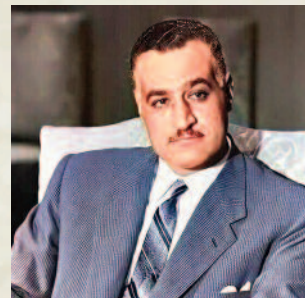
**Harry S. Truman**  
Led the US into Korean war



**Jawaharlal Nehru**  
Key founder of NAM



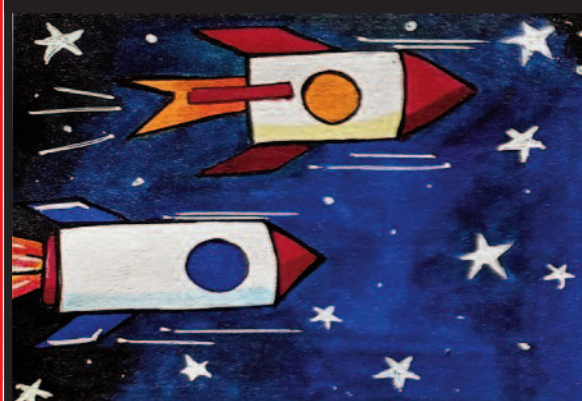
**Josip Broz Tito**  
Key founder of NAM



**Gamal Abdul Nasser**  
Key founder of NAM

TIMELINE
February 4-February 11, 1945: Yalta conference
August 6-9, 1945: Bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki
March 12, 1947: Truman Doctrine
June 5, 1947: Marshal Plan
June 1948-May 1949: Berlin Airlift
April 4, 1949: Formation of NATO
1950-1953: Korean War
May 14, 1955: Warsaw Pact
August 1961: Berlin Wall established
October 1962: Cuban Missile Crisis
March 1985: Gorbachev elected leader of USSR
November 9, 1989: Fall of Berlin Wall
December 1989: Malta summit
October 1990: Reunification of Germany
July 1991: Warsaw Pact ends
25 December, 1991: Gorbachev resigns
26 December, 1989: Collapse of Soviet Union and the end of Cold War

## Once upon a Cold War



With Russia sending the first man to space, how will US catch up in the race?

In a turn of events, a small step for man has made US the victor.



The war gave rise to the much debated Space Race, which was considered won by the US given that they first put men on the moon.



Both President Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev agreed that they would pause the Cold War if there was ever an alien invasion.





Do we have a special someone? Well, yeah of course. A bunch of 'em. Our Editorial Board. **Aditi Banerji, XII I & Kreetik Thakur, XII D** AIS Noida, Page Editors



# Vocabathon 2021

## The Battle Of Wits Amongst The Wordsmiths Of Amity



Chairperson graces the grand finale ceremony of the first ever virtual Vocabathon

### AIS Gurugram 46

The school organised the first ever Vocabathon- The Battle Of Wits, an inter-Amity competition of vocabulary skills, virtually from July 6-9, 2021. An initiative of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, Vocabathon aimed to enrich the vocabulary and enhance the linguistic abilities of young minds. She, along with other dignitaries of Amity Group, graced the grand finale hosted by AIS Gurugram 46. Total 15 branches of Amity Group of Schools from all over India participated in the mega event, held under the guidance of

school principal Arti Chopra. AIS Gurugram 46 was the overall organiser of the competition and eight branches of Amity Group of Schools hosted the event in their respective schools. The event was conducted in two stages. The preliminary round (intra school level) was conducted in individual classes across 15 schools and all the students mandatorily appeared for the same. The top scorers of this round from each class then represented their school in final inter-Amity round. The final inter-Amity round comprised two sub rounds. The MS Forms Elimination Round was the first, wherein finalists of all participating schools contested. Top four

finalists teams were then selected for the second sub round, i.e., the final Live Quiz Power Point Presentation Round. Quiz sections such as Collocation Pelmanism, Riddle Diddle, Phonetics, 'Spell the words', 'Guess the word', 'Same, opposites or different', etc., tested the linguistic acumen of participants. The rounds were fun and fast wherein the students' vocabulary skills were tested with various swift questions. Excellence in this competition required both a mastery of the meanings of the various words, and thoughtful reasoning about the relationships between these words. The unique combination of education, fun and competition al-

lowed the students to enhance their vocabulary and memory skills. AIS Gurugram 46 lifted the overall winner's trophy of Vocabathon, with AIS Saket and AIS Gurugram 43 becoming first and second runners up. In her address to the students, Chairperson emphasised on building vast vocabulary for developing excellent linguistic skills to become the global citizens.

**Host Schools:** AIS Noida (Classes I and IX), AIS Saket (Classes II and X), AIS Vasundhara 1 (Class III), AIS Gurugram 46 (Classes IV and XII), AIS PV (Class V), AIS Gurugram 43 (Class VI), AIS Vasundhara 6 (Classes VII and XI), and AIS Mayur Vihar (Class VIII). 🇮🇳



Student delegates discuss global issues at the conference

## AMIGMUN'21

### Nurturing Young Thinkers

#### AIS Gurugram 46

The 13th and first ever virtual e-AMIGMUN was held by school from July 15-16, 2021. The event was held under the visionary guidance of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, who envisions to nurture caring and compassionate global leaders. The event began with the introduction of secretary general Somesh Taori, alumnus (batch 20-21) by Charge'de'Affair Kusum Kapoor. The secretary general introduced the executive board and declared the meet open.

The simulatory conference had 338 student delegates from Class VIII-XI representing 8 committees, namely UNGA (UN General Assembly), WHO (World Health Organisation), UNHRC (UN Human Rights Committee), UNCOUOS

(UN Committee on Peaceful uses of Outer Space), IAAE (International Agency On Atomic Energy), WTO (World Trade Organisation), AIPPM (All India Political Parties Meet), and JCC (Joint Crisis Committee NATO vs Russia). They discussed various agendas like 'Reviewing the current healthcare systems to avoid and to respond to future pandemics', 'The human rights violations of refugees during the Covid 19 pandemic', etc. Delegates presented their well-researched studies with the help of digital interactive tools like padlet and whiteboard. The event culminated with the release of the third edition of 'The Daily Delegate', the e-newsletter, which captured the best and most interesting moments of the various committees. Best Delegate and High Commendation awards were given in every committee.

## Inter-house competitions

### To Unleash The Inner Creativity

#### AGS Gurugram

**Viwaswan Jha, XI & Anshita Kumar, XI**

School marked the end of the academic year 2020-21, with inter-house competitions held from June 29-July 2, 2021. The competition between four houses- Amazon, Ganges, Nile and Zhuang, comprised a spectrum of sports and extracurricular events. Students of primary section also participated in a wide assortment of activities which were along the lines of those in which their seniors participated. Art and craft competitions were organised for students of Class Nursery-XII. A topic was assigned on-the-spot for



A student creates poster

primary students to create artworks on paper using oil pastels, sketch pens, and poster colours, while the students from grade IX-XII designed and crafted mini furniture pieces using newspaper sticks. In digital designing competition, students of PYP, middle school and high school were each given a topic on-the-spot. PYP students created digital posters and middle school students created animations using Adobe Macromedia Flash. High school students inventively produced short 2-minute movies using video-editing softwares such as iMovie and Adobe Premiere Pro. There were dance competitions, too, in which dances as pre-recorded videos of 1.5 minutes were presented and the best two videos from each house were selected. The competition saw a harmonious blend of western and traditional dance forms.

In music competitions, too, performances of 1.5 minutes were recorded, and the best 2 videos were selected from each house. There was an inter house chess competition also, along with fun-filled sports activities, welcome activities, the challenges, the scavenger hunt, etc. Competitions like maximum number of squats within a minute while balancing a cushion over one's head, added more fun. A recreational Yoga event was also held on the last day, and the event culminated with the re-presentation of all the selected videos from the music and dance competitions held in the course of the event. 🇮🇳



Chess champ Abhinav Singh

## Chess champs

#### AIS Gurugram 43

Young chess champions from school delivered splendid performance at the Haryana Senior State Chess Championship, held virtually from July 21-23, 2021. Arshpreet Singh of Class V secured the runners up position, while Abhinav Singh of Class VI bagged seventh position. Arshpreet Singh who scored 5 out of 6 points also qualified for the Senior National Chess Championship.



Chess champ Arshpreet Singh

## Thinking for tigers

### ...At An Assembly To Save Them

#### AIS Vasundhara 6

Students of Class VI conducted a special assembly on July 28, 2021, to celebrate International Tiger Day. The virtual assembly began with prayer and thought of the day, after which students shared the latest tiger census. According to it, 70% of the world's population of tiger is now safely flourishing in India. They also presented a speech and a video on tiger facts, and narrated famous fables on tigers. The creative expressions were conspicuous as face paintings, posters, tangrams, leaf impressions, etc. Students also delivered speeches and discussed on collaborative steps to be taken to stop illegal killing of tigers and to give them safe habitats to live. 🇮🇳



A poster speaks to save tigers



Students share famous fables on tigers during the special assembly



“Aw man, all the orange soda spilled out of my cereal!” said the sleep-deprived page editor.

Samiksha Dubey, AIS Noida, XI J  
Page Editor



Illustration: Lavanya Roy, AIS Noida, XII I

# The subtle art of sarcasm

## Now, Not Everyone Can Be A Picasso!

Ishani Singh, XI E & Aditi Banerji, XII I  
AIS Noida

**L**ooking for a preface to the article? Why don't you just read the heading? I am sure you've got those big pearly things called eyes. It's time we put them to use.

And that, folks, is sarcasm for you, in its purest form. Or wait, did I really just mock you? Maybe, you'll never know, or you know already. Take your time, solve this esoteric, meanwhile I'll help you through the different levels that would lead you to ace the art of being sarcastic.

### Level I: Amateur

**Trademark:** *Abrupt one-second loud laugh*  
“What do you give to a sick lemon? Lemon Aid.” Hah! No, no you weren't thinking of some other reaction to this, were you? I'd advise you to stop reading this article right now. Let the person telling the joke spiral down into a conundrum of self-doubt. Conceal. Don't feel, don't let them know you have a heart. No pitying the bad jokesters please, you're better than that. Don't laugh. Come on, if you want to be sarcastic, you have to stop thinking that this joke was so bad that it was actually good.

### Level II: Advanced beginner

**Trademark:** *How about I interest you in a sarcastic comment?*

That's all you got? Do you really think in your teensy little brain that people are going to be waiting for you to sprinkle your satire on them? They have places to be, people to meet and spread their own mockery on. Cut to the chase, man. Tell it to their face, what an annoying habit they have of breathing. Go on, do it. I believe in you (maybe).

### Level III: Competent

**Trademark:** *I wish I could, but I don't want to.*

Finally getting the hang of it, huh? Rest assured, there's no turning back from here. The past is in the past. Let it flow! Honestly, at first, I thought you were born on a highway since that's where the most accidents happen, but progress, I see. Getting away with sarcasm, not easy, lads. You need to trust that some people do need a high five. In the face. With a chair. I didn't just say that.

### Level IV: Expert

**Trademark:** *No offense, but I was just kidding.*  
The next time you find someone peeking... “Hey! I found your nose in my business...” Attaboy, learning from the master, eh? “I'd agree with you but then we'd both be wrong.” What? Did you just say that to me? “Yeah, cause beating the crap out of people isn't legal.” I don't get if you're being mean or funny? “That's the point, isn't it?” Damn.

Pun (not) intended: The writer is a PhD from the University of Sarcasm and is currently scowling at your inability to comprehend elite humour. 🙄



### All hands on deck The Editorial Board



### Oh captains, my captains The chief editors



### Leading by example The mentor teacher



### Lensman on duty The photographer



### Eat, sleep, illustrate, repeat The illustrator

