

INSIDE



History this week, P7



Say Cheese, P10

AMITe poll

Do you think opening schools amidst Omicron super mutant scare would lead to surge in Covid clusters across the nation?

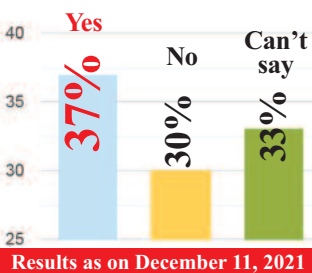
- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Can't say

To vote, log on to www.theglobaltimes.in

POLL RESULT

for GT issue December 6, 2021

Do you think global semiconductor chip shortage will impact India's automobile industry drastically?



Results as on December 11, 2021

Coming Next

Prompt Box

The perpetual paradox

Road To Technological Singularity, And Its Many Twists And Turns

Niharika Roy, XI D & Madhav Sharma, XI A, AIS Saket

“AI enters paediatrics” “National AI Advisory Committee established” “Desi AI start-ups help businesses make smart decisions”. These are just a few headlines that hogged the news space as this story went to bed; all pointing to the omnipresence of Artificial Intelligence. But why should you, a school student, be bothered about AI? Because, AI is changing the way we live, breathe and function as you read this. And perhaps so much so that soon it could be a robot reading a story about humans and their downfall. Before you drift away to a distant land, let's pop that bubble with the not half bad needle of feasibility, shall we?

Catastrophic predicament

Today, private players are spending \$20 billion on AI products. The educational landscape is changing too with MIT alone investing \$1 billion in a college devoted to AI. In 2018, IBM received 9100 patents, out of which 1600 were AI related. Get the point? AI is on an upward trajectory. But what does this mean for us humans as a species? Will AI, as depicted in pop culture, triumph over humanity, in a catastrophic uprising? This event, known as “Technological Singularity,” speculates that human-contrived AI will approach self-awareness and exist, if you will, ‘singularly’. Once this era starts, we as a species, would have no ‘value’ in the big picture. However, there is a pretty good chance that we may never experience such advanced levels of singularity. A classic

argument for the same is that, as we approach singularity, we would have automated most jobs in the economy. Unemployment will be rife on automation's watch and there will be no further incentive to advance technology- giving rise to the technology paradox, postulated by Martin Ford, in “The Lights in the Tunnel”. Besides, as of now, AI is unable to understand the true content of human language. To interpret content, it will have to understand every single thing the human race has ever written to fully join the dots. And that is when it might be able to supplant humans, but that seems rather far away. Today, AI only has the ability to change the subset of our world

that can be automated. It is yet to achieve supremacy in fields that rely on perception, social intelligence and creativity, aspects that are uniquely human. And thus, as of now, it would be safe to assume that we, humans are here to stay for a while.

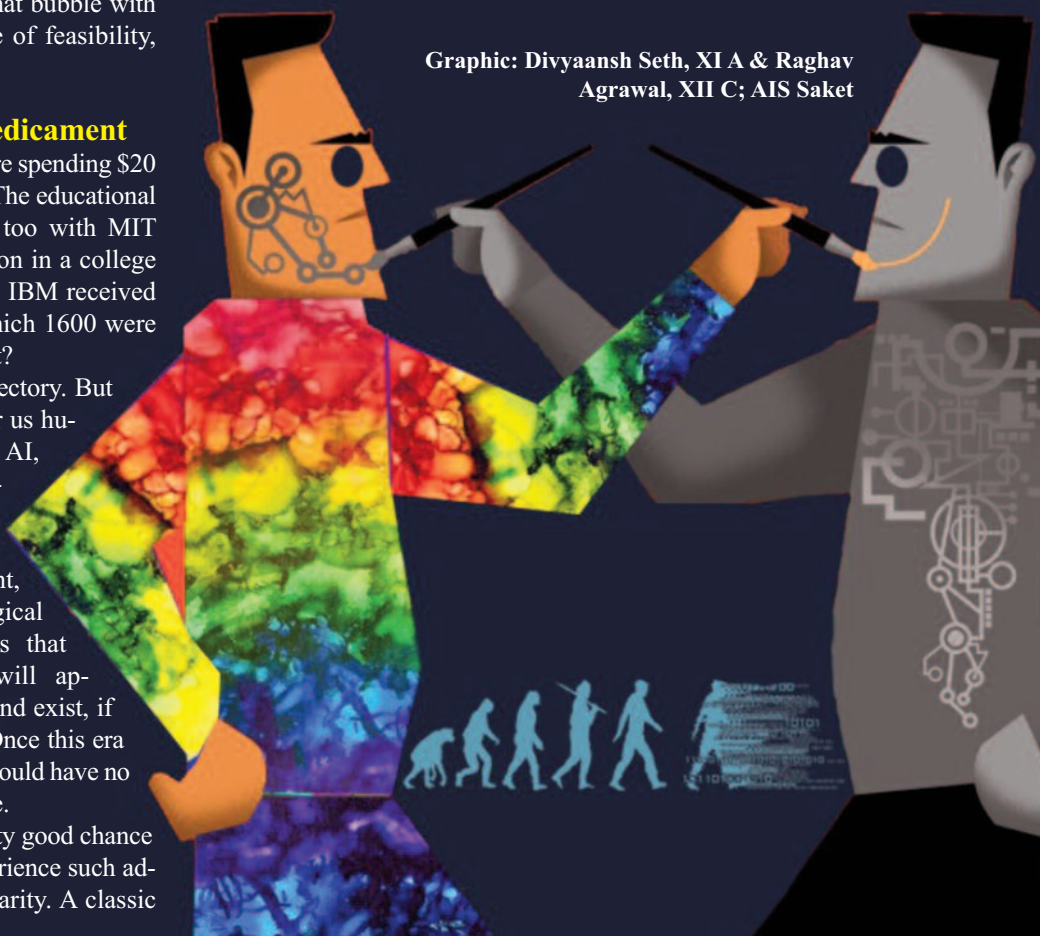
Dark bends

Now bringing the other side of the story; Prominent futurist Ray Kurzweil is 100% certain that such a singularity will be achieved based on his law of Accelerating Returns. Internet traffic has exploded from 49 exabytes to 187 exabytes in just the last 5 years. About 1.38 billion smartphone units were sold worldwide in 2020, compared to 298

million just 10 years ago. AI is expected to follow a similar recursion, following a self-improving trend. Look around, AI has already started showing signs of its dominion. It is already displacing humans faster than ever in the job market. Cambridge Analytic's Facebook shenanigans or Amazon's Alexa eavesdropping, are two among many examples of tech gone wild. Thus, wouldn't it be in our best interest to prepare for a singularity irrespective of whether it may happen, for the sake of humanity?

Comfort in the chaos

As we delve into the intricacies of this idea, the philosophical problems become more intimidating and the consequences even more significant. We currently stand in the face of a paradoxical contiguity, wherein technology presents more dangerous and at the same time more valuable opportunities than ever before. Maybe a combination of the two is what we need? Rather than an all-or-nothing stance, we perhaps need to embrace and benefit from the one-two punch of artificial and human intelligence while preparing for what's next. Take, the medical field, for instance. AI can already analyze medical images with superhuman accuracy. Couple that with a doctor's compassion and you have more resounding medical success. To end, in the words of Stephen Hawking, “Success in creating AI would be the biggest event in human history. Unfortunately, it might also be the last, unless we learn how to avoid the risks.” Will it be our risk management, or our acquisitiveness that prevails? Only time can tell.



Graphic: Divyaansh Seth, XI A & Raghav Agrawal, XII C; AIS Saket

The world's a stage

Puneet Gupta On Reviving The Lost Theatre Culture

Ananya Mittal, AIS Vas 6, X B

They say “theatre is the only institution in the world which has been dying for four thousand years and has never succumbed.” Well, they say it right, for the world has always been and will forever be breathing the air of the dramatic arts, and devoted playwrights have always been and will forever be openly writing, producing, and directing to keep this art form alive. Co-founder of Mad Hats Theatre, Puneet Gupta, a playwright, director, and actor by profession, has been doing just that for the past decade. As an engineer-turned-dramatist, he has several successful plays like The Pillowman, Guilty As (Not) Charged, etc., to his credit. So, when GT caught up with him for an exclusive interview, he certainly had a lot to say...

On his adventitious influence...

I've had a flair for dramatics since I was a child. My parents tell me that I was a 'drama queen' sort of a kid. So, when I grew up, I did complete my graduation in engineering but a part of me wasn't satisfied still. I started exploring different forms of art - street theatre, skits, and other non-professional work in this area. So, I guess it was an old itch that I needed to scratch and I did just that.



Puneet Gupta with GT reporters

On the experience that theatre is...

There are two parts to the theatre according to me; first is expressing yourself, and the second and most important, is experiencing new venues. We humans, go through a lot as we live every day and a lot is left unsaid, theatre here acts as a healer, a means of catharsis for all to purge themselves of their unwanted, repressed emotions. I've experienced it firsthand, so have some of my actors and even people in the audience.

On his source of inspiration...

Most stories that I like to tell are people-centric. They are about core emotions; some nuance of a relationship or just one of those instances in someone's life, either my own or someone I know. It's typically a moment, a sliver of that incident registers with me and then I try to create a story around it. That's

how I write. It mostly tends to be realistic, but I do dabble occasionally in fantasy.

On his current project Eggshells...

Eggshells is an interesting play, the idea for which came from a news clipping that I saw in the Hindustan Times. It is a story about two women who are living on two different continents, leading two different lives. Both of them have a similar sort of emotional baggage but these women are able to change the course of their destinies by being strong, and their story celebrates women power. It also explores the relationship between a husband and wife, in terms of understanding and being there for each other, and the insecurities that come coupled with it. It also projects the cultural social divide as well. You ought to definitely look forward to it!

Advice for the aspiring playwrights...

It is untrue if anyone says that you need formal training to join a theatre group. For just like everything else around the world, this is also a matter of learning something, and learning can happen anywhere. At Mad Hats Theatre, rather than professional actors, we prefer working with people who are passionate, and do theatre for fun, learning, and enjoyment because that's exactly how we started. 🇮🇳



Puneet Gupta, co-founder, Mad Hats Theatre



India this week

Aadya Kapoor, AIS Vasundhara 6, XII D

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.



Blasphemous text in J&K text books

News: All schools in J&K and Ladakh have been directed by Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education to withdraw a textbook published by JAY CEE Publications Private Limited, following the reports that it carries blasphemous material against Islam. It contained controversial illustration of Archangel Gabriel and Muhammad.

Views: There is a very fine line between ideal and reality when it come to secularism. An educational book is revised almost a million times and seeing such a mistake there can be only two explanations - either this was a genuine mistake or subliminal Islamophobia. Either way, the publishing house should have been careful because such a disastrous mistake can hurt the sentiments of one sect of society and moreover, cause unrest in the country.

Chitralkha A Borah, AIS Vas 6, IX D



Formation of CAQM's task force

News: The Supreme Court has announced that the Commission for Air Quality Management in the capital region has created a task force to 'monitor compliance with the direction issues in the wake of worsening air quality in the region'. The task force is said to have five members, and has already

constituted 17 flying squads that will take actions against any violators. The task force was filed after the Centre and CAQM were given a 24-hour deadline to come up with solutions to control air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

Views: Every year patients suffering from various respiratory diseases face elevated levels of air pollution at the expense of our enjoyment. The Commission is doing things at its level- appropriate guidelines in place, advisories issued at regular intervals, and sale of firecrackers banned; but the decreasing air quality goes to show that the public is well aware of its actions and is still not ready to comply. Hence, the formation of task force comes as a progressive step in this battle.

Ananya Jain, AIS Vas 6, IX B

NEET delay leads to doctor shortage

News: A shortage of doctors in hospitals have been reported in Maharashtra due to the postponement of NEET-PG 2021 counselling, because of which overburdened resident doctors have withdrawn from OPD services. Maharashtra State Association of Resident Doctors have also drafted a letter to the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare regarding the same, stating that only two batches of residents are currently present in hospitals, pushing them on 'the verge of a breakdown'.

Views: The medical situation of the country is almost always threatening to flow over with burden. And this news certainly bores no joyous element as the resident doctors are facing unfavorable situations. The doctors have already been hard at work and an overload for them can have a much larger



impact on the patient's health and the concern allotted to them. Ever since the pandemic invaded, the doctors have been on their toes to treat patients. So, they too need a break and the postponement of the counselling is not proving to be a good decision in any decree; and thus, should not be put off anymore.

Ridhi Chopra, AIS Vas 6, IX A



India-Russia sign AK rifles pact

News: In a meeting between Russian defense minister, Sergey Shoigu, and his Indian counterpart, Rajnath Singh, the two countries signed a 'military tech cooperation agreement' which will strengthen their defence ties for ten years. The deal was regarding the manufacturing and production of over six lakhs AK-203 assault rifles in India's Amethi. The meeting is said to have been very productive, providing new discussions and ways of cooperation between India and Russia, taking their friendship a notch higher.

Views: Even with all the strategic shifts India has brought in, i.e., increased proximity to the West, the deal reinstates that Russia still is an important ally, and India should continue to partner with them in areas of interest. Also, the structure of the deal shows that the government is committed to the Make in India idea and wants to be self-reliant for all its requirements. The new rifles will replace INSAS rifles that were inducted in Indian army three decades ago. With proven technology, the AK-203 assault rifles will help the Indian soldiers to excel in future operational challenges.

Anjali Nair, AIS Vas 6, IX A

Around The WORLD

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



USA

Winter Olympics boycotted

The government, on Dec 6, 2021, made public its decision to boycott the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics over China's human rights abuses and atrocities in Xinjiang. White house press secretary, Jen Psaki, confirmed that none of the diplomats of the US delegation would be attending the event. Other countries also supported this decision.

GERMANY

New chancellor elected

Having served as the nation's vice chancellor for over the past 4 years, Social Democrat Olaf Scholz was elected as the new German Chancellor on Dec 8, 2021, ending Angela Merkel's 16 years of conservative rule. As Germany's ninth post WW II chancellor, Olaf won the elections with a clear majority of 395 votes.



JAPAN

Billionaire arrives at International Space Station

Aboard Russian Soyuz, that blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Dec 8, 2021, Japanese fashion tycoon Yusaku Maezawa arrived at the International Space Station, becoming the first space tourist to visit the station in recent years, and marking the return of Russian space tourism after a decade long pause. He is expected to spend 12 days at the ISS and is set to perform 100 tasks.



CHINA

First Covid-19 drug approved

China's National Medical Products Administration, granted 'emergency approval' for a monoclonal antibody treatment in what is seen as the country's first specialised treatment against Covid-19. According to clinical studies and trials, it will reduce the need for hospitalisation and number of deaths among patients with existing comorbidities by a whopping 80%.

UK

Rohingya refugees sue Facebook

Rohingya refugees in UK, on Dec 6, 2021, sued Meta Platforms Inc. for 150 billion USD for not taking timely action to regulate anti-Rohingya hate speech on its apps. According to the suit, Facebook has contributed in amplifying "hateful and dangerous misinformation" against the Rohingya community that lead to mass violence.

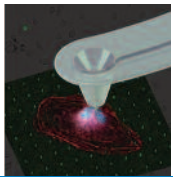


UAE

Announces short work week

UAE government introduced and announced adoption of a 4.5-day work week in the nation, becoming the first in the world to do so. With Friday as a half day, the move is set to come into effect from January 1, 2022. The rule will also be applicable to all public sector organisations and educational institutes.





The smallest pen in the world is Nanofountain Probe which can produce lines which are about 40 nanometres.

Aawaz mein hai dum!

The Journey Of Becoming A Voiceover Artist

There is a lot more to lending your voice than just picking up a script and saying it out loud. The stream of voiceover, just like any other artistic field, has its own nuances, specialisation, and needs. It is a tough genre to master, but if voice acting is what calls you, then you have come to the right place to gather all your 123s of the field that Prisha Nigam, AIS Gurugram 43, X C, is happy to share...

Parul Bhatnagar

With experience of over 10 years, she is a voiceover artist for cartoons and anime. She has voiced various beloved characters like Shizuka in Doraemon, and Himawari, Yoshinaga, Masau and Kazama in Shin-chan. She even conducts online classes for aspiring artists.



One for the journey: My journey has been full of ups and downs. It took me one whole year to learn the nuances of the art. Initially, I got only small characters. Patience and perseverance are the key.

Twice the hard work: To be a voiceover artist, you need fluency in reading, understanding expressions, pitch and timing. In a show like Shin Chan, I voiced 5 characters at the same time, so it took me some time and practice to modulate my voice.

Third time's the charm: An education qualification does not matter in this field. That said, there are institutes that teach dubbing and sync techniques that can help you to an extent.

Down on all four: The trickiest part is always proving yourself in the midst of all the great artists that are out there. Approaching studios and making the right connections is also very difficult, so it is not unusual for an artist to feel frustrated and depressed.

High five to success: To be successful, you need to understand how a recording studio works. You need to know sync techniques, mic positions, voice throw, modulations, expressions etc. You will also need basic fluency skills in reading, understanding, pitch, timing, and of course, patience.

Hitting a sixer: The remuneration and success you achieve from a project really depends on its details, the character you portray, the platform you are working for, and the kind of artist you are. It can sometimes be mere a 500 INR or can even be 50,000 INR or even more.

No set seven hour shift: This profession is not bound by the conventional working hours. My work usually starts around 11 and sometimes even goes on till midnight, but it only happens in rare cases because it can be very difficult to keep doing voiceovers for such a long time.

Toler'eight'ing the challenges: Every new character you will do will be a new challenge in itself. You will need time to modify your voice and catch the subtleties.

On cloud nine: You firstly need to work on your skills. Network as much as possible and keep in touch with other artists.

One for the journey: My journey has been sweet and smooth because my parents have taught me the art and its importance since I was a kid. Although I did have my fair share of struggles, I believe all your tough days end up becoming sweet memories once you have made your ground.

Twice the hard work: To be a professional dubbing artist, you need to work very hard on your lip-syncing, voice modulation, command over language, pronunciations, and mainly have a love for the work you do.

Third time's the charm: The charm of this industry is that you don't need any specific educational qualifications to become a dubbing artist. All you need is to learn the craft of voicing, which will only come with time and practice.

Down on all four: As a dubbing artist, you are mostly a freelancer, which means your schedule is always fluctuating. There can be days when you are jam-packed with work, but sometimes you are free for several days.

High five to success: To be a successful dubbing artist, you need a good voice, lip-syncing, voice modulation, fold back (hearing your own voice in the headphones whilst recording), and availability. In my experience, your availability really matters because the more you are available when you are required, the more you get work.

Hitting a sixer: There is and never will be a

Peter Abraham

He is a voiceover artist with years of experience working with podcasts, IVR, audiobooks, corporate films etc. He has worked with the biggest names in the country like Amazon, Lenovo, LG, BBC, Airtel, Government of India, Tata Group, ICICI, Larsen & Toubro, Indian Oil and many more.



Karan Trivedi

A Hindi and Gujarati dubbing artist, his experience spans over a decade. He has dubbed for the Hindi version of movies like Fantastic Four and Twilight and is best known for playing Harry Potter in Harry Potter series and Troy Bolton in High School Musical series.

set figure to be made in this industry. There are a lot many dubbing artists that are living luxurious lives, while there are others who are struggling to make ends meet. There really is no guarantee that you will always end up hitting a sixer.

No set seven hour shift: Work can crop up anytime and it can go on throughout the day, even till late evenings. You have to be ready to go with the flow and keep yourself available for whenever you might be required.

Toler'eight'ing the challenges: The most challenging part is expressing the needed emotion only using your voice. You also need to take care of your throat and keep it healthy, so no excessive

ice creams, cold water etc.

On cloud nine: Dubbing, as a career, has a great scope once you crack the art. The industry is growing and so are the employment rates.



One for the journey: My journey started 11 years ago in Singapore when a friend encouraged me to record a demo script. I enjoyed it, and when I came back to India, I trained under the renowned artist Khodus Wadia. With time, I started doing more and more work, and now I work as a part-time voiceover artist.

Twice the hard work: If you want to be successful, you need to have a command of the languages you speak, proper diction, and the ability to emote. Be open to feedback and improve yourself with it.

Third time's the charm: There is no formal degree course in our country for voiceover, but there are a lot of reputed institutes that offer diplomas in it.

Down on all four: Rejection can always be a difficult element to deal with. And sometimes, following up for payments can also be another challenging aspect as some clients tend to take forever.

High five to success: When the industry was in its nascent stage, having a deep bass voice for men and a feminine voice for women was be-all and end-all, but times and requirements have changed. Our media consumption has been challenged and therefore the kind of voices we hear has as well. From 'voice of God' to being the voice of an everyday person, the industry has come a

long way, which is why there is no one-size-fits-all approach here anymore.

Hitting a sixer: The voiceover industry is very disorganised in India, unlike international markets where there are unions and standard rate cards. In India, unless you are a top-tier, well-established VO artist, you don't get to command your own price, no matter how good you are. You will just have to go with the flow and not fall into the trap of low pricing or undercutting.

No set seven hour shift: I am a part-time voiceover artist. During the day, I work on my main job and in evenings, sometimes nights, and weekends, I work on voicing. If it is an urgent project, I get a heads up enough to manoeuvre my schedule to deliver my work on time.

Toler'eight'ing the challenges: The biggest test is always to deliver what the client wants and exactly how they want it. Everyone has a different approach and needs from a project, so you need to do what you are told, and you are rewarded for it. From commercials to audiobooks, from e-learning to corporate films, I enjoy the variety of work I do so it never gets boring.

On cloud nine: You can explore voice narrations, podcasts, audiobooks etc. You just need to find what suits your voice and talent best and what role you would prefer.

The biggest pen in the world is 5.5 metres wide, weighs 37 kg, and was created in India.



Mighty Pen

Shubhangi Lakhanpal, AGS Gurugram, XI

Little Ron met all the criterion of being a good boy, except for that his room was a real mess. As he woke up on a Sunday morning, tip-toeing his way through the dirty room to meet his friend to play in the park, his mother barged in and halted all his plans. "Where do you think you are going? You are not allowed to go out until you clean this room," she said and left him alone.

Angry and annoyed, he picked up the basketball laying in a corner and threw it with full force at the wall. To his surprise, the wall seemed just as furious and threw it back at him with the same power. "What? How can you smack me back?" he cried, rubbing his arm that was hurt by the force of the ball. "Why? You are allowed to act, but we are not allowed to react?" asked both the wall and the ball together to Ron.

Not having an answer and not wanting to be beaten up by them again, Ron angrily picked up the empty box from the corner and started stuffing all his toys in it. He kept pushing the toys in, even though the

A full circle

What Goes Around Comes Back Around!

box was filled to the brim. As if in retaliation, the toys too kept pushing back. "Stop putting so much force on us. Of course, we'll fight back!" commented one of his toys that pushed back at Ron's hands every time he tried to push him inside. Ron was now beyond frustrated; why did all the things around him keep fighting him back?

His eyes fell on the inflated balloons that he was playing with yesterday. He remembered he had so much fun filling air in them. Ah, what he wouldn't do to go back to playing instead of cleaning! He quickly picked up a deflated balloon and started blowing into it, but his fingers slipped, and as a re-


sult, the air in the balloon came rushing out and the balloon went flying around the room.

"Noooo, why?" he cried, holding the balloon he spent so long blowing up. "Well, because the air inside me came rushing out so I responded to it by flying!" replied the balloon. Ron now tired of everything backfiring at him, almost yelled in frustration, "Then it is your fault! Why must every action come back with an answer?"

"Because, silly," said the wall, "if you will throw something at me, I will also throw it back at you. If you push something against me, I will push it against you. Every action of yours and of mine and

of everyone else's has an equal and opposite reaction." "Every action? Really?" asked Ron. "Yes, really," replied the floor; "you are pushing yourself against me and I am pushing you back, which is why you can walk or stand." "Even me," chimed in the physics book sitting on the study table, "I am applying my force on the table and the table is applying its force onto me, which is why I am sitting here uncomfortably right now."

As one after the other, all the objects in the room joined the conversation to talk about how they have been replying with the same force that is applied to them, Ron watched them with curiosity and realised that whenever any two things interact in life, they both apply the same level of force onto each other. But, to him, this force seemed to be opposite in direction, which is what makes things move and also keeps them steady.

Having learned about actions and reactions, Ron promised to himself to take better care of his toys. The entire experience proved to be a valuable lesson for Ron - an enlightening science lesson and an equally valuable life lesson. 



Newton's third law of motion states that when two bodies interact, they apply forces to one another that are equal in magnitude and opposite in direction.

Magnificent melons

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



Vaishnavi Yadav
AIS VYC Lko, VII A

Hey! My name is: Melon
I am also known as: Cucumis melo

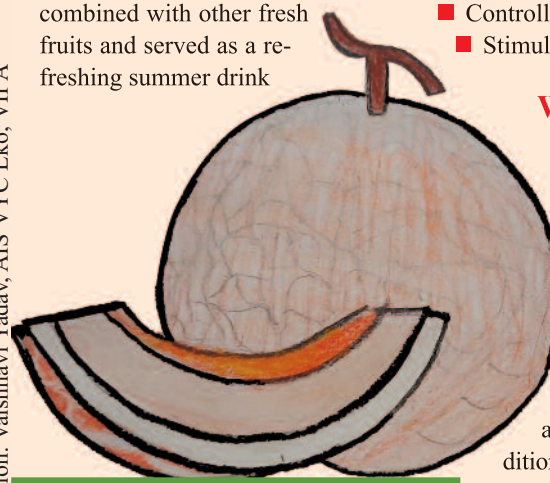
About me

- I belong to the Cucurbitaceae family; though my exact origins are unknown but I was most likely found in Persia and near trans Caucasus.
- In the 16th Century, I was introduced by the Spaniards to many places in North America, Bermuda and California.
- Though I have more than 40 variations, I can be identified as having a fairly round shape, with yellowish green outer layer. My rind can be smooth, ribbed, wrinkled or netted depending on my different avatars.
- I am an annual vine and have hairy stems, and my yellow unisexual flowers are responsible for the sweet aroma of my fruit.
- Most of my varieties mature in 60-90 days and weigh up to 3-4 pounds. On an average, I can gain 12-18 inches height and can spread upto 3-6 feet.
- You will find a seed cavity inside me that is surrounded by smooth but thick flesh like coat. And my

outer lining is relatively hard but that is only to protect me.

- In India, I am commonly sliced and served with sugar and cardamom.
- Due to my sweet taste, I am also combined with other fresh fruits and served as a refreshing summer drink

Illustration: Vaishnavi Yadav, AIS VYC Lko, VII A



What I offer

- About 100 grams of my consumption will provide you:
- Calories: 34
 - Carbohydrates: 8.1 grams
 - Protein: 0.84 grams
 - Fat: 0.19 grams
 - Sugar: 0.9 grams
 - Water: 90%
 - Vitamins (C, B6, A, etc.)
 - Other minerals like Potassium, Copper and Magnesium

I can help you with

- Regulating blood sugar
- Boosting immunity
- Promoting healthy digestive system
- Improving eye vision
- Controlling weight
- Stimulating hair growth

Where can you find me

I require well-drained loamy sand, rich in organic matter with pH between 6.5 to 7.5 for good cultivation. I grow best in hot and dry climatic conditions as I cannot tolerate frost. Cool nights and clear day sunlight is ideal for my sugar accumulation and helps me provide better flavour. Region wise, China is my biggest producer, followed by Turkey, Iran, India, and the United States. Interestingly, in 2021, India produced an estimated 1.30 million tonnes of me. That's great, if you ask me!

My different avatars

- Ananas Melon
- Cantaloupe Melon

2021
UN International
Year of
Fruits & Vegetables

- Honeydew Melon
- Galia Melon
- Santa Claus Melon
- Canary Melon

Why I fear climate change

I am cultivated mostly in tropical and sub-tropical regions where the atmosphere is relatively dry. So, the present climatic conditions with frequent unannounced rains or periods of cloudy weather that lead to high moisture content in the air are harmful for my ripening stages, and also lower my quality drastically. To compound it, acid rains, caused by industrial emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, leach important nutrients from my soil, resulting in production of poor-quality fruits. Thus, I for once require immediate human intervention, so that climate change doesn't end up making the likes of me go extinct. Besides, I am tasty too, so lending me a helping hand would be a win-win situation. Hurry up and act now!



Pens were first created around 3000 BC by ancient Egyptians who made them from wood and bamboo straws.

CHECK MATE

Ultimate Chess 101: May The Best Strategic Move Win...

Saatwik Chatkara
AGS Gurugram, XI

Chess - one of the most daunting board games ever created in the world, has been around from centuries, and is loved by everyone. Even in today's technologically advanced world, we have found ways to move these 64 squares arranged in an eight-by-eight grid online and connect with other players. This game, where every player gets to control sixteen pieces - one king, one queen, two rooks, two knights, two bishops, and eight pawns, is seen as a game of intellect, but there are still some who don't understand its appeal. So, for them, let's break it down, shall we?

"Can you walk me a little through its backstory?"

Chess is an abstract strategy game that is played between two players, where with the help of their given sixteen pieces, the opponents must try to checkmate the other's king in order to win the game.

This board game first originated in India and even have references in various texts like Harshacharita and Charang-namak, the earliest one dating back to the 7th century.

However, the current version was further evolved in Europe during the 15th century, mainly in Valencia, Spain, and it was from there on that these modernised rules were adopted in Italy and Southern France, before the rest of the world.

By the end of the 19th century, the game had become global, and several matches were being held annually. To promote it further, the first ever

Olympiad was held in Paris in 1924, and subsequently, FIDE, the International Chess Federation, was formed. In 1927, the Women's World Chess Championship was established.

With tech advancement, internet came up with various chess servers, the first one being Internet Chess Server by University of Utah in 1992. The Internet Chess Club was also launched in 1995, and today, after being referenced in various pop items like Harry Potter and The Queen's Gambit, the game has seen a rise in its players.

"Okay, sounds cool, but why should I play it?"

As the game requires memorising numerous combinations of moves and potential outcomes, it helps with memory skills. Experienced chess player have shown a better performance when it came to auditory memory.

The game engages the mind in careful contemplation and planning. Research done by behavioural scientists at National Institutes of Health proved that the group that regularly played chess performed better in the Tower of London test (a test used in applied neuropsychology) than a group that did not engage with the game.

According to a research review done in 2019 by University of Alicante and a study by Department of Health, Iran, in 2016, chess protects older people from dementia and helps school-age children with ADHD. It was also found that the game helps one to be calm.

"I'm in, what should I keep in mind whilst playing it?"

The chess pieces are divided

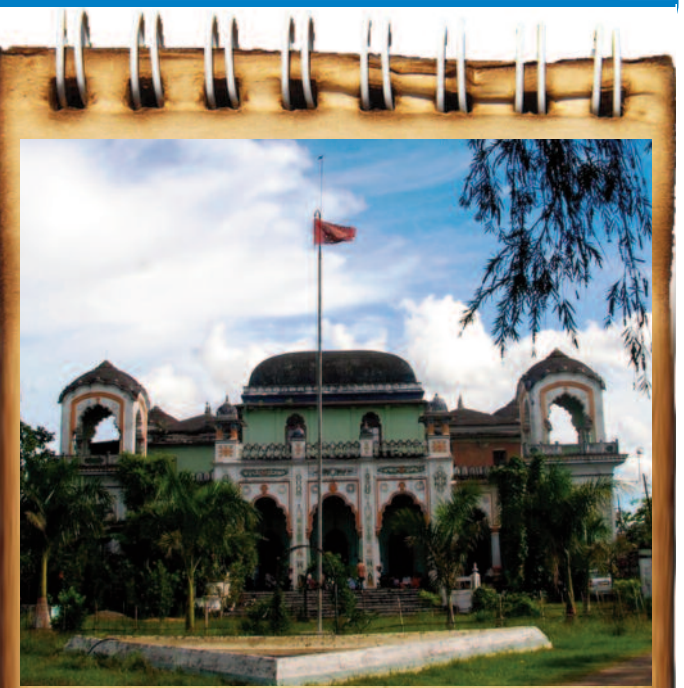
into two coloured sets, usually black and white, where players take turns moving to unoccupied squares or occupied ones which removes the opponent's piece from the game.

The king can move one square in any direction, rook and queen cannot leap over other pieces, and a bishop can move diagonally.

A game can be won with checkmate (the king is in check), resignation of the opponent, win on time (for time-controlled events where the opponent runs out of time), or by forfeit. There are also six ways in which the game can end in a draw.

Usually, the theories to play the game has been divided into two different phases with different strategies like Opening Theory (which aims to find the best moves in the initial phase of the game), Middlegame Theory (which is divided into chess strategy that is to set and achieve long-term positioning advantages during the game, and chess tactics that look after immediate moments), and Endgame Theory (which is concerned with positions where there are only few pieces left at the end to fight the main battle).

Now you're all ready to checkmate Chess haters!



The royal foil

Is It The End Of The Royal Era?

Anushka Ramesh
AIS MV, XII E

While pulling together all our belongings into countless boxes of memories, I chanced upon an archaic threadbare hardbound book covered in dust. As I ran my fingers over the textured golden letters beneath the dust, it revealed 'Sanajaoba' - my grandfather's name. I picked it, but the pages that threaten to fall like autumn leaves. Gathering them all in curiosity together, I head to the final page. At least, before we take leave from this mighty fortress called Sana Konung that we once called home.

Dear diary

I pen down today's anecdote with the aroma and delectability of Manipuri mangal ootti in my heart, the majestic kitchen of Sana Konung Palace in my mind, and, no doubt, rats jumping haywire in my stomach. Oh! How privileged were we! With royal chefs lining up ornate *daawats* at the huge dining table, never having to visit the kitchen. But then the day arrived, I had to walk into the kitchen and give the boot to my royal chef. We were not royals anymore. The government's decision to convert this beautiful palace into a historic attraction for tourists has torn our whole family into pieces. Not realising that it's a violation of the 2006 memorandum between the government and us, that no decision will be taken without our consent. Perhaps, the royal age was over, or so the government concluded.

I still remember my father narrating the mighty tale of how the Manipur royal family occupied the Kangla palace post the 1891 Anglo-Manipur war, thus, laying the foundation of this beautiful palace. But then perhaps this chaos laid its cornerstone when my ancestors and those from Tripura were bludgeoned to be part of India in the 1949. Gradually, parts of the kingdom began to be con-

verted into military headquarters, leaving us with this place to call our residence. If I had my druthers, this situation might have never come up. I would have still been King Sanajaoba: The Living Deity. But since I no longer possess the power to run my state with a clap of my hands, I have no option but to let those despicable tears well into my eyes and roll down my cheeks. But before I show the white flag, I... impulsively... declare a hunger strike.

The first couple of days had been pretty rough when my famished-self related all the love songs to the succulent taste of Chamthong or Kangshoi. The plight didn't end there. Sana Konung was more than just a house. It was home. A shelter that provided us warmth and security. It was a symbol of the life of our civilisation. I remember the leaves rustling, similar to a woman gracefully sauntering in her evening dress with poise. These ambles down the memory lane bring the confidence in me to not give up on my dis-seize. The corridors of the palace lie deserted. I can no longer see the flower tubs, nor the white gravels. I am blinded by my ambition to get back what is mine. And I'll fight for it. God, give me the strength.

I had heard many stories about our palace, but never realised the real meaning of being an emperor... However, now as I see my ancestral home being converted into a heritage site, to preserve the royal remnants of our legacy place, as they are calling it, I can sense everything falling apart. Grandfather pursued politics and joined the Rajya Sabha. He gave up monarchy for democracy. Power based on the people's opinion is indeed a fair system in my opinion, but to be deprived of all luxury services that were just a clap away and lavish luncheons and dinners, it is in fact difficult to envisage. The mighty name "Sanajaoba" couldn't do us wonders anymore!

Quill pens comprising swan feathers, goose feathers, and crow feathers were used the most from 700 AD to the 1700s.



Shining bright



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

A perfect day must always start with a bright smile, and I am fortunate that, for me, every morning begins this way, mostly due to my students. When I hear of their sterling achievements in every challenge they undertake, it makes me proud and grateful at the same

time. This time, this feeling is due to Kshitij Aggarwal, who has won the silver medal at the World Economics Cup. This is an outstanding feat as Kshitij stood amongst the top 20 participants in this competition. It is because of this victory that Amity was also adjudged fifth amongst the world's top 20 national teams. The quest to excel in all my Amityans never fails to amaze me, but this is an extraordinary feat at a global level, considering there were more than 50 teams from as many as 38 countries. To perform in such a diverse environment, competing with students from distinct nationalities, couldn't have been easy.

This is also the time to reflect on how our learners have imbibed core concepts of holistic education that we strive to impart as educators. Teachers and mentors at Amity always work towards empowering children with a world view that consists of both knowledge and wisdom. In an ever evolving world, we want children to understand world economics in a humane way, so that their innovation and invention can help in bringing about a meaningful change. Kshitij's victory has added another feather to Amity's cap. I believe that many more Amityans will continue to make us proud. 🇮🇳

Protocols please!



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

Our lives are slowly returning to normalcy and the worst of the pandemic is hopefully behind us, but we must also remember that this is not the time to completely throw caution to the winds. Yes, all of us are happy to be able to physically participate in social functions and family gatherings, but does that mean that we ignore our collective responsibility altogether? I am referring to a recent wedding which I attended where, to my horror, I found that no one seemed to be following any Covid protocols, in spite of being aware of the new Covid-19 variant that has surfaced recently. Even though the number of guests was limited, no one was seen maintaining any social distancing, wearing masks or sanitising hands.

Most of us have suffered some personal loss during the last two years, but we seem to have forgotten that life is a precious gift that cannot be squandered away. I tried to instil some sense in the guests and while most agreed, a few were clearly upset about my intervention. Someone went as far as saying that I was 'promoting the culture of fear!' I wish they had understood the difference between panic and fear. I believe that when fear is rational and based on hard facts, it serves to protect us from undesirable outcomes. And we all need protection from this deadly virus, don't we? We need to continue practising SMS (sanitisation, mask and social distancing) if we truly care about our loved ones. 🇮🇳

The teen preservationists

Millennials Advancing Towards A Healthy Sustainable Future

Vasudha Sharma, AIS Noida, XI I

The resolve to bring about a change in the world that a teenager possesses can be exceptional, especially if utilised towards a positive cause; climate change in this case. For they are not only rocking the foundations of the largely impassive world we live in, but are enthusiastically participating in revolutionising it sustainably; in a way that benefits all – humans, animals, and environment as a whole. With that being said, here's a list of some young eco-activists who are consciously doing their bit to make the world a better place.

Aditya Mukarji

A 16-year-old boy from Gurugram, India, Aditya Mukarji has made it his mission to ban single use plastic. In 2018 thus, he successfully led a door-to-door campaign to persuade around 150 cafes and restaurants in Delhi/NCR to refrain from using plastic straws and shift towards more sustainable alternatives. Recently, he was given an opportunity to intern with the United Nations and was invited to the UN Youth Climate Action Summit in New York where he got a chance to interact with world leaders and the Secretary General of the UN, António Guterres. To say we are proud, would be an understatement!

Jamie Margolin

Jamie Margolin, aged 18, is a queer, Jewish, Latina eco-activist and co-

founder of the organisation 'Zero Hour'. Dedicated towards the cause of environment, Jamie, in June 2020, published her first book 'Youth to Power: Your Voice and How To Use It', which is a guidebook for young activists who wish to start successful and sustainable movements. To add on to it, she has organised and led several marches and educational campaigns to further apprise people on climate change and the need to weed it out.

Licypriya Kangujam

This ten-year-old girl from Manipur is considered one of the youngest climate change activists in the world, but a passionate one nonetheless. She has been pro-active about environmentalism since she was six. And since then, she has talked about environmental sustainability and climate change in twenty-one countries, and has addressed world leaders at the United Nations COP25 in 2019. She has also been actively campaigning for action on new laws to curb India's soaring pollution levels since 2018. Talk about dedication, you all!

Isra Hirsi

Isra is an 18-year-old black, Muslim environmental activist from Minnesota. She is an advocate for intersectional environmentalism, and has co-founded the US Youth Climate Strike, the American arm of a global



youth climate change movement. She has also organised several student-led strikes across US to champion climate change. As a reward for her endeavours, she was named in Fortune's 40 under 40 list in 2020.

Leah Namugerwa

Co-founder of Fridays For Future, Leah, a seventeen-year-old girl from Uganda, ardently discourages the use of plastic and is the face behind the petition to prohibit the use of plastic bags in her country. Her dedication towards a sustainable future reflects

in how she once planted some 200 trees on her birthday and gave birth to the 'Birthday Trees' project that, ever since, gives out seedlings to those who want to imitate the gesture. She also has the distinction of giving a speech at the World Urban Forum in 2020.

These young activists, indubitably, inspire hope as they demand action to curb the current climate crisis and avert the subsequent doom we could be leading forward to. Let's help them by doing our bit, shall we now?

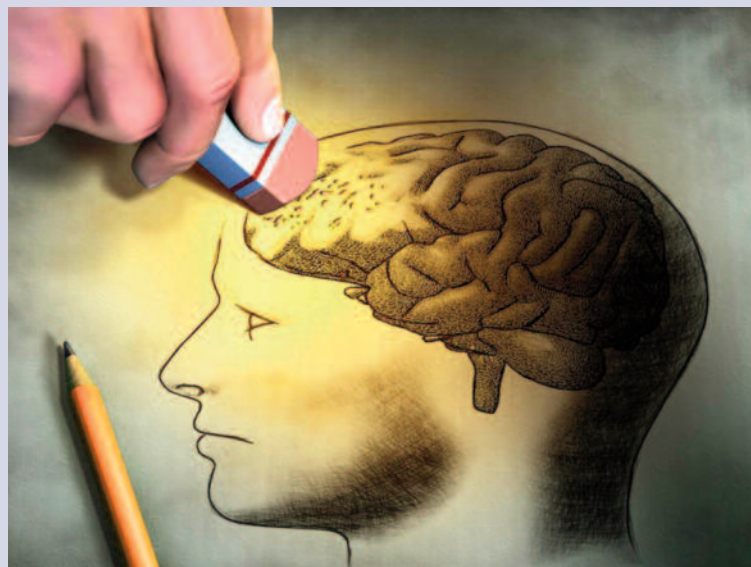
A clean slate

Should We Erase Our Bad Memories Or Not?

Anika Joshi, AIS Vas 1, XII C

When contemplating life and its ebbs and flows, the good overpowers the bad. We tend to remember the brighter spots in our memories and forget the darker shades. But it is not the same for everyone. Certain incidents, situations and memories may cause prolonged distress and anxiety, creating ripples in our mind, perforating through the canvas of our life. It may completely dishevel our daily activities, making us a captive inside our own self.

Now, what if there was a way to erase the memories that fester at the root of our distress like a decaying wound; completely obliterate certain events that cause anxiety or even depression? Prima facie might point towards the obvious- bad memories should definitely be erased. With the growing developments around memory manipulation, the day is not away when one can just hop into a clinic to undergo erasure of some specific memory. But a deeper look must be taken to understand what erasing a bad memory -or any memory in that case, could mean for us. To delete a memory, first, its value must be assessed. A memory can be compared to a single card in a card pyramid. When one card is pulled,



many other cards get pulled along with it; our memories are incredibly interlocked. A distressing memory acts as a transformative event for many- it may have a positive or a negative effect. To delete that one memory would mean to inevitably infringe on other memories as well, as several personality traits crop up after an experience. One small experience of ours, negative or positive affects our decisions, our personalities, our actions, and our future selves in ways impossible to predict. Our very notions of self are based on our past actions, our experiences, our memories; and to do away with

these would be to destroy a part of ourselves. According to psychiatry professor Dr. Barbara Rothbaum, even when a soldier or veteran deals with the psychological trauma of war, erasing that particular memory would still be unwise as it will lead to unprecedented changes. Researchers have found out how to plant memories or tweak them, as removal of complete memories still stands on the wrong side of ethics. So, when it comes to the total alteration of memories, we might be closer than we think. So, the question arises- would you erase your bad memories at all?



Issue: Page 1, Dec 6, 2021

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'A pawing leap' published on page 1 in the GT edition dated December 6, 2021. The article reflects on the marvels of VR technology that made it possible to see some of our favourite animals while sitting comfortably at our homes and helped relive our childhood memories of visit to the zoo. Of course, all of us stand against animal cruelty. But we must also acknowledge the significant contribution the ex-situ conservation places have in protecting the rich ecological wealth. So, while virtual zoos give us easier access, they do risk taking away the physical areas of conservation, and might even jeopardise our mission of fighting against climate change and biodiversity degradation. So, the key to all this, lies in the system of balancing - not only on part of the organisations, but all of us.

Megha Chattopadhyay
AIS Vasundhara 1, Alumna



The oldest pen in the world still preserved is a fountain pen that was designed in 1702 by M Bion from France.

HISTORY *this* WEEK

W eeks, years, decades, centuries...as time goes by day by day, the world keeps progressing into a newer direction. But as our eyes always stay glued to the telescope, trying to get a glimpse of the shining future we work so hard to create, it's important to take a break and appreciate how far we have come. Let's look back at the pages of history falling between **December 13-19** that played their role in shaping our society.

The world of sports

DEC 14 1901

The very first table tennis tournament was held in the London Royal Aquarium.



Organised by Major Ritchie, a successful tennis player, the tournament went ahead and attracted a whopping 192 men alongside 48 women. In the women's bracket, Vyvyan Eames won the championship, and from the men, R D Ayling claimed the crown.

DEC 19 1983

The coveted Jules Rimet trophy, awarded to the winner of the football world cup, was stolen for the second time from the headquarters



of the Brazil football association in Rio de Janeiro. It was first stolen from England in 1966.

The world of space

DEC 13 1962

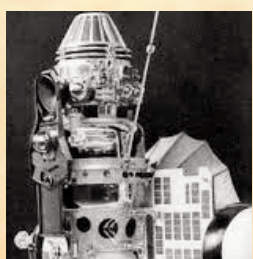
NASA launched Relay 1, an experimental communication satellite, to test the possibilities of communications from



space. As part of its successful space mission, Relay 1 transmitted live television signals from the US to Great Britain for Winston Churchill's honorary US citizenship ceremony on April 9, 1963.

DEC 15 1970

The Soviet spacecraft Venera 7 successfully landed on Venus, making it the first spacecraft to



successfully soft-land on another planet, and the first one to transmit data back to earth. The spacecraft confirmed that humans cannot survive on the surface of Venus and excluded the possibility of any liquid water on Venus.

The world of entertainment



DEC 18 1892

The Nutcracker, a two-act ballet composed by famous Russian composer, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, premiered in St Petersburg, Russia. It was accompanied by the release of his last opera 'Iolanta'. The storyline of the ballad was inspired from Alexandre Dumas pere's The Tale of the Nutcracker.



DEC 18 1964

The first episode of the Pink Panther cartoon series called 'Pink Phink' premiered on television. Directed by Hawley Pratt and Friz Freleng, it won the award for Best Animated Short Film at the 37th Academy Awards. This is also the only animated Pink Panther short and installment to win this award.



DEC 19 1997

The Titanic, directed by James Cameron, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, opened on this day after its premiere at the Tokyo International Film Festival on November 1, 1997. It remained the highest-grossing film of all time worldwide until the release of Cameron's 2010 movie Avatar.

The world of politics



DEC 14 1960

UNESCO adopted the Convention against Discrimination in Education, the first-ever legally binding international treaty entirely dedicated to establishing education as a fundamental right. As of today, 106 countries are signatories and participants.



DEC 19 1154

Henry II, the former duke of Normandy, was crowned the King of England post a long civil war that resulted in the death of his predecessor, King Stephen. He is said to be responsible for the establishment of England as a dominant nation in the world.

The world of art and literature

DEC 15 1893



Symphony No. 9, 'From the New World' aka the 'New World Symphony', by Antonín Dvorak premiered in a public afternoon rehearsal at Carnegie Hall in New York City, followed by a concert. It is said to be one of the most popular symphonies of all time, a tape of which was also taken by Neil Armstrong into Apollo 11.



DEC 19 1998

Bill Clinton, the 42nd President of the US, was impeached by the House of Representatives on charges of 'high crimes and misdemeanours', which included lying under oath and obstruction of justice. He was the second American president ever to be impeached.



DEC 19 2012

Park Gyeun-hye, daughter of the former president Park Chung-hee, was elected as the president of the Republic of Korea in a historic act. She became the first female president of South Korea with the approval of 51.6 per cent of all voters.

DEC 19 1843



Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', illustrated by John Leech, was first published in London by Chapman & Hall. The first edition of the novel sold out in 5 days and was reprinted a total of 13 times over the year.

DEC 19 1776



'The American Crisis', a series of 13 pamphlets written by philosopher Thomas Paine, was published, strengthening his honour as the 'voice of the American revolution'. The series is considered as a notable attempt to instil a sense of patriotism amongst the troops.

Ballpoint pens with a steel ball at the end were used by pilots in World War II as they didn't leak when they were high in the sky.



A bouquet of lilies



Storywala

Anupriya Nayak
AIS Saket, X A


It was like any other winter morning in the good old countryside, but for some reason it felt colder. The chill crept up in his bones from underneath, and no matter how many layers he was wearing, how many hours he spent rubbing his palms together, it stayed the same, searing from his insides. Even the warm tears dropping from his eyes froze when they met the skin on his face, and the same cold numbed his fingers as he held her hands for the last time. The bells chimed as the door was pushed in, revealing an old wrinkled man who had just entered the shop. With short and tired steps,

he came up to the counter, his eyes surveying his surroundings as he walked. "Can I get a bouquet of lilies, please?" he asked. As he waited for the flowers, his mind raced back to the time when he was standing in the same place, many years ago. He, again, had asked for lilies because he knew it would be a great way to surprise her. He stood outside the hospital room, lilies in his hand, knowing that when he'd open the door, he wouldn't be the same. He gave her the flowers with a smile on his face and was, in return, handed a bundle of new life to hold on to. How those tiny hands gripped his finger! Wiping away the single tear that had escaped his eye, he was brought back to reality when the florist

handed him a bouquet of lilies. In a hurry to reach his destination, he quickly took out his wallet and handed him the money. As he did so, a piece of paper fell down unnoticed from his wallet, a bit of mud latching onto the edges of the glossy photo.

Every year, on this day, he gave her lilies because they were her favourite and today was their wedding anniversary. He had to reach room no. 394 by 4 o'clock to see her, the same room of the hospital his wife was in when his son was born, and the same room she had been in for the last six months. The doctors had been kind enough to let him visit on crucial days such as today, but they, too, seem to be giving up hope; they told him she doesn't

He stood outside the hospital room, lilies in his hand, knowing that when he'd open the door, he wouldn't be the same.

have much time left now. "Excuse me, sir, is this yours?" the florist asked, wiping the mud off the photo that fell from the man's wallet. "What a beautiful family you have!" he continued and passed him a smile. The man looked down at the photo; his son and wife's smiles stared back at him. Their eyes were wide and gleaming. Those smiles still had not left the picture, nor his heart. "Thank you." He tried his best to say it as firmly as he could but the strain in his voice and the tears sitting right on the edge of his eyes gave him away. The photograph held two of the most important parts of his life, only one of which still remained near him. The other was taken away from him years ago by a reckless speeding truck. He felt powerless and in agony every time he thought of how helpless his son must have been. He should have saved him; he should have done something, but he couldn't. His son left, leaving him stranded in the darkness. And now, the only person he was left with will soon be gone, too. He gripped the lilies in his hands a little tighter, put on a brave face, and made his way to the hospital to hold her hand one last time. 



Dry fruit cake

Sambhavi Ranjan, AIS Gurugram 43, X B

Ingredients

Maida	1 cup
Sugar	1 cup
Refined oil.....	1 cup
Eggs	3-4
Baking powder.....	1 tsp
Dry fruits (chopped).....	½ cup
Vanilla essence	2-3 drops

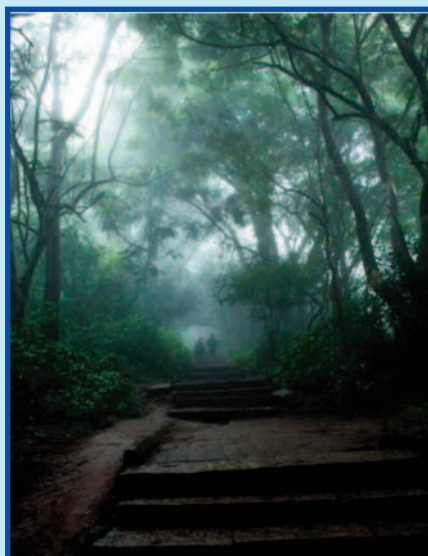
Procedure

- Break the eggs and pour the yolk into a large bowl.
- Now, add the refined oil and sugar into the bowl. Whisk the mixture well. Set it aside to rest.
- In another bowl, sieve maida and baking powder. Once done, add them to the egg mixture and whisk once again, so that no lumps are formed.
- Now add dry fruits and vanilla essence to the mix, and give it a stir.
- Brush a baking mould with refined oil.
- Pour the batter in the mould and top it with chopped dry fruits. Bake it at 180° for about 20 minutes.
- Once done, prick the cake in the centre using a knife or toothpick. If it comes out clean, your cake is ready; if not, bake it for another 5-10 minutes.
- Your dry fruit cake is ready to be devoured!

CAMERA CAPERS

Send in your entries to cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in

Aditri Jha, AIS Noida, XI B



Mist of paradise



Enchanted forest

Prisha Nigam, AIS Gurugram 43, X C



Nature's ecstasy



Blooming with joy

WORDS VERSE

Orlando

Maansi Anand, AIS Vas 1, Alumna

Laughter that sounds
Like the strums of a guitar
Echoing in the wind
All around the bar

Hidden behind gun shots
Suddenly bash out voices
Of humans drowning in blood
Crying out loud and loud

The scene is taken over
By screams of hate and crime
And this was only because
They loved others of their kind

In her son's absence
A mother moves around
Gathering all his things
To set him away with a frown

Oh, my dear son
There's just one thing on my mind
What was the harm my child
In loving others of the same kind?

Staring out the window
A sister awaits the girl
Who had left in excitement
But has not yet returned

Wondering where she'd gone
She kept calling her every second
"I don't know if she'll come back"
Is what the sister's mind kept saying

Oh, my dear sister
There's just one thing on my mind




What was the harm my sister
In loving others of the same kind?

Over the voicemail
A father heard his children cry
Far away, he was at the border
Helpless, with an expression wry

Oh, my dear son
There's just one thing on my mind
What was the harm my child
In loving others of the same kind?

So, do you have answers
To the people standing in the rain
Sobbing for their loved ones
Who were killed for no gain?

What else can they do?
Fight back? They won't
They were only innocent people
Whose lives were over in a jolt

And at the end, I hope
This message reaches all the minds
That there is never any harm
In loving others of the same kind. 



The most expensive pen in the world is a Fulgor Nocturnus Fountain Pen which costs 8,000,000 USD.

The story of ISS



Short story

iDhairya Gupta
AIS Gur 43, VII A

The year was 1990 when the world came together to pool their resources into one project. A project that would push them closer to a shared dream - the dream to dance among the stars. The International Space Station was a step in achieving that dream. It could house satellites launched into the atmosphere and maintain contact with them, while possessing the ability to stop any faulty satellites that may turn into a threat. When the presidents of the developed countries around the world came together to discuss their strategy in undertaking this herculean task, it was decided that the best scientists of each participating country would be selected to lead this mission. However, no one anticipated the

scarcity of bright minds. They were too few in number to handle everything. As the discussion continued, one of the presidents, namely Joon, excused himself as he had a call from his wife. During his conversation, he could hear his young son in the background talking about the vastness of space and how it enticed him. With this, he suddenly got an idea, which to him, at the moment, seemed great. He rushed back to the meeting and proposed his new plan to his fellow presidents. "Hey, how about we recruit children into the programme?" he elaborated. As it was to be expected, there was an outrage, for most of them thought it was a foolish idea to entrust children with equipment that cost millions. But Joon calmed everyone down and explained his plan more elaborately. "The children would only

be responsible for charting and navigating, which would reduce labour costs and save precious resources and time," he tacked on. Eventually, the plan was given a green light, but most of them were still against the idea of involving children. Joon thus, vowed to prove them all wrong. As such, he single-handedly came up with a selection process for the same, which, given the significance of the issue at hand, was a tough nut to crack. Exams, disguised as competitions, were held across the world in order to select the best of the best. Joon's son, Jean, was one of the kids who got selected for the mission. He had always been a bright kid, the object of pride and admiration in his small village of Ilsan, South Korea, and Joon was nothing but proud of him. Knowing too well that his son was good with technology and math-

Exams, disguised as competitions were held across the world in order to select the best of the best.

ematics, and could even build complex machines using mere scraps, a feat rare amongst his peers, Joon encouraged him to give the mission his all. His son meticulously worked with other chosen children from around the world, their collaboration was a talk for the legends. Within 8 years, the International Space Station was finally complete. The year was 1998, the date November 20, when humanity took a step closer to being among the celestials - this with the help of kids around the globe. "Kids can do wonders, I told you all," said Joon looking at his son and other kid scientists, as tears streamed down his face and others admired him for his faith in the future generation. 🇺🇸

(The above story is one of the entries received as part of the story writing workshop conducted as a part of GT Summer Workshop 2021. The participants were given a setting and characters to weave a gripping short story.)

So, what did you learn today?
A new word: Meticulously
Meaning: Taking care of minute details



Ankana Sangar

Christmas wreath

Ankana Sangar, AIS Vasundhara 6, IV

Material required

- Flexible/Flaccid pipe-1
- Christmas decoration material
- Red decoration tape-1
- Christmas garland (any colour)
- Fevistick/Glue

Method

- Take the flaccid pipe and join both of its ends with the help of a tape. The pipe should now be in the shape of a circle.
- Now, neatly wrap the Christmas garland on the lower half of the pipe.
- Then start rolling the red tape on the upper part of the pipe to cover it whole.
- Once done, gather all the Christmas decoration material you have, such as bells, sticks, gifts and balls, etc., and paste them onto the garland with the help of Fevistick.
- Finally, add a Merry Christmas tag on the top of the wreath. You can also roll some Diwali lights around it, as they look lovely at night.
- Your Christmas wreath is ready! Pin it to a wall to adorn your house this Christmas.

It's Me



MY FAVOURITES

Teacher: Priyanka Sangar ma'am
Subject: Arts
Friend: Adhya Bhardwaj
Game: Carrom
Cartoon: Masha & the Bear
Food: Pasta
Mall: Shipra mall
Book: Story books

KNOW ME

My name: Rudrika Garg
My Class: I C
My school: AIS Vas 1
Born on: Aug 10

MY DREAMS AND GOALS

Hobbies: Drawing and dancing
I like: Dressing up
I dislike: Darkness
My role model: My mom
I want to become: A doctor
I want to feature in GT because: I want to be popular

POEMS

Bunny's busy day

Avyaan Talwar
AIS Gurugram 46, V F

Bunny went to the mart
To buy a jar of nutella
Suddenly it started to pour
But he had no umbrella

On his way, he saw a pet
Lost, it was also getting wet
Bunny brought him home
So the dog would not roam

He wiped him with the towel
Which was a dazzling pink
Gave him something hot to drink
And some dog food to gobble

The pup then slept on a pillow



Dreamt of playing near a willow
As Bunny heard a loud noise
He got up really annoyed

He went outside with a torch
And saw the owner at the porch
So, Bunny bid adieu to the pup
But he was glad they met up! 🇺🇸

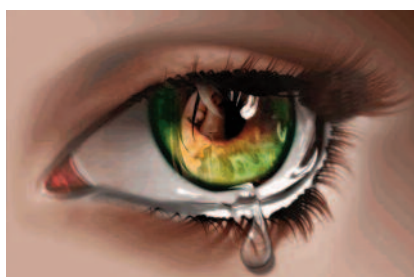
Tears

Avishi Agarwal
AIS VKC Lucknow, VIII A

Flowing down shiny drops of pearls
There's a story you need to unfurl
Transparent like the ray of light
Which can judge our will and might

Drop of tear reveals different emotions
May falter us to acquire our passion
Tears unfold saga of sadness and pain
Which might put our strong self in vain

Sometimes appear deceptively honest



Which is not a sign of weakness
By forever flowing down our cheek
Better and calmness is what we seek

Teaching us to be strong and bold
Even though the doors are closed
Showing us the simplicity of life
Helping us to be calm even in strife! 🇺🇸

Jokey Pokey

Rajveer Kharbanda
AIS VYC Lucknow, KG

Q: What do you call a train that sneezes?

A: Achoo-choo train

Q: Why did the banana go to the doctor?

A: Because it was not really peeling well.

Q: What did the policeman say to his tummy?

A: "You're under a rest!"

Q: What does a cloud wear under his raincoat?

A: Thunderwear

Q: What is worse than finding a worm in your apple?

A: Finding a half worm

PAINTING CORNER

Shaurya Kansal, AIS Noida, II F



Space Pen was designed by Paul Fisher for the Apollo 11 mission, and it used cartridge ink that worked in zero gravity, underwater, upside-side and even on oily surfaces.



SAY CHEESE!

If there is one dairy produce that is both universally used and loved, it has to be cheese. Cheese is a nutritious food staple made mostly from the milk of cows but also other mammals, including sheep, goat, buffalo, camel and yak. The story of cheese began 4000 years ago, when people started to breed animals and process their milk. Today, we have over 2000 varieties of cheese the world over. *Arpita Chakraborty, GT network, brings to you the ones that are most popular.*



SMOKED GOUDA

Country of origin: Netherlands
Colour: Pale yellow
Texture: Buttery and crumbly
Flavour: Smokey



We use it for: Cheese crostini, stuffed cutlets, dips etc. Named after the city of Gouda in Netherlands, this cheese has a beautiful smoky aroma as it is smoked in ancient brick ovens. It has a dense, caramel flavour which is elevated with nuts that are sweet and creamy. Both pasteurised and unpasteurised variants of smoked gouda are available.



MOZZARELLA

Country of origin: Italy
Colour: White
Texture: Springy, stringy and supple
Flavour: Milky



We use it for: Lasagna, pizza, quiche, quesadillas etc. Pizza's stretchy element is stretched curd cheese widely known as mozzarella. It is usually sphere or oval and is kept in water for retaining its moisture. It is derived from pasteurised or unpasteurised milk of cow or buffalo. Mozzarella is known as 'white gold' in its country of origin, Campania near the Gulf of Naples.



GORGONZOLA

Country of origin: Italy
Colour: Yellow
Texture: Crumbly and firm
Flavour: Mild and sharp



We use it for: Pasta, Risotto, Pizza etc.

Produced in bulk in Northern Italian regions, it is derived exclusively from cow's milk. A must-have in Italian cuisine, the distinct flavor of the cheese is soft, creamy, with a slightly acidic finish when young. As it ages, the flavour turns stronger and delivers a pungent bite to finish. This blue cheese is full-flavoured, salty and earthy. This versatile cheese tastes divine with grapes, honey and pistachios.



PARMESAN

Country of origin: Italy
Colour: Straw
Texture: Crystalline, dense and grainy
Flavour: Fruity, nutty, savoury, sharp
We use it for: Pasta, salad, bruschetta etc.



This is one of the most widely used varieties, and is also known as Parmigiano Reggiano. Derived from unpasteurised milk of cows that graze on fresh grass and hay, parmesan ages really well. The taste and texture of parmesan keeps evolving from sweet to savoury then to salty, dry and crumbly; inferior versions can impart a bitter taste.



FETA

Country of origin: Greece
Colour: White
Texture: Creamy, crumbly, grainy and open
Flavour: Salty, tangy



We use it for: Baked cheese, salad, sandwiches etc.

A must-have in all kitchens, feta cheese is derived from pasteurised or unpasteurised milk of goats and sheep. Its taste differs from region to region, and it can be extremely creamy or crumbly. Those who are gluten intolerant can enjoy it as well, as there are no added additives.



CHEDDAR

Country of origin: Village of Cheddar, England
Colour: Pale yellow
Texture: Compact and crumbly
Flavour: Creamy and sharp



We use it for: Mac and cheese, cheddar scallion biscuits, cheddar quesadillas etc.

Cheddar cheese is also derived from cow's pasteurised milk. The process of manufacturing is quite different and is called 'cheddar-ing'. In the initial months, cheddar cheese tastes mild and starts getting stronger with time. The largest cheese sculpture in the world is made with cheddar cheese.





Buzz Aldrin even used the felt tip of his pen as a replacement of the engine switch during the Apollo mission.

World of business

Ecom Forum, Fostering Finance And Business Experts



Chairperson addresses the audience

AIS Saket

The school organised its 22nd Ecom Forum, an annual inter-school competition of economics and commerce to foster business and management thinking of young minds, virtually for the second time, on October 30, 2021. The event held under the visionary leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, is a platform to make students understand the synergy between economics, commerce and innovation. It was the collaborative effort of Rebus, Economics & Finance Society of the school along with the commerce department. Participating students from Class XI-XII of 26 eminent schools of Delhi/NCR took part in three competitions viz: Economics Symposium, Wisdom Wands and Fintoons. Economics Symposium competition saw students discuss current issues like Intellectual Property Rights, Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis, National Monetization Pipeline, UBI vi-



Financial fintoons by young budding business minds of modern world

ability and Crypto currency. Anika Joshi (XII), AIS Vasundhara 1 and Nitya Malhotra (XI), AIS Gurugram 43, won the first prize followed by Tanishqa Sharma (XII), AGS Gurugram, and Ananya Jain (XII), AIS Mayur Vihar, winning second and third prize respectively. Riddhi Jain (XI), AIS Noida, won second prize and Avni Singh (XI), AIS Jagdishpur, won third prize as interjectors at the competition. Wisdom Wands was a startup launched with a social cause competition in which problems like connecting local artisans to market, library service for underprivileged children, carbon footprints etc., and their solutions were presented by the students. Sanjali Sharma (XI) and Ayush Mantri (XII), AIS Noida, were awarded the second prize. Anvi

Chawla (XI) and Deepannita Mukherjee (XI) of AIS Gurugram 46 were given third prize in the competition. Fintoons competition required students to create financial cartoons on the topic, 'Make in India: Upskilling and Reskilling to create Atmanirbhar Bharat'. Mitul Singh Rawat (XI), AIS VKC Lucknow, won second prize in the competition. The overall Late Shri Baljit Ji Shastri rolling trophy, instituted in the memory of the father of Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Universe, was bagged by AIS Noida. The event was judged by eminent experts from the field of business, finance, journalism, education, who lauded the exemplary awareness and finance expertise of young Amitians. **GII**



Kshitij Aggarwal



The silver victory vista

Young economist

Amity Bags Silver @ WEC

AIS Vasundhara 6

Kshitij Aggarwal from Class XII won silver medal at the World Economics Cup held virtually on September 11, 2021. Scoring a total of 351 out of 450, Kshitij earned a well deserved position among the world top 20 young economists adept in solving questions related to fundamentals, deep comprehension, and thinking and innovation. He was short-listed to participate in this mega global event after he scored 7th

rank position worldwide at the International Economics Olympiad, held by the High School of Economics (HSE University), Moscow, Russia. AIS Vas 6 was ranked 5th among the world top 20 national teams in the competition with 52 participating teams and 265 competitors from 38 countries. The jury comprised leading economics professors from institutes like Columbia University, University of Oxford, MIT, Harvard University, John Hopkin's University and Cleveland University.

Caring for the world

Supporting Palliative Care



From (L-R): Aarushi Misra, Agastya Kaushik and Anjali Gupta

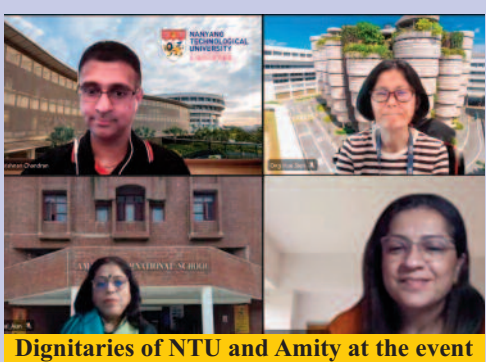
AIS Noida

Amitians won laurels at a slogan and short write-up competition organised by The Department of Palliative Care, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital to mark the World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2021 on October 9, 2021. The competition held for students above 12 years of age, aimed to spread awareness about 'Palliative care and equity in access to

palliative care'. Aarushi Misra and Anjali Gupta both from Class IX and Agastya Kaushik from Class X received a certification of appreciation for their outstanding submissions at the award ceremony held on October 8, 2021. A total of 11 students from the school participated in the competition. The competition instilled compassion and sensitivity in the young minds about palliative care. **GII**

culture and fostering internationalism amongst the student community. The International day celebration was inaugurated with ribbon-cutting ceremony and school principal Arti Gupta addressing the audience. Two students from grade

XII enlightened the audience about International Day, its importance and how it is celebrated at the school. Students of Grade VI-XII from the four houses Amazon, Ganges, Nile and Zhuang, showcased the rich culture, traditions and heritage of diverse regions across the globe and took the audience on an educational world tour. The houses also presented videos of innovative and multidisciplinary activities like skits, music, art, dance, sports, etc., displaying cultures of their respective regions. Nile, Amazon, Zhuang and Ganges houses ushered the audience to Central Europe, Middle East, Central & Southern Asia and Western Europe respectively, through their well-woven presentations and extensively inclusive portrayal of the regions. Nile house won the 'Synergy Award', Amazon secured the 'Perceptive Inquiry Award'. Zhuang house bagged the 'Ingenuity Award' while Ganges house swept the 'Storyline Award'. Student representatives from each house shared their insightful reflections on their learnings and experience of preparing these presentations. All the students who had actively participated in the celebration of the International Day were awarded e-certificates by Rekha Gupta, the IBDP CAS coordinator. The event concluded with vote of thanks delivered by head boy, Vaibhav Chopra, who extended his gratitude to everyone involved in making the event a remarkable success. **GII**



Dignitaries of NTU and Amity at the event

Study abroad

Singapore Dreams

ACCGC

An information session by Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, was organised for the students of Class XI-XII of Amity Group of Schools and Amity Global Schools at AIS Noida, on October 29, 2021. The session facilitated by Amity Career Counselling and Guidance Cell (ACCGC), under the visionary leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, aimed at making students aware about study courses and scholarships at NTU, Singapore. Expert speakers Vijay Krishnan Chandran, manager, Office of Admissions, Student and Academic Services Department, NTU and Ong Hui Sien, head, Office of Admissions, NTU showcased the essential information for studying UG courses in Singapore. They covered topics like, intake capacity, schools, programmes, application process, tuition fees, and merit-based scholarships. The presentation was followed by Q&A session, in which students as well as parents discussed their queries.

The lights all over the world

The Spirit Of Oneness And Unity



The young global citizens light up the celebrations of International Day

AGS Gurugram

Riya Kharyal & Vedika Singh, XI

The virtual festival of lights and International Day celebrations took place on October 29, 2021. Held under the visionary guidance and leadership of Dr. (Mrs.) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, the day celebrated the victory of light over darkness and embraced the world's incredible cultural diversity as oneness of humanity. Students demonstrated the spirit of

the school 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam: The world is one family' during the celebrations which commenced with the auspicious lighting of the lamp. Students from primary school cheerfully exhibited their research on the different festivals of lights celebrated around the world. Diwali and similar light festivals from various cultures were commemorated with a bouquet of crafts, music and dance. Another annual event celebrated on the same day was International Day. An initiative of AGS Gurugram, IBDP CAS students, the event aimed at instilling a sense of pride in one's

the school 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam: The world is one family' during the celebrations which commenced with the auspicious lighting of the lamp. Students from primary school cheerfully exhibited their research on the different festivals of lights celebrated around the world. Diwali and similar light festivals from various cultures were commemorated with a bouquet of crafts, music and dance. Another annual event celebrated on the same day was International Day. An initiative of AGS Gurugram, IBDP CAS students, the event aimed at instilling a sense of pride in one's



An ingenious writer

In Conversation With The Budding Mind Behind A Successfully Published Book

Ananya Singh
AIS VKC Lko, XII B

Writing a book indubitably is indeed challenging, to say the least. From coming up with a unique idea to going through the whole creative process of editing and re-editing to finally finding a publisher, the patience and time that goes into creating this work of art is by no means a joke. However, **Anurabh Sinha, a fourth grader from AIS VKC Lko**, believes that anything is possible if one is diligent. Showcasing the same zeal, Anurabh has successfully authored his debut book, *3 BFFs*. So, before he comes up with a sequel, let's get into the thick of it, shall we?

When did you realise your passion for words?

I entered the world of words when I chanced upon one of Jeff Kinney's books, namely 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid'. I was so intrigued by it that I decided to give it a read. And so, as days passed and I finished reading it, the dormant writer in me awakened. Not resisting the urge thus, I began conceptualising a

basic premise for my own book. After pondering over the subject for a considerable amount of time, I finally decided to write about my friends and our exciting adventures together. However, it was during the pandemic that I actually started putting my thoughts on paper. And the rest is, well, history!

What is 3 BFFs about?

The plot of the book focuses on friendship and the importance of maintaining this precious relationship in life. It was initially titled 'The adventures of Anurabh and Priyan', but during the lockdown, my equation with Viraj, also a friend, strengthened to the point that I decided to change the name to *3 BFFs*. The book is filled with excitement and playful energy, and is a must-read for all, irrespective of their age.

How did you overcome any challenges that came your way?

To find my feet and identify my personal style of writing rather than imitating other writers was the most challenging part of this entire journey for me. But as the pages started coming together, I was relieved to see the final result. Other than that, I think imagining fictional adventures while sitting in front of the computer gave me a hard time as well. But it was all worth it in the end because I wanted the readers to



Title: 3 BFFs

Author: Arunabh Sinha

Price: 99 INR

Available on: [amazonkindle](#)

this book to them, for none of it would have been possible without their constant support, guidance and motivation.

Can you tell us how well the book has been received by the masses?

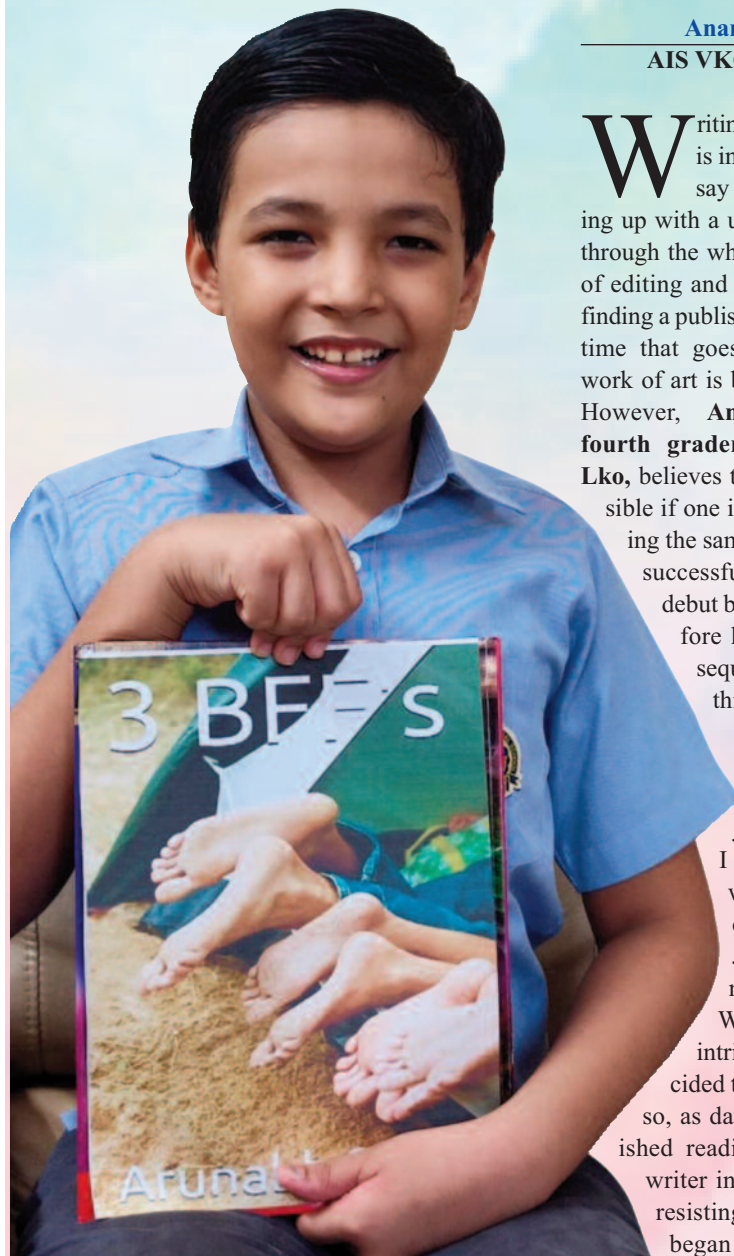
The response has been largely positive and people have appreciated my writing style; to the point that one of my relatives even went on to say that they felt nostalgic while reading the book and could not help but remember and relive their own crazy adventures through it. Though *3 BFFs* is only available on Amazon in the Kindle edition format, the paperback version will also be coming out soon. So, stay tuned!

What is your next plan of action?

I am currently in the process of writing a sequel to *3 BFFs*, and the readers can expect the new book soon. The plot of the upcoming book will be even more intriguing, and definitely a lot different from the one I have already produced. Though I hope it receives the same or even better reception from the readers.

What is your advice to all the young aspiring writers?

Follow your dreams and never let procrastination take over your life. If you are passionate about it, give writing your hundred percent and I promise your efforts will be acknowledged and rewarded.



Life of a Klutz

An Adventurous Tour In The Day Of A Clumsy Person

Sohum Basu, AIS PV, XII G

Have you ever wondered what a day in the life of a clumsy person looks and feels like? Maybe not, especially if you are fortunate enough to rank high on the coordination spectrum. Clumsiness is not just awkwardness, though. It has problems that go beyond just bumping into every imaginable object or merely losing personal possessions habitually. Do you want an exclusive sneak peek into one such life?

Morning

As the alarm rings for the fifth time, her day begins as it always does – late and uncertain. Getting ready hastily and (almost) choking on her breakfast, she makes her way to the bus stop, tripping over even the smallest of pebbles. Twice. Oh, and in her hurry, she has forgotten to wear her assembly tie. It is a rare morning when she is not punished for an untidy uniform. She sits alone in the class, hair unkempt, shoes unpolished, and socks down. The day has just begun and she needs to put on her mean face and soldier on.



Afternoon

All the lectures are just the same for her. She can't find where she wrote yesterday's notes in the English class. For math, she remembers she has forgotten her notebook at home. Some memory, eh? Science is no better. She leans against the lab counter. It is her final attempt to listen carefully to the instructions when she slips and breaks the glass beaker. All this to

teachers' disapproval, of course. During lunchtime, she spills her lunch on the classroom floor becoming the centre of attention, and not in a good way.

Evening

When she joins other children in the park to play, she sprains her ankle. She limps back home to spend the rest of the evening watching cartoons. After spending a day riddled with sprains,

falls and spills, she finally gets her favourite dinner. But wait. Life isn't done with her yet. Her dinner ends with a shirt stained with her beloved pasta.

Quite a challenging life, right? So next time you see someone stumble, smile because it takes a lot of courage for them to keep their chin up. Extend a helping hand and laugh with them. Won't that be awesome? [G](#) [U](#)

MOVIE REVIEW

Rake in that review

Movie: The Karate Kid
Director: John G. Avildsen
Released On: June 22, 1984
Starring: Ralph Macchio, William Zabka, Pat Morita, Elisabeth Shue
Genre: Adventure, Comedy, Drama



Synopsis: The Karate Kid is an 80s masterpiece about a young boy, Daniel Larusso, who moves to California with his mother and starts at a new school, only to be mocked and bullied by the rich kids there. But as the story progresses, he meets a World War 2 veteran, Mr Miyagi, who goes on to become Daniel's mentor and teaches him karate in order for him to overcome his weaknesses and make the best use of his strengths. Watch the movie today to know what life actually has in store for Daniel.

Why is it watch-worthy: The Karate Kid is no doubt one of the best examples of the incorporation of martial arts into a movie. Although, the title of the movie might seem a little misleading and may give you a wrong idea, but let me reassure

you that the movie is not entirely about karate. It is a coming-of-age tale for young Daniel who goes through his turbulent adolescence under the guidance of his sensei, Mr Miyagi. The movie captures the essence of growing up in a friendless world where every day might seem like a struggle. Mr Miyagi's pearls of wisdom dropped throughout the movie are possibly something we can all relate to. What really captures the attention of the audience is the beautiful mentor/protege relationship between Daniel and Mr Miyagi.

Iconic Dialogue: "It is okay to lose to opponent. Must not lose to fear!"

Rating: ★★★★★

Review by: Alina Ahmad,
AIS Mayur Vihar, XI G