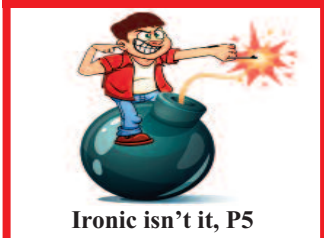
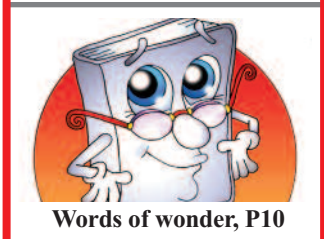


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Ironic isn't it, P5



Words of wonder, P10

**AMITe poll**

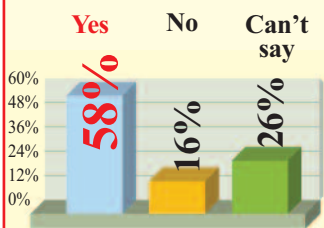
Do you agree with the central government's decision to allow Ayurvedic doctors to perform surgeries?

- 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 December 7, 2020

With Pfizer vaccine now in the market, do you think it will be effective in reaching the ones in need amidst the pandemic?



Results as on December 11, 2020

**Coming Next**  
Merry Christmas!

# In search of 'words'

## The Annual Crowning Of Oxford's 'Word Of The Year' Stays Cancelled

From our near brush with WWII to almost a year-long pandemic to the multifarious natural calamities that struck the world at large, 2020 scared the bejesus out of us in more ways than one. And to summarise in one word a year as eventful as this is a backbreaker to say the very least. Not only did the task make the numerous expert lexicographers at Oxford English Dictionary cudgel their brains, but it left the language, i.e., English flummoxed too; as the world gasped for air, the language, as we know it, struggled to find a 'word of the year'. However, jumping to our rescue are a bunch of Amitians, with a glossary of words anthologised as suggestions for 'Word of the year 2020' that could, if considered, make the cut.

**Online (/ɒn'laɪn/)**

"An unassuming and seemingly harmless word has become an indispensable part of the human dictionary: from waking up to online news to sleeping to listening to music online; from playing games online to connecting to old friends on online portals. Who would have thought our lives will be marshalled by a mere word? What passes for normal life now happens almost entirely online. The modern world has been intrinsically woven within this online fabric where it has become a place for people to express themselves freely, detaching themselves from the 'traditional' ways of doing things. This online space is dynamic in nature; and there's always a question of 'what next' and the answer is never the same."

Gauri Singh, AIS Vasundhara 6, XII

**Staycation (/steɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/)**

"Without a notice, this year steamrolled humankind to simply be confined in their homes, with no negotiations whatsoever. As we all helplessly saw our seemingly mundane lives going for a toss, so did our plans and vacations. All we were left with is a long endless vacation. However, as we humans tend to make the most of everything, we endeavoured to enjoy this indefinite period of confinement joyously with our families. As a result, this portmanteau was heavily used throughout the year as people celebrated holidays at their own homes. And thus, 'staycation' adequately de-

scribes this year, reflecting the ethos and mood of 2020 in its true sense."

Amishi Jain, AIS Mayur Vihar, X A

**Positive (/ˈpɒz.ə.tɪv/)**

"2020 has been the most challenging for us as the world faced the lethal Coronavirus outbreak. And being COVID positive at that? Well, that has to be most dreadful nightmare, completely altering the world and the word both. Not only has positive been the most fear-

fully spoken word this year quite literally (20 million corona positive patients as we speak, and counting), it has also become a contronym or auto-antonym. So, when they say, 'positive is the new negative', they are absolutely correct; take note and stay home! Make sure you and all those around you are positive that you are all not truly, really positive!"

Fatima Samreen, AIS Jagdishpur, X B

Continued on page 3...



Illustration: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network

# Small steps matter

## See, Think, Validate, Engage And Then Raise Awareness

Ayushi Goel, AIS Gurugram 43, XII

Currently associated with United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as communications officer for South Asia, Samarth Pathak, is an expert in the field of communications and public advocacy, network building, youth mobilisation on SDGs, management of external and internal communications, and issues related to human rights and development. Presiding as a guest speaker at eAIMUN 2020, he showered the students with his expertise and knowledge as well as engaged in a conversation with GT reporter. Here are excerpts of the same.

**Communication, a pivotal factor**

Communication is a great unifier and whenever one wants to resolve issues or foster peace, it is communication that we turn to. Going by the current scenario, people have started using digital space for education, work and entertainment, and it has become a typical medium of communication. While it plays a pivotal role in connecting with new people and learning about new issues, it also gives you access to information which you may not have had that easily. On one hand, it broadens your horizons and on the other side, it brings in concerns such as cybercrimes and excessive screen time. So, we must use this digital space communication with caution and avoid being enslaved by it.

Pic: Dakshesh Bharal, AIS PV, XII



GT reporter with Samarth Pathak

**News, validity for belief**

Today, the world is not just grappling with a pandemic but also an infodemic - a situation where you are bombarded with so much information that it confuses you and you don't know whether to believe it or not. Such unreliable information is hurting the global efforts to combat the pandemic primarily because it creates confusion. And to dispel such rumours and fake news, the UN has been working to spread accurate information for solidarity over the past few months. One of the initiatives launched by UN in this direction is UN Verified programme which calls on people around the world to become information volunteers and share UN Verified site-

based content to keep their families and communities safe and well connected.

**Youth, the real changemakers**

While working on 'Youth-focused initiatives on SDG 16, human rights and the rule of law as part of the E4J global programme', I realised that it's all about empowering young people and educators to strengthen peace. Since the inception of this programme, we have conducted around 145-150 sessions directly connecting with over 3,500 students across India and the content has been shared with over 15000 students. I believe that it is extremely important to promote a culture of lawfulness amongst young people across the world and enable them in becoming responsible citizens, problem-solvers and catalysts for change.

**Leadership, together for future**

To become the future leaders of tomorrow, students need to be able to think, engage with issues plaguing the world and raise awareness on them. Every young child should try to find out what s/he is good at - some are good writers, some make excellent videos, while some are good with art, technology, dance and music, and then supplement the same with their knowledge to engage with other people. For the same, you have to build a network with like-minded people and solve real-world issues. You need to become an ideapreneur, launch a social campaign or a social start-up or some activity because your actions speak louder than words. Remember, every small step matters.



Samarth Pathak





# India This Week

Jaya Jha, AIS Gurugram 46, XI J

While we sit on our couch just breathing, a lot of things happen around us, and sometimes in our very own country. We bring you the ones worth mentioning.



## 1M USD prize for promoting girls' education

**News:** Ranjitsinh Disale, a teacher at Zilla Parishad Primary School, in the remote village of Paritewadi, Maharashtra, has been conferred with the prestigious 2020 Global Teacher Prize and a prize money of a whopping 1 million USD. The Global Teacher Prize, a noble initiative of the Varkey Foundation, aims at celebrating exceptional educators who have made outstanding contributions to their profession.

**Views:** It is often said that teachers are the foundation of our country; Ranjitsinh has been instrumental in proving this statement true. The news of him winning this esteemed prize has made the whole country proud as well as it has made the rest of the world applaud the exemplary work done by him. His journey has not been one without obstacles though, as even today, girls in many parts of our country are not encouraged to study. His valuable contribution towards the education of the girl child will hopefully inspire more people and other educators like him to work for this cause.

Farhan Siddiqui, AIS Gurugram 46, X E

## IAF to enhance combat skills with 'Swarm Drone' technology



**News:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) has taken a step towards the development of an indigenous 'swarm drone' technology that will employ artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance combat skills. The 'swarm

drone' technology is used for large scale attacks on enemy tanks, infantry combat vehicles and trucks loaded with ammunition.

**Views:** Although India, as a nation, has been a firm promulgator of the ideals of non-violence, yet I believe that it is important to keep our defences in line as well. The drone technology will surely give an edge to IAF, especially as this technology can be used in Suppression of Enemy Air Defences/ Destruction of Enemy Air Defences (SEAD/DEAD) roles. If these drones are armed, these can also be used for 'kamikaze' or strike roles, hitting the enemy Air Defense sites or other critical infrastructural assets.

Sudiksha Sarcar, AIS Gurugram 46, XI G

## CPCB raises concern over frothing of Yamuna river

**News:** The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has raised concerns over the pollution and subsequent frothing in the Yamuna river. The board has directed Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana governments to ensure that effective sewage treatment is implemented and submit a report by December 15, 2020.

**Views:** With the amount of pollution, foaming and frothing the Yamuna river has been subjected to, it has become essential to address this worrying issue with strict and time bound actions plans. Authorities in states like Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana must be asked to submit quarterly reports of the waste



management progress. Adding to that, all drains must be immediately tapped to control partially treated sewage water from unauthorised colonies. Treatment of sewage should be

given top priority because it is the root cause for the vehement and continuous devastation of the Yamuna river.

Divyanshi Shukla  
AIS Gurugram 46, XI G

## COVID-19 vaccine likely at 250 INR per dose

**News:** According to recent reports, the world's largest vaccine producer, Serum Institute of India is likely to supply COVID-19 vaccine at the price of 250 INR (3.39 USD) per dose. Adar Poonawala, CEO of Serum Institute, mentioned that the focus will be on rolling out vaccine for the Indian population first and then distributing the same in other countries.

**Views:** The news of the probable price of COVID-19 vaccine, developed by Serum Institute of India, being capped at 250 INR per dose has allowed most of us to breathe a sigh of relief. Since the government probably plans to provide free/subsidised vaccination, it will bear administrative costs of transport, storage and distribution. However, the distribution of the vaccine within the country is also a big challenge that the government will have to take a look at and deal with. Still, the news of a vaccine soon to be available in market for this virus has lightened the load in the hearts of many.

Vyakhya Gupta, AIS Gurugram 46, XI



# Around The WORLD

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



## USA

### First Asian-American to serve as trade negotiator

Katherine Tai, of Chinese descent, has been chosen to assume the role of US Trade Representative (USTR). Replacing Robert Lighthizer. Tai will be the first Asian-American and the fourth woman to serve this role in the cabinet level. This decision by the US government aims at mending relations with US trade allies that were believed to have been destabilised by the erstwhile president.

## ITALY

### Complex dam system fails to activate

The citizens of Venice dealt with an under-water fiasco, when the newly installed dam, called MOSE, was unsuccessful in its activation. Having reached 4.5 feet above sea level at St Mark's square, the situation compelled shopkeepers to block entrances with wooden panels and people to resort to rubberboots.



## FRANCE

### Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to be built

President Emmanuel Macron announced plans to construct a new, nuclear-powered aircraft carrier by the year 2038. Roughly 1.5 times the size of the current carrier, 'Charles de Gaulle', the new carrier aims to involve the use of nuclear reactors, focussing on lowering emissions relative to diesel fuel, whilst also being able to accommodate future warplanes till 2080.



## JAPAN

### Space capsule brings first asteroid rock sample

In what is called a rare event in human history, the Japanese Hayabusa2 probe, which was launched on December 2014, successfully released a 15-inch capsule to Earth carrying the untouched rock samples of an asteroid. According to JAXA, the national aerospace and space agency of the country, the rocks are likely to help in learning about the origins of solar system and life on planet Earth.

## UAE

### Building demolition bags world record title

The destruction of an iconic 541.44-foot-tall building in Abu Dhabi has secured a place in the Guinness World Records. Comprising four towers, the 144 floors of the building, known as Mini Plaza, were reported to be torn down in mere ten seconds as per the records. The demolition saw the use of 6000 kg plastic explosives and detonator cord.



## VIETNAM

### Rare species of snake discovered in the country

Researchers from Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, along with the Institute for Ecology and Biological Resources at the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, found a new snake species. This species, Achalinus zugorum, has a blackish and dark purple dorsum, a dark brown underside and strong iridescence colours throughout its body.







The heart can continue beating even when it's disconnected from the body.

# The unsuccessful tricks

## ...To Grab That One Extra Mark



Imaging: Dinesh Kumar, GT Network

Samira Khatri, AIS Gur 46, XII J

The dark clouds, rains and thunderstorms announce the arrival of the exam season, and it sees the students running on two hours of sleep and being buried under a thousand books. But, this season brings with it the struggle of students to get as many marks as they can, even if it means resorting to unconventional methods to achieve them. If only someone would tell them that these tricks don't work!

### Trick 1: Be the favourite one

The dreamland that stu-

dents live in makes them believe that by being a teacher's favourite, they are automatically entitled to extra marks. These kids are always doing everything they can to make a good impression on the teacher, whether it is sitting in the front seat, always being a volunteer, or always nodding their yes in the teacher's yes. Too bad that the teacher assesses the students on their answers, not actions.

### Trick 2: Be the Hulk

"Of course, I will carry all these notebooks to the staff room for you, ma'am. It will be my honour. No, no, they are not too heavy. I can carry more if you want me to. In fact, call me whenever you need any notebooks picked up, even if they are not of my class." You can turn into Hulk all you want, but it still wouldn't make you the world's mightiest hero in the eyes of your teacher and she still wouldn't grant you that extra 1/2 mark.

### Trick 3: Be Lorelai Gilmore

Practice, practice, and practice until you are a great conversationalist. Start by asking your teacher how their day is going, if they are on a new diet as they are looking slim, and eventually slip in the request of extra marks. Now, you won't be granted extra numbers but will most definitely be granted extra homework,

### Trick 4: Be on fleek

Who will look at the content when your presentation is so much more mesmerising? Isn't that what you think? Devoting all your time in decorating the front page, writing your name in cursive and covering the file in the prettiest handmade paper. But, just so you know, a teacher always succeeds in figuring out the extremity of bizarre answers you have managed to fill your sheets with before she gives out a straight zero.

### Trick 5: Be the modern Chanakya

To reap maximum results, you must strategise. Every subject is different and must be approached differently. What you write in your answer sheet and how you write it is trivial. In math, do not scribble too much. In science, be sure to refer to simple things by their scientific names (it's sodium chloride, not salt!). In social studies, be ready to narrate the life history of anyone and everyone you know. The chances that your teacher might just put a big cross on your attempts are very high, so think before doing this one.

Of course, instead of going through the trouble of implementing these tricks and ultimately failing, you can simply use that time to study so you wouldn't need such tricks in the first place.

## Modernising learning

### How Technology Has Changed Education

Vidhi Batra

AIS Noida, Alumna

Technology has evolved so much in the last few decades that it permeates through everything a man can imagine. Education is one such sector which has been benefitted by the wonders of technology, where different technological tools help in making the overall learning experience better.

#### 'Smart classes' for a future

The concept of 'smart classes' in schools has revolutionised the entire learning process among students. This technology based classroom not only enhances learning but teaching as well. The use of digital displays, tabs, whiteboards and other audio/visual, components make the lec-

tures more interactive, easy to understand and engaging for the students. It gives quality education to the students by providing them a helping hand in terms of clarity of concepts, improvement in reading and listening skills, and provides them essential digital knowledge.

#### 'Online lectures' for everyone

Colleges and universities have opted for digitalisation of education by moving to more tech-savvy methods of teaching. Right from lecture-captures, which provide live, captured lectures by the professors at the comforts of home to open courses from renowned universities like Harvard and MIT wherein free online material for required courses are available on YouTube and other platforms,

has made the student life much easier. Not just this, these online lectures can even be accessed by someone sitting in a remote location to educate oneself.

#### 'Learning apps' for home

To facilitate a faster and interactive way of study, several learning apps have come up in the field of education which are available on both Android and iOS devices. With these apps, students can communicate with their teachers via video conferencing to study general topics or specialised subjects. Moreover, these apps help students understand concepts through animated videos and come with a live doubt-clearing session. These online classrooms thus have become the ultimate helping tool for students worldwide. 🇮🇳



Imaging: Dinesh Kumar, GT Network

## In search of words

Continued from page 1...

#### Postpone (/pəʊst'pəʊn/)

"They say "Happiness is not something you put off for the future, it is something you design for the present." Well, 2020 had something else in mind. Not only has the year adversely affected our lives, it has postponed it for the future in every way. People who used to enjoy every moment of their life were now seen longing for those little moments of joy. In fact, many prominent events across the globe, like the 2020 Summer Olympics or Expo'20 for that matter, were rescheduled and then finally postponed, rendering the many months and years of preparations futile. So, what other than 'postpone' could define 2020 better?"

Yashi Singh  
AIS VYC Lko, XI

#### Pandemic (/pæn'demɪk/)

"All the world has known since March of this year is 'pandemic'. Perhaps 2020 is the year when we all learnt that such a word exists, and what it really means, not only in theory but via practical examples of living through the pandemic. As Coronavirus has the entire world under its bated contagious breath, the timeline, as we know it, has been divided into two: before and after pandemic, where the new normal has everything tailor-made to fit the requirements of this pandemic. From schools, offices, gatherings and literally everything in the world being changed from what we once knew it was, it can be argued the word 'pandemic' does hold relevance, because that is all humanity has seen this year."

Kanav  
AIS Gwalior, IX

#### Employment (/ɪm'plɔɪmənt/)

"This year stands witness to one of the worst job crises since the Great Depression and Great Recession. World statistics show that more than 305 million people worldwide got unemployed in the second quarter of 2020 alone, with trade, realty, tourism and hospitality sectors being the worst hit, leaving more than 70% of their staffs unemployed at all times. So, the only thing that kept people afoot and expectant was their ability to hope for a better future, a time when their financial miseries would end. Thus, balancing its desire to be employed soon with a constant feeling of helplessness, the world fared, is faring still and how! Employment is quite precisely and undisputedly the term, the essence of 2020."

Varada Kachroo  
AIS VKC Lko, IX





# Tessellations everywhere!

Read On To Find Out About The Mesmerising World Of Patterns

Ayushmaan Singh  
AIS Vasundhara 6, IV

We come across various natural and synthetic patterns in our daily life. From a bricked wall to a football, everything more or less seems to have a pattern of its own. Well, even our life does, doesn't it? Now what if I tell you these patterns actually have a more technical term for themselves? Yes, they do. They're called tessellations or tilings. When a shape, whether geometric or non-geometric, is repeated over and over again, covering a plane without any gaps or overlaps, it results in a tessellation – a mosaic pattern with a mesmerising visual effect. Although they are derived from a clear set of rules based on mathematical shapes and calculations, tessellations arise in the real world too. They are found in many other spheres of life, such as art, architecture and science. Now, you do know how and where maths and the real world coincide! Here's a brief look at the same:



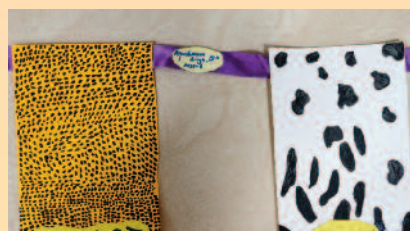
## Tessellations in daily life

What's common to a tiled floor, a brick patterned wall, and the surface of a Rubik's cube? Well, some of you might have guessed it right; they are tessellations. The tiles and the bricks cover the surface of the floor or the wall with identical rectangles without leaving any gaps, similar to how each plane of the Rubik's cube is a tessellation of symmetrical squares. In a real-world tessellation, however, the individual tiles in a repeating tessellation will never be exactly like one another. Unlike the ones in your mathematics book, real-world tessellations are not very regular in structure, for no planar surface in the real world is perfectly flat.



## Tessellations in nature

Natural tessellations tend to fall in several categories. A honeycomb is one of the classic examples of it- identical hexagons that seem to fit into each other forming a distinct pattern. Another such example is that of a giraffe. The spots of a giraffe form a tessellation comprising of several asymmetrical quadrilaterals, hexagons, pentagons and heptagons - a pigment pattern that could serve as a camouflage mechanism. Some tessellations occur in inorganic materials due to cracking, like in dried mud during drought or that in a sheet of glass as part of a stress relief.



## Tessellations in art

People across the world use geometric shapes and designs for decoration of things like cloth, pots, floors, masks, tapestry design, posters, furniture, tableware, jewelry, postage stamps and even their own bodies. But the most renowned tessellation artist in history is M C Escher. His use of tessellations in

art pieces fascinates even today. His designs are relayed on his love for the natural world - a phantasmagoric world of creatures that resemble lizards, insects, fish and birds, dividing the plane in such a way that the spaces between them form other recognisable shapes.



## Tessellations in architecture

Tessellations also serve as decorative elements in architecture. We can see many famous architectural landmarks that employ exquisite patterns; London's 30 St Mary Axe building, the ceiling of the British Museum, and the details on the facades of the Taj Mahal in Agra to name a few. Islamic designs from centuries before was largely inspired by tessellations. The Alhambra in Granada, Spain is one of the most famous examples of this.

So, if the notion of shapes and patterns repeating to infinity fascinates you, go and tessellate your heart out. All you need is love for art. 🎨

# Plastic mania

So, Answer This- Life In Plastic, Is It Really Fantastic?

Keneitsnuo Kense, AIS Saket, XII

With mankind's hopeful heads up in the wishful cloud of 'an easier life and a better world', we forget to look down and see the trap of plastic we have surrounded ourselves in. Plastic has been one of the greatest assets to the developing world and vital to many technological advancements. From automobiles and computers to artificial hearts, plastic is essential to life in today's world. As soon as we wake up, we switch on the light with a switch made of plastic; go into the bathroom and brush our teeth with a plastic toothbrush, with paste on it that comes out of a plastic tube and use our mobile phones made of plastic. So, not only development, plastic has become a vital aspect of our daily lives as well. Therefore, it should not come as a shock that in the past 70 years (when the production of plastic really took off), 9.2 billion ton of plas-

tic has been produced by us. What does come as a shock is that only 9% of that amount has actually been recycled. Looks like those recycle bins were useless after all!

While several countries have banned plastic, its ban has negative effects on other environmental aspects. While these bans make a dent in plastic pollution, alternatives of plastic like cotton and paper, require more resources during production. Therefore, while banning plastic sounds like good idea, we still don't have a good enough substitute for it.

In that case, it is almost a relief that plastic is reusable, recyclable and most importantly, its use can be reduced. More than 60 billion plastic bottles fill up landfills every day. If we all carry a water bottle with us wherever we go, that would significantly reduce the use of plastic. The same can be done for coffee cups and plastic cutlery as well. As far as recycling plastic goes, it would help save energy and natural resources and clean up the landfill space for better purposes. 🌱



# Science of puns

Shyla Basu, AIS PV, XI

Q. How do you know if the moon is going broke?  
A. It's down to its last quarter.

Q. What does a photon say when the bellboy asks if he needs help with his luggage?  
A. No, I'm traveling light.

Q. What did the man say when someone threw sodium and chloride at him?  
A. That's a salt!

Q. What does one tectonic plate say when it bumps into another tectonic plate?  
A. Sorry. My fault!

Q. How do you organise a space party?  
A. You planet.

Q. Did you hear about the poor man who got cooled to absolute zero?  
A. He's 0K now.

Q. Anyone know any jokes about sodium?  
A. Na!

Q. Why should you never trust atoms, ever?  
A. They make up everything!

Q. Why can't I make a good chemistry joke?  
A. All the good ones Argon.

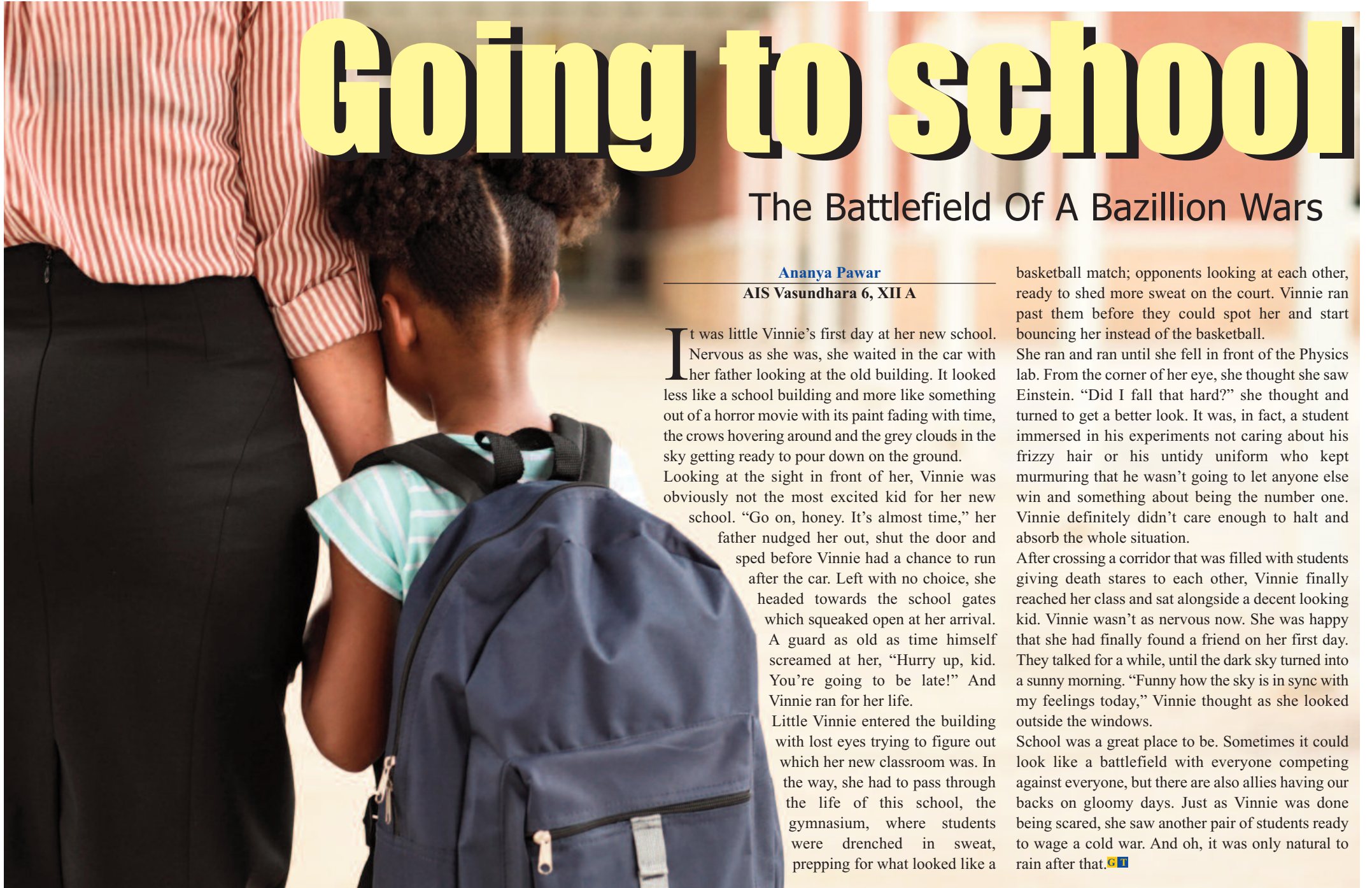
Q. Where does bad light end up in?  
A. In prism.

Q. What is a physicist's favourite food?  
A. Fission chips





A woman's heart beats slightly faster than a man's heart.



# Going to school

## The Battlefield Of A Bazillion Wars

**Ananya Pawar**  
AIS Vasundhara 6, XII A

It was little Vinnie's first day at her new school. Nervous as she was, she waited in the car with her father looking at the old building. It looked less like a school building and more like something out of a horror movie with its paint fading with time, the crows hovering around and the grey clouds in the sky getting ready to pour down on the ground. Looking at the sight in front of her, Vinnie was obviously not the most excited kid for her new school. "Go on, honey. It's almost time," her father nudged her out, shut the door and sped before Vinnie had a chance to run after the car. Left with no choice, she headed towards the school gates which squeaked open at her arrival. A guard as old as time himself screamed at her, "Hurry up, kid. You're going to be late!" And Vinnie ran for her life. Little Vinnie entered the building with lost eyes trying to figure out which her new classroom was. In the way, she had to pass through the life of this school, the gymnasium, where students were drenched in sweat, prepping for what looked like a

basketball match; opponents looking at each other, ready to shed more sweat on the court. Vinnie ran past them before they could spot her and start bouncing her instead of the basketball. She ran and ran until she fell in front of the Physics lab. From the corner of her eye, she thought she saw Einstein. "Did I fall that hard?" she thought and turned to get a better look. It was, in fact, a student immersed in his experiments not caring about his frizzy hair or his untidy uniform who kept murmuring that he wasn't going to let anyone else win and something about being the number one. Vinnie definitely didn't care enough to halt and absorb the whole situation. After crossing a corridor that was filled with students giving death stares to each other, Vinnie finally reached her class and sat alongside a decent looking kid. Vinnie wasn't as nervous now. She was happy that she had finally found a friend on her first day. They talked for a while, until the dark sky turned into a sunny morning. "Funny how the sky is in sync with my feelings today," Vinnie thought as she looked outside the windows. School was a great place to be. Sometimes it could look like a battlefield with everyone competing against everyone, but there are also allies having our backs on gloomy days. Just as Vinnie was done being scared, she saw another pair of students ready to wage a cold war. And oh, it was only natural to rain after that. 🇺🇸🇮🇳

Illustration: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network

# Ironic, isn't it?

## A Closer Look At Real Life Ironies

**Sanskriti Bharti, AIS Vas 1, Alumna**

A wise man once said, "Life is too ironic to fully understand. It takes sadness to know what happiness is; noise to appreciate silence and absence to value presence." Perhaps, he'd taken a closer look at some real-life ironies. Here are some instances that might help you inch closer to his wisdom.

Looking for an 'elixir of immortality', the Chinese alchemists in the 9th century accidentally invented gunpowder. But who knew that this grey immortal powder would become a weapon of mass destruction, re-

ducing mortality and killing millions.

Otto Lilienthal, creator of flying gliders, became a victim of his own invention after declaring that flying gliders was one of the safest ways to travel. The poor man became the first person to make well documented, successful flights with gliders. Ironically, his success was short lived as he lost his life by losing control of his glider.

What do you call the fear of long words? Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia. Literally, meaning a 'monstrous being', this very long word is of Latin origin. So, if somebody has this fear, they would prefer not to even mention it rather than trip over a fifteen syllable-long word and have an anxiety attack on the spot.

In 2004, a pine tree was planted in Griffith Park, Los Angeles. The tree, a mark of memory, was dedicated to George Harrison, lead guitarist of the legendary rock band, The Beatles. Call it destiny (read: irony), in 2014, Harrison's memorial tree got completely destroyed due to infestation of tiny beetles. Of all the 70,000 species of insects, it had to be this one!

In the year 2015, the first Presbyterian church of Orlando, Florida decided to install a statue of a homeless Jesus sleeping on a public bench. However, according to government rules, homeless people are actually banned from sleeping on public benches at the very same place. Irony, irony everywhere!



Illustration: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network



# The multilingual life

## The More The Lingos, The Harder The Life

**Saanvi Vaish, XII & Shreya Ghosh, Alumna**  
AIS Pushp Vihar

Being a multilingual and living in the capital city of our diverse country is a real struggle. As if changing between languages wasn't hard enough, what's worse is that mixing up languages can invite a good deal of merciless mimicry that can leave one vowing to only stick to English. Can't relate? Not multilingual? Well, read on to find out about the different situations multilinguals find themselves in!

### Punjabi

Speaking one of the most popular languages in India also comes with very popular stereotypes. One just has to mention that they are Punjabi and lo and behold they're bombarded with "assi-tussi ki hal chal?" They are also the resident translators of Punjabi songs for people around them.

### Gujarati

Forget hi and hello, 'kemcho' and 'majama' are the go-to words to address a Gujarati person, or that's what a non-Gujarati thinks. People, especially after watching Three Idiots, never fail to crack the same joke about Gu-

jarati food having terrifying names like 'dhokla', 'fafda' and 'thepla'.

### Bengali

Being a Bengali comes with its own pros and cons but most of all- the jokes. From being called out for 'paani khabo' to the general perception of Bengali people salivating at the sight of fish, there's been very little to spare. The loved sweet dishes like 'Roshogolla' and the infamous 'a' to 'o' accent have had their fair share of attention from all over the country.

### South Indian

The most annoying preconceived notion about any South Indian is the simple belief that 'South Indian' itself is a language; forget Kannada, Tamil and Telegu. The belief of 'Sambar' per meal, disbelief of Hindi-speaking South Indians and non-Christians is so characteristic that you forget that there once used to be a time without these stereotypes.

After all said and done, we can't forget that the beauty of our country lies in its diversity. Each dialect across our country has its own charm (not to mention, quirks!) and is ultimately our binding force! 🇮🇳





## The times of reform



Dr. Amrita Chauhan  
Chairperson

Reform, as the word suggests, means re-designing while retaining the core essence. Be it any field, social or educational, reforms have always been the foundation of any path to progress. The word holds an even deeper meaning in

the current times, for it is reforms in the way we think and conduct our day to day lives that have helped us sail through this year.

Whilst the significance of altering what has been carried out in the past cannot be overlooked, the need to base those changes on times gone by cannot be reiterated enough either. It is only reforms that are a perfect blend of 'modernity and tradition' that can steer the way forward.

Caught in the midst of a pandemic, as we grappled with new challenges, we took to our traditions and ancient knowledge for solutions to many modern problems. The world adopting our traditional home-made *kadha* comprising turmeric, ginger, and giloy as an immunity booster drink being a classic example of the same. At the same time, we adopted many new things, because we live in a world where tech is the order of the day and what was relevant 30 years ago might be obsolete now in such a scenario. We utilised technology to its best use, moving education online. Right from dance competitions to Olympiads, learning is happening in a newly reformed way. Speaking of which, I feel very happy that Amity has been the torch bearer of this reformed learning, by becoming the first ever school to take to learning online, even before these difficult times hit.

What was relevant then may be irrelevant now, but it certainly doesn't deserve to be rejected, but adopted with a new face and new thought. Reforms that remain connected to the roots are the need of the hour to build the new, and grow. **GT**

## Words' worth



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

Just the other day, while reading an email from a friend's daughter, I came across a word which hit my mind, because for me it was colloquial language and not something I grew up trained to use. Turned out that the whole present generation was using the said

word, as apparently it was a cool thing to do for young minds who have been fostered on heavy dose of SMS and acronyms.

No, I am not trying to be a linguistic hardliner here, because evolution is the way of life and evolution of language is the foundation of development of civilisations. But, I am surely concerned about how our English is evolving in present times, with slangs being formalised in the garb of inclusivity. Oxford, the holy bible of English dictionaries, has included various words from many regional languages (e.g. '*aiyo*' and '*yaar*') which render the whole element of uniqueness of a word obsolete. Why does it matter, you may ask? It does because every word has a worth, every word in every language is an identity of a civilisation, a story of evolution of thought, and a reflection of mind. Words hold the power to communicate even the most brazen news in a way that the mind sets forth towards creative solutions. The same words if not chosen correctly, or if included just for expansionism, can end up spoiling communicative essence.

Today, as our beloved Oxford couldn't come up with the 'word of the year', it's time that we relook the words we use to communicate our thoughts, because every word has a worth. **GT**

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# A paradise lost

## What Is Becoming Of Our Heaven On Earth, Our Kashmir

Adeela Hameed

AUUP, AIES, MA (Alumna)

*Agar firdaus bar ru-ye zamin ast  
Hamin ast-o hamin ast-o hamin ast*

This Farsi couplet by the famous poet, Amir Khusro, stands true for a land full of beauty, but nurtured by caravans of invasions; a land where burrowing streams meet budding blossoms of soil; a land where melancholy is not practiced but nostalgia exists; a land of freedom and faith and a land hand-painted by God where instead of angels, humans reside. This is the story of my land, Kashmir, your Kashmir and our very own 'Paradise on

Earth'. Going by the English translation of the Farsi couplet, it's true that "If there is a heaven on earth, it's here, it's here, it's here."

As a child there was a hope inside me that this ethereal land where creatures befitted humankind, where everyone seemed to be from the same womb, to serve as a perfect example of harmony between humankind and nature, formed through a connection deeper than love and brotherhood. However, this hope shattered with me growing up. My land soon became a victim of human selfishness. Once bitten, the poison of selfishness manifests not only in the victim but whosoever it touches. And gradually, I could see my paradise being en-

gulfed by every human selfish trick played sometimes by those in power or sometimes by the very residents of the land in the name of religion.

Observing all of this, few questions crossed my mind. How can people be so distraught that for the sake of possession of a crude beauty, they put the same thing at stake? The land which gave them birth and nurtured their soul, gave them a distinct identity and sheltered them from the world, how can they play games of violence and terror on its very surface? Does their conscience not wrench at the very thought of it? But, all these questions remain unanswered. Nothing can bring back the beauty of my land.

My land, after watching series of

conflicts, now, demands serenity and peace all around. It demands its children back, the children who were as innocent as Kashmir herself. The imploring suffering, the poverty of educational institutions, the ambiguity of the unemployed, the nightmares and the broken dreams, the deprived and left out, the prince and the pauper-everyone and everything in my land needs to be restored. Life has been curtailed into curfews and the process of conversion of this majestic heaven into a war field is in progress.

Is this what has been destined of Kashmir to become? Pause and ask yourself this question: Is Kashmir, a paradise on earth, doomed to be a paradise lost in history?



## Erratic, irrational rain

### The Joy And The Misery That Rain Brings Along

Radhika Kapoor, AIS Vas 6, XII B

As children, our imaginations would give birth to different notions about rain. Notions that were sure to include an imagery of God pouring a bucketful of water down on us, or perhaps even an outburst of a sad sky. And these imaginations went on until we were met with science textbooks that taught us about a certain cycle that causes rainfall, about precipitation and what not. While rain has always been a topic of curiosity and joy, in recent times, it has turned irrational, baffling us with its inconsistency, thus transforming into a matter of concern.

#### Water, water, everywhere...

In a country like India, which is known to the world for its agricultural contribution, rainfall is indispensable for productive crop output every year and hence is a farmer's best friend. However, this very best friend turns into the farmer's foe as it pours in excess. In the last two years, India has experienced incessant downpour, the consequence being extreme devastation. At the receiving end were states like Assam, Kerala, and Bihar. With over 51,752 hectares of agricultural fields inundated and more than 48.87 lakh people stranded in Assam alone, one can only imagine the apocalyptic situ-



ation that wreaked havoc in the other parts of the country. Well, we can say that this time it was certainly not heaven pouring, but hell.

*Rain, rain, go away  
You are leaving us astray  
It's time you take a break  
This is our frantic pray*

#### Not a single drop to drink...

When many become the victims of un-stoppable rain shower, there are countless others who have been desperately anticipating its arrival, to no avail. Contrary to the annihilated situation that rainfall brought upon Kerala and Assam, it had something completely opposite in store for areas in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, i.e., to not show up at all! The result- acute water crisis and deadly droughts.

About 44% of Indian land is devoid of even the basic amount of water to survive, let alone talking about adequate supply. We can only imagine what living without water will be like if we were ever to be faced with such a situation and truth be told, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

*Rain, rain, come again  
We've longed every single day  
How much long will you take?  
Before this land becomes a grave*

We might never be able to discern who suffers more- the one with excess of water, or the one with no water at all. But the one who suffers the most is nature itself, as a fatal outcome of our ignorance and indifference. And till the time it doesn't dawn on us, let's continue to call the rains irrational. **GT**



Issue: P3, December 7, 2020

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to page 3 article 'My world of pictures' published in The Global Times dated December 7, 2020. This article really resonated with me because I have personally seen many ignorant people be demeaning to people with disabilities. But the positivity exhibited by Sheila was infectious. She didn't allow her disability to limit her performance as a student and gave everything that she did, her best effort. Her wonderful view of the world really makes the reader look at the world differently. It makes one realise that no one is without struggles, and the way one overcomes these struggles is what makes us different. It also made me realise that being empathetic and considerate towards others makes for a kinder world, a world spreading more warmth, love and care. **GT**

Anupriya Bhatnagar  
AIS Vasundhara 1, XII C





The earliest known case of heart disease was identified in the remains of a 3,500-year-old Egyptian mummy.

# Let's talk trash!

As Long As We Keep Treating Waste As Waste, It Will Remain The State

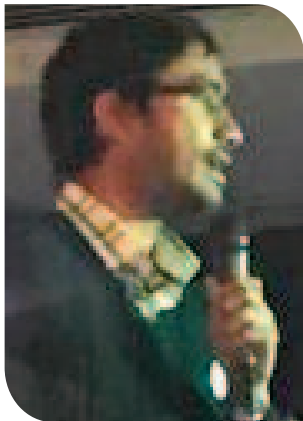
**Y**outh Power is an annual social leadership programme organised by The Global Times, where different teams from Amity schools engage in varied social causes in several stages. One of them is 'Panel Discussion' where experts from different walks of life discuss several aspects of the chosen social cause. Here's presenting **Part IV** of this exclusive series, based on the panel discussions organised by YP teams, and a host of opinions as experts debate on 'Waste Reduction', the cause chosen by YP team of AIS Mayur Vihar.



## Knowledge is power

**Panelist: Samuel Augusten, Eco-Activist, Chintan\***

"My most important and biggest responsibility is to spread awareness about waste and its management amongst school children like you; single-use plastic is the foremost concern for me right now- the plastic which you buy, use and then throw away. We, at Chintan, visit schools, colleges and business institutions, after which we suggest them ways in which they can reduce the use of SUPs. We all know it is really important to take small steps like taking your own cloth bag to the market, etc. but even that is not enough most of the times as we also need to make others aware



about the same. We need to realise that we all together form the environment. And, only when we work together for this environment, would our environment get better. This, according to me, is a big challenge, for not many people are

aware of who we are fighting against. Either people don't know or they just don't want to work for it. But, at the end of the day, knowledge is the biggest power. And young children like you should make good use of that power by spreading awareness on causes which are a big concern for our society."

*\*Chintan is an environmental research and action group that strives to reduce waste and unsustainable consumption and enable better management of the waste which is generated. They also focus on fighting air pollution through making science and policy more accessible to everyone.*

## Follow the norms

**Panelist: Ritu Gupta Professor, National Law University**

"Whenever you are dealing with hazardous waste, you must comply with certain norms, like Environmental Protection Act, Hazardous Waste Management Handling and Transboundary Movement Rules 2008, Plastic Waste and Management Rules 2011, Biomedical Waste Management and Handling Rules 1998, E-Waste Management and Handling Rules 2011, Batteries Management and Handling Rules 2001, etc. If any company breaks these rules, they will be punished. Their units can be shut, fines can be imposed on them, heavy penalties can be there. If they still don't comply, then a case will be filed and the company will have to pay for the damages and losses caused due to mishandling of substances. So, this is the role of law. If there is no rule of law, there will be nothing to keep a strict check on waste production and we'll all move to an uncivilised society which is the



last thing we would ever want. So, follow the rules now and say goodbye to regret."

## Incentivising plastic

**Panelist: Meher Kaur Convener, Centre for Waste Management, TERI**

"No rag picker would ever bend to pick up just one straw and sell a light straw lying on the street. They always pick up other items like glass, recyclable in nature as well, as there's a value for it. Even collecting a small volume of glass waste or jute waste gives enough money and the waste in this case becomes an incentive for the rag picker. But, there is no incentive to collect straw. Small sachets and straws are those products that leak out of the circular economy. Hence, they are thrown away, never picked up, which leads them



into the drains, further clogging them. For instance, in

Delhi, one hour of rain causes many colonies to flood. Why? Because our drains are clogged by such plastic waste. That's why we are looking at plastic. The companies need to produce plastics that are heavier in weight, can be recycled and have a resale value like other waste items. For plastic is not bad if you can use it sustainably; you can reuse it for different purposes like making roads or biofuel from plastic, etc. So, you have to see plastic in that sense."

## Change your ways

**Panelist: Bhavuk Garg Founder, ReWrite Nature\***

"Whenever a collective voice is raised, it makes a difference but you don't know for how long it will create the effect. The voice does create an echo in the minds of people associated with it and those watching it from a distance but then gradually it fades away and once again, everything comes back to normal. But, if you start a change with yourself; if you decide to collectively stop using a waste-creating service



or item, you would reduce tons of waste at large, at an individual level. It's a simple concept, when you decide that you have to be careful about your choices or you have to be careful about decomposition

of waste, only then will change happen. At ReWrite Nature, we run only one campaign which is 'Aadat Badlo'. If an individual buys the right product, stop wasting water, or segregate waste, then it would be the greatest change. So, don't depend on others, start from today, start with yourself, and most importantly, start with the right choice."

*\*ReWrite is dedicated to the idea for working in-hand with sustainable environment by implementing the 4R strategy- that is, through reducing and reusing waste to produce recycled products for replacing existing products.*



Part IV

Expert Speak



The pressure that is created by the heart is enough to squirt blood to a distance of 30 feet.



# The evil lookalike



Storywala

Suhani Malik, AIS PV, XII B

The events of earlier this day flashed before my eyes and how I hoped that they were hallucinations. I opened my eyes to see the doppelganger on black-eye mode and sneer at me smugly.

"Ah! My dear Cathy Jones is awake! How are you feeling?" She cackled at my disheveled and tied-up state.

I struggled with the ropes and glared at her. She walked towards my room which now seemed to glow eerily.

Sensing my thoughts, my evil look-alike looked up to me and asked, "Do you want to know what is going on?" I nodded in fear. "Ah. Curiosity kills the cat, you know. And sometimes girls

like you too." I gulped and shrunk back into the chair.

"So cutting to the chase...you will be Whiro's vessel. With your help, the Maori God of evil will rise. Evil and darkness will rule." I did not understand what was going on at all now; my level of perception was only so high.

She took out an ancient looking papyrus and looked at it gleefully. I was sure that she was deranged, and was made surer of it as she began chanting in a language unknown to me.

"E toku Ariki, e te Ariki Whiro, My master, Lord Whiro, I call upon thee to rule the world and accept my look-alike as your vessel. Let evil reign."

I was too stunned to even scream as a black hurricane formed inside my room. The hurricane as-

cended towards me and my captor doppelganger was elated as she started chanting with even more fervour, "Rise and rule! Rise and rule!"

It was too hard to breathe as the fast-moving hurricane came even closer and glowered over me. I hoped and prayed in my mind for someone to save me. I had offered more prayers to God in the past few hours than I had in the 15 years of my entire existence on this planet.

The room started to shake. The glass of my windows started cracking and the doors rattled. The hurricane grew larger in size and that was when I started to notice that it was whispering.

Suddenly, the lights went all out and you could only hear the voice of my crazy look-alike muttering,

Part II

I did not understand what was going on at all now; my level of perception was only so high.

and the swishing and whispering of the hurricane. A glowing, exotic looking tui bird flew in from my cracked window and my doppelganger started wailing, "No! No! Tane!"

The bird started talking, "I will not let you rise, brother. Kahore he kin oi konei. There is no place of evil among my children. I will forever protect them. Ka tiaki ahau ia ratou. Go! And do not dare to return!" There was a blast of power emanating from the bird and the hurricane started diminishing in size. My doppelganger dashed towards the door of my now ruined room and tried to escape. The bird flapped its wings and she dropped unconscious.

The bird flew towards me; a flap of its wings and my hands were untied, my injury was gone and my room was back to normal. I cried out in joy.

"Thank you birdie God! Thank you so much!" I exclaimed.

"You did well child. Remember that Gods above look after you and protect you. Do not stray away from the path of light like your spirit double. Ki tiaki ahau ia koe. I will watch over you. You have my blessings. "

And so he closed my eyes with his soft wings. 🇺🇦



## Caramel custard

Shubhangi Lakhnarpal, AGS Gurugram, X

### Ingredients

Milk.....	¾ cup
Fresh curd (whisked).....	¾ cup
Sweetened condensed milk.....	¾ cup
Sugar.....	¼ cup
Custard powder.....	3 tsp
Vanilla essence.....	½ tsp

### Procedure

- Preheat oven at 350°F or 175°C.
- To make caramel, add sugar in a pan and cook it on a medium flame until it becomes golden brown.
- Pour this caramelised sugar in a bowl and leave it aside to set.
- In another bowl, add milk, sweetened condensed milk, fresh whisked curd, custard powder and vanilla essence.
- Stir all the ingredients together until the batter is smooth and make sure no lumps are formed.
- Once it is done, pour this mixture over the container with caramelised sugar.
- Place the container inside oven and bake the custard for 10 minutes, or until the knife inserted halfway between center and edges comes out clean.
- Let it cool for 30 minutes. Now unmould it carefully by loosening the sides of the custard with a knife.
- Place a plate on top of the container, and holding it tightly, flip the container over the plate. Shake it gently to loosen the custard.
- Voila! Your delicious caramel custard is ready to be savoured!

## WORDS VERSE

### Ashes to ashes

Deeksha Puri

AIS Pushp Vihar, Alumna

Burnt bridges wring a devoid  
Of a feeling at the cusp of love  
Yet something gritting, but worse  
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust

Smoke suffocating the flames  
Burnt lay red those eyes  
That once fizzled with spark

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust

Pain searing through veins  
The blisters finding homes  
Within a body destroyed  
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust

Hearts lay amidst the ruins  
Of what monuments lay bare  
The hurt veiled by beauty  
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust 🇺🇦



### Test your brain

English is a funny language! The prefix 're' usually means 'again', like 'rebuild' (build again), but there are still various words that start with 're' and have totally different meaning when the 're' is removed. Today's mission is that you'll be given two definitions and you need to find the two words (one starting with 're', and one without it) that fit those definitions. For example: Exhausting//Ceasing employment, where the answer is: Tiring/Retiring.

1. Difficult search//Politely ask
2. Legally responsible//Trustworthy
3. Hospital room//Prize
4. Back in good health//Put something over
5. Rhythmic force in arteries//To drive back
6. Smooth by ironing//Subdue by force
7. Become less severe//Provided in loan
8. Process of updating//Act of seeing
9. One who belongs//Bring past to mind
10. Unit of money//Not long ago
11. Event location//Income
12. Couple//Fix
13. Felt long-term pain// Arrived at
14. Cause sharp pain//At ease



Answers: 1. Quest/Request/Requite/Requale/Liable 3. Ward/Reward 4. Venue/Revenue 12. Pair/Repair 13. Ached//Reached 14. Sting//Resting  
Revision//Vision 9. Member//Remember 10. Cent//Recent 11. Recover//Cover 5. Pulse//Repulse 6. Press//Repress 7. Relent//Lent 8.

## Let us strive for unity



Anika Bansal

AIS Vasundhara 6, IX D

"Necessity is the mother of invention"  
They said, and United Nations was made  
On the 24th of October, 1945  
Born with the aim of peace and unity  
And to bring together countries

It has been 75 years since that day  
And we are not even through halfway  
In our quest to make the world better  
My friends, the journey has just begun

So, let us come together, help each other

The pandemic outside has locked us  
But our unity will help us win this  
A united society is a thing to behold  
Its absolute power just waiting to unfold  
So, my dear friends, let us connect 'unite'

And emerge victorious in this fight  
United we shall stand, mighty and tall  
But a division in our ranks will make us fall  
So, upon you, my friends, I must impress  
Unity shall always be the key to success. 🇺🇦

## BRUSH 'n' EASEL

Sohini Srivastava  
AIS VKC Lko, IX A







Even when you are resting, your heart muscles work twice as hard as your leg muscles while you are sprinting.

# The giant tree

## Short Story



Soha Sajid, AIS MV, VII

In a town called Bloomingdale, lived a wealthy mayor called Fitz. He was despised by everyone in town because of his cruel demeanour. He would always ignore the welfare of the people of Bloomingdale; all he cared for was his own selfish interests. One such selfish interest was to build a huge mall in the town. The only problem was that there was no land to accommodate his plan, except for the lush green forest in the distance. Fitz

decided to get the forest cleared to give way to his project. Despite people being against it, they could do nothing because Fitz had purchased the forest. Then, he **summoned** his managers, commanding them to bring the best woodcutters in town to start the felling of the trees. Upon reaching the spot, the woodcutters started axing the tall trees while Fitz stood there, envisioning his colossal mall. But before he could delve deeper into his imagination, one woodcutter shouted, "Someone please help

with this tree," pointing to the giant tree that stood there. Fitz saw that the axe had come off its handle; such was the strength of the tree. His inconsiderateness led him to assign three more woodcutters to get rid of the tree from the spot. After an hour or so of unsuccessful attempts, all of them got exhausted and gave up. Fitz returned to his office furiously, contemplating other ways to clear the forest, but he got a call from his wife. Their daughter, Cecily, had gotten severely ill. In a worried state, he rushed

home. Seeing his daughter's swollen eyes and feverish face broke his heart. Even though the most reputed doctors in town were called to treat her, he was told that Cecily's chances of recovery were slim. Later that day, one of the managers suggested that Fitz should see a herbalist, now that the doctors had no solution. Initially reluctant, Fitz thought of giving it a try. Soon, the herbal doctor was called in. The herbalist told them that the only thing that could bring her back is a Ficus fruit which would boost her immunity. Fitz was taken aback, as this Ficus fruit could only be obtained from the tree that he had desperately been trying to cut. He asked his helpers to fetch the fruit from the tree. After feeding it to Cecily, she recovered within two days.

It was a moment of realisation for Fitz, that nature can perform miracles and no good could ever come from destroying it; in fact, what should rather be destroyed were his selfish ambitions. Thus, instead of building a mall, Fitz started an initiative to reward people who plant more trees. **GT**

### So, what did you learn today?

A new word: **Summoned**  
Meaning: **Order to be present**



Shubb with his multi-use jute holder

## Multi-use jute holder

Shubb Srivastava, AIS Mayur Vihar, IV

### Material required

- Jute twine
- Hot glue gun
- Scissors
- Cutter
- Old socks
- Waste plastic container
- Decorative material like flowers etc.
- Plant
- Soil



### Methodology

- Take the plastic container and using hot glue gun, apply a blob of glue at its very bottom.
- Stick the starting end of the jute twine on the glue. Press hard and let it dry. This will act as an anchor to keep things in place as we wrap the twine.
- Now to begin with the wrapping process, start winding the twine around the container, gluing every few inches until you get to the top.
- Keep the string tight to avoid any gaps as you cover the whole container.
- As you complete the wrapping process, apply a dab of glue at the top end of the container. Cut the jute string, stick it on the glue patch and press hard to ensure its attachment.
- Now, take an old sock and using scissors, cut out its cuff.
- Use the cuff to cover the neck of the container.
- Decorate the container using a wool flower or any other thing of your choice.
- Your multi-use jute holder is ready! Pour in some soil and plant some roots and shoots in it or use it as a storage container for dry items like sugar or tea.

## Thank you, father

Rishika Gupta

AIS Gurugram 46, VIII

My father is a strenuous superhero  
With miraculous love and strength

He can be a mentor or an ally  
And sometimes, a bosom friend

With a smile on face, he works hard  
Always keeping me in his regards

He has always been there for me  
To tame my sorrow, to give me glee

He brings sunshine to my morning  
And a love that is unwavering

Thank you father, for being you  
You taught me to always be true! **GT**



## It's Me

Know me

My name: Jivisha Sharma  
My Class: KG B  
My school: AIS Vas 1  
Born on: July 31



My favourite

Teachers: Nidhi ma'am and Anjali ma'am  
Subject: All subjects  
Friends: Aradhya, Navya and Garvika  
Game: Ludo  
Cartoons: Peppa Pig, Dora and Little Singham  
Food: Kadhi chawal  
Mall: VVIP, Ghaziabad  
Book: Bruno's Red Ball

My dreams and goals

Hobbies: Acting and dancing  
I like: Working on the computer  
I dislike: Fake promises  
My role model: My mom  
I want to become: A teacher  
I want to feature in GT because: I want to make many friends

## Riddle fiddle

Lehar Aggarwal

AIS Saket, VI

1. What has hands but cannot clap at all?
2. What cannot be dropped in water because it will die?
3. What has a head and a tail but no body?
4. What surely has an eye but cannot see?
5. What dies when it gets to drink water?



Answers: 1. A clock 2. Paper 3. A Coin 4. A needle 5. Fire

## PAINTING CORNER

Advait Aggarwal  
AIS Noida, I F





The beating sound of your heart is caused by the valves of the heart opening and closing.



Oxford Dictionaries  
**WORD OF THE YEAR**

A Timeline

# Words of wonder

Sana Sachdev

AGS Gurugram, VII

**W**ith its wide variety of words capturing every essence of every emotion, action and thought carried by the humankind, language truly is a marvelous wonder, something that keeps evolving just the way our many experiences do. To make our relationship with spoken lingo even more personal, Oxford English Dictionary, on an annual basis, picks one particular word or phrase that goes on to define the entirety of the year. As the establishment currently struggles to summarise the surmountable roller coaster that was 2020 in a mere word or phrase, let us look back at the bygone years and the concoctions of different alphabets and emotions that were crowned 'Word of the year'.

## Chav | 2004

**What it means:** A young person of a type characterised by brash and loutish behaviour, usually with connotations of a low social status

**Why:** Originating in Britain and having its roots in the Romani word 'chavi', 'chav' is used as a pejorative to describe lower class, anti-social youths who wear flashy jewellery and sham designer clothes. Since its first use in 1998, the word gained popularity and even had books written solely on it. With being classified as a "classist attack on poor people," many organisations have listed it as an offensive term.

## Sudoku | 2005

**What it means:** A logic-based number-placement puzzle where the objective is to fill a 9x9 grid in such a way that each column and each row contain all digits from 1 to 9

**Why:** Gaining its modern popularity after being published in 1986 by Nikoli, the Japanese game shook the world with its simplicity rooted in complexity. With millions being hooked on the puzzle within just one year of being introduced in the UK, 'sudoku' was an obvious choice as the popularity of the game has proven itself to be timeless, and not just the fad of the hour.

## Bovvered | 2006

**What it means:** An alternative rendition of 'bothered' where the 'th' has been replaced by 'vv'

**Why:** Devised on The Catherine Tate Show with a character, Lauren, snapping "Am I bovvered?" every time someone threatened to offend her, the word gained popularity amongst the younger generation whom she seemed a caricature of. From becoming a part of everyday vernacular to being on the headlines of newspapers and even greeting cards, 'bovvered' truly came



to represent the younger generation claiming back the mockery that was handed to them.

## Carbon footprint | 2007

**What it means:** The total greenhouse gas emissions caused by an individual, event, organisation, service, or product

**Why:** With global warming becoming an undeniable reality, 'carbon footprint' moved Oxford to focus on the serious issues plaguing the world. Starting a conversation between green movements, carbon production, and caring for the environment, carbon footprint became a household phrase as the world reflected on saving the only earth it has.

## Credit crunch | 2008

**What it means:** An economic condition in which investment capital is hard to secure as financial institutions become wary of lending funds with a fear of defaulting borrowers

**Why:** With the world economy going into recession, 'credit crunch' being the word of the year didn't come as a surprise to either the general public or financial gurus. As recession escalated, financial knowledge was the need of the hour, becoming a necessity for everyone to safeguard whatever funds they had left and struggle to get more.

## Simples | 2009

**What it means:** Used immediately after a statement providing a solution to a problem, it indicates that something is very straightforward to do

**Why:** Starting out as a catchphrase for Aleksandr the Meerkat, the word 'simples' became a part of household conversations as the adverts and campaigns for the price comparison

website- comparethameerkat.com gained popularity. The meaning and usage of 'simples' has gained relevance of its own over time, and for the exact same reason, the word was chosen to present the year in which it gained popularity.

## Big society | 2010

**What it means:** A concept where a significant amount of responsibility for running of a society is devolved to local communities and volunteers

**Why:** Coined by David Cameron, the then Prime Minister of UK, the 'big society', according to him, was all about "liberation - the biggest, most dramatic redistribution of power from elites in Whitehall to the man and woman on the street", which is precisely why Oxford chose it as the word of the year. Though many criticised the concept, the word surely was the talk of the town at the time, reflecting the world's political and economical mood.

## Squeezed middle | 2011

**What it means:** The social group consisting of people whose income is too low to support them comfortably but not low enough to exempt them from higher tax rates

**Why:** Following the theme set by 'big society', 'squeezed middle', too, shifted the focus on the common man, highlighting the class of the society which bears the brunt of government's tax burdens whilst having the least with which to relieve it. With the problems of the 'squeezed middle' section being highlighted in front of the world, it seemed a perfect fit to win the title.

## Omnishambles | 2012

**What it means:** A situation that has

been comprehensively mismanaged, characterised by a string

of blunders and miscalculations  
**Why:** First being used in the show, The Thick of It, the word is an amalgamation of 'omni' and 'shambles', and gained popularity after its usage in the political scenario. From being used by Ed Miliband to criticise the UK government's budget to being used against Mitt Romney, the word has been thrown around in politics a lot, so much so that it seems to be the 'it' thing to describe opposition.

## Selfie | 2013

**What it means:** A photograph that is taken by oneself, typically using a smartphone or a webcam

**Why:** The rise of social media, smartphones with decent cameras, and a budding narcissism all came together to result in the birth and rise of 'selfie', where a self-clicked picture was the newest and the best way to share one's beauty with the rest of the world on trending social media networks. Even after a decade, selfie continues to be just as popular, if not more.

## Vape | 2014

**What it means:** A battery-operated electronic device that is used to inhale vapours containing flavouring

**Why:** With evolving e-cigarettes and vapes being a 2 billion USD market at the time, and a historic legalisation of marijuana in many parts of the world, 'vape' truly became the talk of the town, blurring the questionable lines that always surrounded the subject. Being titled as the "future of smoking", vaping truly did take the whole world by storm.

## 😂 | 2015

**What it means:** An emoji that is used to indicate joking and teasing, it employs a laughing face that is crying out of joy or humour

**Why:** Marking a historic year where, for the first time, the 'word of the year' had zero alphabets, the decision to crown this emoji came from its staple popularity amongst texting audiences. As social media and smartphones became a necessity, emoji culture was on the rise and emotions were summed up in tiny yellow faces.

## Post-truth | 2016

**What it means:** Relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than emotions and personal beliefs

**Why:** Gaining popularity after Brexit and presidential elections in the US, 'post-truth' has become a mainstay in politics and political commentary as countries all around the world deal with the aftermath of numerous risky and questionable government actions. As the world faces the consequences later on, the question of 'post-truth' has given birth to an entirely new level of political debate.

## Youthquake | 2017

**What it means:** A significant cultural, political or social change that arises from the actions, words or influence of young people

**Why:** As the younger generations become conscious of the world around them, a will to change the world, or contribute, at least, is seen in the youngsters that alter realities with tweets, and hence caused what came to be called 'youthquakes'. From being active members of politics, environmental debate, social issues plaguing the world and everything in between, youth is truly taking over the world.

## Toxic | 2018

**What it means:** Something very harmful or poisonous

**Why:** Though the word is not fairly new and nor is its usage, its meaning, however, has shifted through the years, with the graph of its use driving up to 45% in just 2018. From learning about and highlighting the problems with toxic masculinity to toxic friendships and behaviour, the word 'toxic' seemed to have been a prefix to every emotion as the world debated the negative side of things.

## Climate emergency | 2019

**What it means:** A situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it

**Why:** As multiple scientists and organisations around the globe have come forward to declare the few years we have left to stop the irreversible damage of climate change, the public awareness of climate science and its implications are at an all-time high. 'The defining issue of our time', according to the UN Secretary-General, is climate emergency, which is why it may just be the word of the year, but needs to be the word of the century, if we really want to live long enough to see the end.





Laughing is good for your heart. It reduces stress and gives a boost to your immune system.

# Intl. Alumni Meet

Once An Amitian Forever Remains An Amitian



Ex-Amitians interact at the first international alumni meet



Chairperson Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, graces the meet



The global citizens participate in the festival of lights

## The global celebrations The Spirit Of One World

AGS Gurugram

Armaan Soni  
AGS, Gurugram, XI

The virtual International Day was held on November 11, 2020. Held under the visionary guidance of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, the day was based on the theme 'Festival of Lights' to commemorate Diwali and other similar festivals celebrated in different parts of the world. The celebrations commenced with an auspicious lamp lighting session by school principal Arti Gupta following which two students from Grade 12 briefly took all the attendees on a journey of the history of previous International Days celebrated at the school. The little ones from primary school put forth a beautiful presentation on the occasion and students from all the four

houses- Amazon, Ganges, Nile and Zhuang, showcased myriad joyful activities to keep the festive zest high. They creatively presented the history and culture of the Caribbean, Western Europe, Middle East and Central Europe, pertaining to festival of lights as celebrated in these regions. All the presentations concluded with two selected representatives from each house sharing a few words about behind-the-scene preparations, which were equally exciting. Towards the climax, all the houses received their own unique award. Amazon house received 'The Synergy' award, Nile bagged 'The Storyline' award, Zhuang won 'The Ingenuity' award and Ganges took home 'The Perceptive Enquiry' award. The celebrations wrapped up with a vote of thanks and wisdom words by the school principal who urged the students to be the light of the world.

AERC

Memories and nostalgia were the order of the day at the virtual 'International Alumni Meet' held for the first time, under the aegis of Amity Educational Resource Centre on Oct 14, 2020 and organised by AIS Noida. The event, attended by 90 ex-Amitians all around the globe, was graced by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, who loves every Amitian like her own child. As a mother, she dreams to see her children on top, successful, happy and connected to their roots, their alma mater, wherever they are. The event began with the virtual lamp lighting ceremony by the Chairperson, along with heads of different Amity institutions and other esteemed guests. From successful entre-

preneurs to doctors, from top notch management executives to fashionista Miss India, every ex-Amitian went nostalgic about their school days when the lamp lighting not only meant a ceremony, but a culture instilled into the young minds over the years. Aditi Arya, AIS Gurugram 46 alumna, and Miss India 2015, expressed her immense gratitude towards her alma mater as she credited her days at Amity being fostered with human values and modern opportunities for holistic learning for her success at the prestigious beauty pageant. Ananya Grover, an alumna of AIS Noida, iterated that Amity always encourages children to aim high and shared that the institution is always committed towards help-



Director, AERC at the meet

ing students grow resilient, hard-working and growth oriented. Tanvi Chaturvedi, AIS Gurugram 46 alumna, attributed her ability to multi-task, to her days at Amity where platforms like AIMUN played a huge role in instilling confidence, proactiveness and efficient management skills. Another alumna from Amitasha, Pooja Singh, expressed her heartfelt thanks to the Chairperson for giving her the opportunity to think and dream big, and always being her inspiration to grow ambitious and reach out for nothing less than the stars. Likewise, every ex-Amitian accorded their success to the Chairperson for ensuring that they are imbued with human value-based learning, true to the motto of Amity of

'Tradition blended in modernity'. A gush of emotions ran high as everyone watched the homecoming video, which exhibited every aspect of life at Amity. As the meet reached towards culmination, the Chairperson in her address, expressed immense happiness on knowing the journey of the young lives she so fondly nurtured with care and love. In her closing speech, she said, "Your voices will always be in the walls of Amity and our hearts," reinforcing the belief that once an Amitian is always an Amitian. The event came to close with a virtual cake cutting ceremony, and everyone sang *Vidya Dadati Vinayam* loud and clear. True to the Chairperson's signature shout-out to Amitians, everyone hailed Amity with three loud cheers, the hip hip hurray and a joyful ending to a beautiful homecoming.

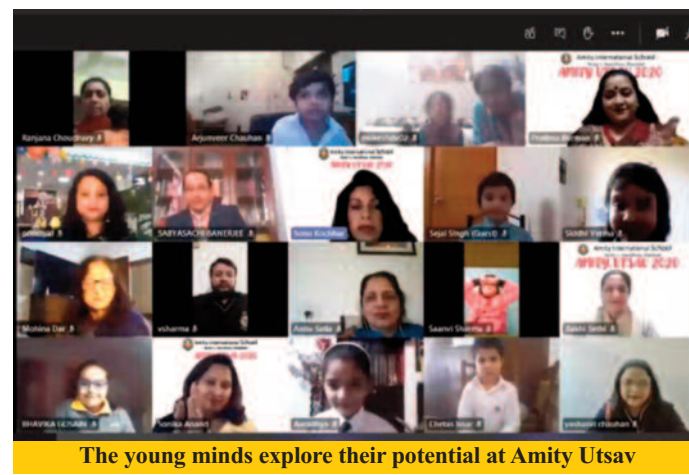
## Amity Utsav '2020

Fun Learning And Festivity

AIS Vasundhara 1

The second Amity Utsav, an inter-school competition of co-curricular activities, was held virtually from November 26-27, 2020. The fest, held under the visionary guidance of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, saw various fun and learning activities to ignite young minds to learn and ex-

plore the world around them. Total 357 students from 28 eminent schools of Delhi/NCR, including Amity Group of Schools, participated in twelve different events namely, Mathsmith, Quiz-topper, Young Innovators, Light Camera Action, Dance Mania, Story Weaver, Nimble Feet, Talking Titans, Poster Mania, Bout to Knock, *Indradhanush* and *Shlokavali*. Students from Amity Group of Schools and Amity



The young minds explore their potential at Amity Utsav

Global School emerged stellar winners by bagging 40 awards in the competitions. The prestigious 'Smt. Leelavati Shastri Trophy' was lifted by AIS Pushp Vihar. The event culminated with a virtual valedictory ceremony with certificates being given.



Newspaper made by journos

## Young journos

AIS Gwalior

Students of Class IV-V engaged themselves in a virtual 'Design your newspaper' activity held on November 11, 2020, designed to familiarise them with the nuances of print media. The young journos carefully selected news on different topics from various mediums, and designed their own newspapers in different layouts. They used handwritten texts and also pasted newspaper cuttings in professional patterns. They also wrote self-composed poems, stories and articles with social messages to showcase their innate creativity and social awareness.

## A eulogy to sports legends

AIS Noida

A virtual class presentation titled 'League of legends inspiring sagas of eminent sportspersons' was held from November 6-7, 2020 by the students of Class III to pay a heartfelt tribute to various sports icons. Total 430 students shared myriad powerful narratives, soul stirring self-composed poems, lively dances, thought provoking mock interviews and speeches to infuse a sense of respect for the great and inspiring men and women from different sports. Culminating the presentation, school principal Renu Singh lauded the efforts of young minds in bringing forth the motivating life and times of the sports legends who brought pride and glory to their country.

## An art fest for the creative souls

Expressions Of Heart Go Virtual At Chitrankan 2020

AIS Gurugram 46



A creative expression by one of the participants of the art fest

School held its 5th annual inter-school art fest 'Chitrankan -2020' virtually for the students of Class IV-XII from December 3-4, 2020. The fest aims to kindle the innate creativity of the young minds while giving them the opportunity to experiment with methods and materials for holistic learning and growth. Total 21 schools of Gurugram participated in the fest comprising myriad art competitions like Warli art, Madhubani art, Doodle art, fusion art, digital poster,

body painting, 3D reliefs & sculpture and round sculpture. Out of nine events, seven were conducted offline and two online comprising question answer round. Eminent artists Professor Shekhar Chandra Joshi and Rekha Bajpai were the jury of the fest. The overall champions trophy was won by AIS Gurugram 43 and all the participants were accorded e-certificates. The event closed with vote of thanks and wisdom words by school principal Arti Chopra who encouraged the students to keep their innate creative spirits high.



Heart is responsible for pumping blood to all the 75 trillion cells in the human body except to the human corneas.

All top quotes contributed by  
Aanya Narula, AIS Vasundhara 1, IX A



# OREO

## over the years



### The Story Of Our Favourite Sandwich Cookie And Some Of Its Very Limited Editions

Vanya Tandon, AIS Noida, XII

Oreo is a miracle of the 20th century. There hasn't been such a delicious invention in the history of human snacks and there will never be (you know nothing beats Oreo). Its scrumptious chocolate biscuit and smooth velvety crème filling make the right combination for excellence. In the span of its reign, Oreo has never shied away from experimentation, a lot of times to mark certain occasions. This is the story of those biscuits, those limited editions that celebrated not only the biggest biscuit fandom ever, but also a lot of other things that mattered.

#### Birthday Cake Oreo (2012)

Oreo's 100th birthday saw the origin of a whole new trend starting with the limited edition birthday cake Oreo which had sprinkles on the crème and 'OREO 100' embossed on one of the cookies. The flavour was such a hit that it was later reintroduced and has been continuing ever since, but without the 'OREO 100' print. To honour Mickey

Mouse's 90th birthday, these were also limitedly available in three different designs instead of the 'OREO 100'.

#### Watermelon Oreo (2013)

Released for a limited time, Watermelon Oreo gave you the taste of watermelon with the feeling of eating an Oreo. Consisting of golden cookies with two different crèmes – bright pink and green, made the filling look like a watermelon (sort of) and give a hint of the taste without ruining the original.

#### Pumpkin Spice Oreo (2014 - 2017)

Is it even autumn if there are no all-things pumpkin spice? When pumpkin spice was fresh in the market, everyone thought that its addiction was just a phase; but it took everyone by surprise when it stayed for the longest time and made space in all coffee lovers' hearts. For those who weren't caffeine fans, Oreo did them probably the biggest favours of all time by bringing out the Pumpkin Spice Oreo with golden cookie and that pumpkin spice in the middle. As yummy as it sounds!

#### S'mores Oreo (2016)

S'mores and campfire are the Karan-Arjun of summer camps. Well, not everyone goes to summer camps and neither do summer camps last all year long. So, to let you have that feeling in your hands at any given moment, Oreo introduced the S'mores flavour. Introduced as a limited addition, this Oreo had graham flavoured cookies sandwiched with two layers of crème – one chocolate and one marshmallow.

#### Waffles & Syrup Oreo (2017)

Waffles have always been the go-to breakfast choice (we get it or not is a whole other story) since generations. As a tribute to this classic breakfast choice, Oreo introduced its limited edition

Waffles & Syrup flavour with its signature golden cookies with a ring of vanilla crème and a blob of maple syrup. Can't go wrong with that, can you?

#### Peppermint Bark Oreo (2018)

Halloween calls for...that's right, a new Oreo flavour! For the 2018 holiday season, Oreo launched a limited edition Peppermint Bark which had the original chocolate cookies stuffed with peppermint crème (double stuff in quantity) with red sugar crystals.

#### Red Velvet Oreo (2015-2019)

Needless to say, the red cookies stuffed with cheese flavoured crème is the perfect cookie copy of the red

velvet cake. While it was introduced as a limited edition to celebrate the growing admiration for red velvet cakes, the red velvet cookie got so popular that it would've been a sin to not make it a regular flavour.

History might repeat itself, but Oreo will never repeat its flavours. So, where's your Oreo?



# Let's uncomplicate

## Time To Take A Break From The Complexities Of Life And Embrace Simplicity

Atrayee Guha, Alumna & Ayushi Goel, XII  
AIS Gurugram 43

Us humans have an affinity towards the complicated, don't we? We insist on using complex gadgets to perform simple tasks, difficult words to convey simple emotions, altering certain aspects of our daily life in hope for the better.

Our inexplicable love for the complicated makes us unique, quite different from our ancestors who sought to make their lives simpler. Sample this—the Neanderthals used fire for the simple purpose of making food edible. Modern day sapiens use the same fire as a topping for food. They call it sizzlers. Speaking of food, the humble Maggi is another testament to our love for the complicated. The two-minute dish that was as simple as boil hot water and add the noodles took forms of Maggi arabiata, double mushroom Maggi and what not.

Sadly, our complications exist way beyond the food paradise. Take for example packaging. A gadget that would have brought joy, also brings the complications of unnecessary packaging. So much so that one has to check out unboxing videos to get the complex packaging out of the way. Bottomline is that we have to thank Confucius for pointing out "Life is simple but we insist on making it complicated" and agree too. But why exactly do we love the difficult, when simple is always the easy way out? Psychologists have summed up the reason in a single term – 'complexity bias'. Put simply, it means that if humans are presented with two choices, they are likely to be drawn towards the more complex one. As bizarre as that may sound, that's the hard truth with some plausible explanations. It could be that we

humans have been embedded with the thought that the complicated is always better. We often take a complex life to be sentient to rich and satisfying. Anything that is too simple is often considered dull and unworthy.

Another explanation justifying this phenomenon is that it enables us to sidestep the need to understand, simply by calling it complicated. At times, it is about surrendering the responsibility to act that usually accompanies the simple. By simply calling something complicated, we can easily avoid any action that it may entail. So, it is easy to see that of the fight or flight response, this one is flight.

Belief in conspiracy theories is often an outcome of this response, for these

theories are often more complicated than the truth, so it is easier to fall back on them as these require mere gossip mongering and no real action.

All of us, at some point, have encountered a Shashi Tharoor. Their language, complicated beyond comprehension, brings a sense of intrigue. We often may not understand what they say, but are afraid to ask for the fear of sounding stupid. Another reason that points towards our penchant for complicated. It's simple logic – what you don't understand, you can't refute. So, maybe complex does work for some.

Sure there are reasons and complexity at face value does seem superior, but it is unsustainable. It needs constant maintenance. In fact, chaos often tends to disguise itself as complexity. A wise man once said, "Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex and more violent. It takes a touch of genius — and a lot of courage — to move in the opposite direction." So, shall we?

