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AMITEpoll

With Chanel and Twitter having new Indian CEOs, is it safe to presume India is taking a leap towards newer advancements and making its place firm in the global arena?

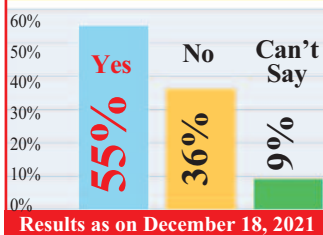
a) Yes b) No c) Can't say

To vote, log on to
 www.theglobaltimes.in

POLL RESULT

for GT issue December 13, 2021

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



Results as on December 18, 2021

Coming Next

See you after winter break

Drowning in dues

The World And Its Quintessential Problem Of Always Being In Debt

Anupriya Bhatnagar

AIS Vasundhara I, Alumna

‘He who is quick to borrow is slow to pay’ - no matter which generation picks up the newspaper, this proverb rings true for every single one of us, especially considering how every new headline talks of the debt hole countries keep falling into. Some borrow, some lend, some pay back, and some say sayonara, try tomorrow - that’s how it has always been. But lately on this seesaw of money, one side seems to be getting heavier and heavier as we sink deeper and deeper into dues, so will we ever be able to restore the balance?

The star bucks of the show

2020 was a difficult year for everyone around the globe. Economies crumbled and debt loomed larger than ever, with the world under 281 trillion USD of debt by the end of last year, as per the Institute of International Finance. This was 355% more than last year’s global GDP. 24 trillion USD of this loan was acquired just

last year, and the number is all set to increase by at least 10 trillion USD by the time the world welcomes 2022. Developed, developing and undeveloped markets suffered alike - France, Spain and Greece faced the worst when it came to first-world economies. China, Turkey, Korea and UAE, amongst the emerging markets, sank the deepest in debt. South Africa and India became the countries with the biggest increase in government debt ratio, and Peru and Russia won the award for the greatest corporate debt accumulation. The developing countries suffered a tad bit more, as the foreign-currency debt stood at 8.6 trillion USD just for the last year. India saw a 71% increase in its debt in the last 5.5 years whereas the per capita GDP only rose by 30%. But if the country was suffering, so were the countrymen. With reports of household debt rising by 1.5 trillion USD just in the first six months of the current year, we now stand at over 55 trillion USD. All of this accounts for a huge mountain of money, but instead of touching the sky,

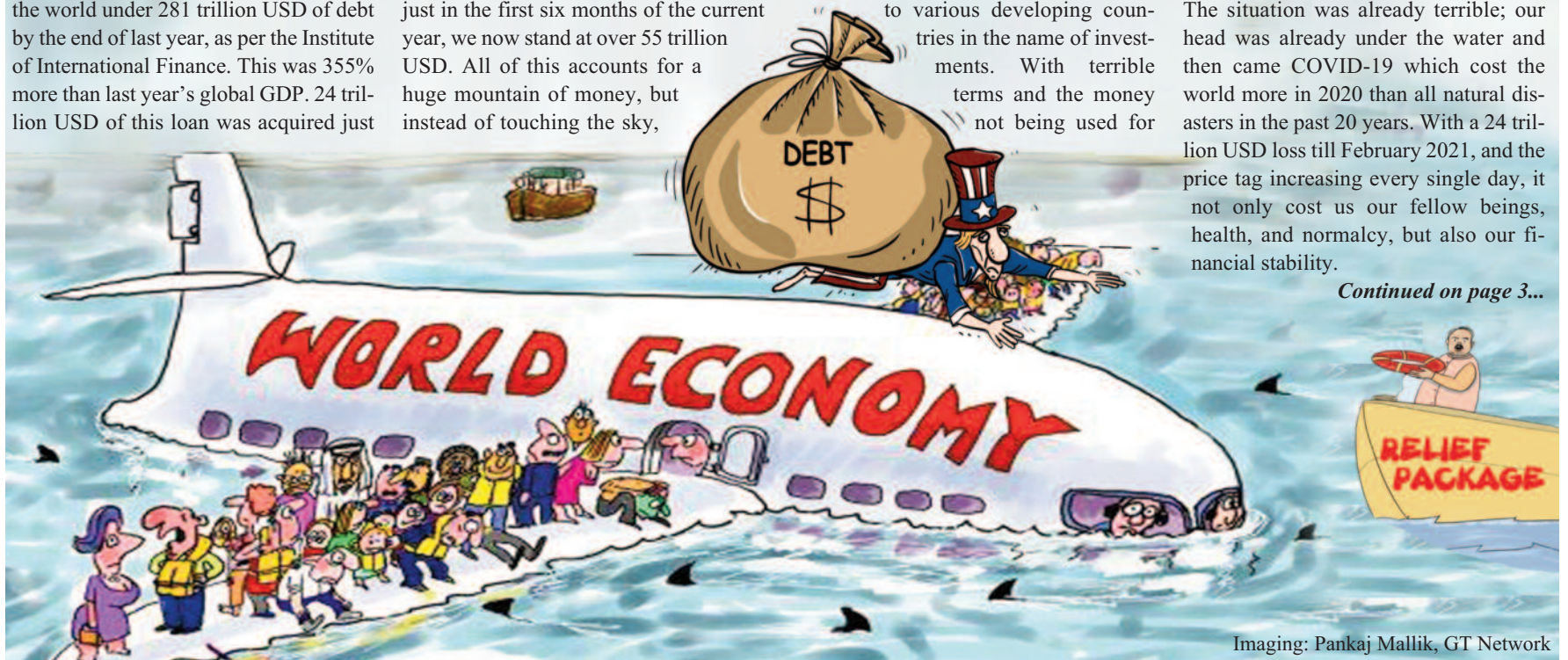
we are closer to digging our own graves because of it.

Making cents of the problem

As the world progressed, at least one-third countries in the world saw an increase in household debt linked with the rising housing prices and living costs. But this increase is not something we acquired in the recent past, but rather is an unwanted hand-me-down from our ancestors, who have even passed us their debt dating from the 1970s and 1980s, some even as far back as World War I and II. One of the biggest events that caused increase in global debt in the past was the increased price of oil in 1973, where a lot of nations that were a part of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries made quick bucks and deposited them in commercial US banks. Those banks loaned the money in haste to various developing countries in the name of investments. With terrible terms and the money not being used for

its original intention, a payback on those loans was hardly witnessed. This coupled with the US inflation led to extremely tight monetary policies, causing a rise in interest rates and even a worldwide recession in the second half of the 20th century. The developed countries suffered because of recession and never getting their money back, and the developing ones were already suffering in debt and its interest rates, coupled with the damage colonisation had left on them in the past. Already way behind the starting line, countries that were once colonised had huge debt on their heads before they could come to zero and have a fresh start, even after gaining independence. Case in point: Apartheid, ending in early 1990s, caused South Africa around 46 billion USD in debt and the figure still accounts for around 74% of the present debt that the country faces. The situation was already terrible; our head was already under the water and then came COVID-19 which cost the world more in 2020 than all natural disasters in the past 20 years. With a 24 trillion USD loss till February 2021, and the price tag increasing every single day, it not only cost us our fellow beings, health, and normalcy, but also our financial stability.

Continued on page 3...



Imaging: Pankaj Mallik, GT Network

The time for change...

...Is Now If We Want To Protect Ourselves Against Climate Change



Aditi Pathak, programme officer, UNESCO

Siddharth Kishore
 AIS Gurugram 43, XII A

“The world is burning” - every single scientist, activist, and news piece has been screaming this for a while, and we have finally reached a stage where it really is now or never. Knowing a problem, however,

seems easy, but acting upon it is not. Yet some of us do not shy away from taking up this herculean task of saving the planet, and one of them is Aditi Pathak, programme officer, UNESCO. She is an expert facilitator for courses on climate change and intercultural competencies with a special focus on education for sustainable development, global citizenship, and social and emotional learning. When GT was given a chance to interact with her at AIMUN 2021, a platform she graced as a guest speaker, we asked her how we can aid her in the fight. Here’s what she said in response...

On education for a better world

One of the main steps we need to take to combat climate change is making climate change education a mainstream topic in our curriculum. It is also important that we integrate the concept of sustainability in our minds at a very young age. These issues need to be taught in

classrooms because education is transformative and can change the way we think and evaluate. And just providing information is not enough, which is why we must also focus on key skills like social and emotional aspects of climate change so that all negative emotions attached to the concept can be addressed.

On individual steps for a better world

Apart from Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, there are many other important Rs as well. One of them being Refuse, because it teaches us the important concept of mindful consumption, be it food, clothes, mode of transport used, or anything that we use in our lives. Since everything comes at a cost to the environment, it is vital for us to be conscious. “Do I really need it? Do I really want it?” - ask yourself this at every step.

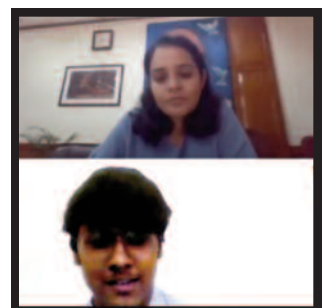
On the pivotal role that UNESCO plays

The mandate of UNESCO is to

build peace and work on education. Till now, UNESCO has been preserving around 1073 historical world heritage sites, which is a big service to our culture and history. A lot of times people only realise the importance of a place when they see it is a “UNESCO world heritage site”. Its main aim is also to be a promoter of peace, and people do not realise it often, but remaining in a state of peace requires much work. It is a flagbearer of ideas of global citizenship, education, and sustainability, and I think that is a very big achievement. The organisation has run for a decade where it has taken sustainable development a step further, and will continue to work even harder.

On younger generation as climate warriors

Younger generations are our future, which is why it is important for them to know the fight they are fighting. Climate movements today are mainly being led by young people like Greta



In talks with Aditi Pathak

Thunberg, which shows that it is important to keep them in the loop. The internet, then, becomes a really important tool for them to be sensitised, but just access to information is not enough. Social media can be a double-edged sword, for not everything on the internet is authentic, but it can also provide you a lot of information and you can learn about various social movements going on in the world. It definitely has the potential to amplify climate change and adoption of more sustainable behaviour, something which is required to turn future generations into active climate warriors.

Continued on page 4...

The first state to officially recognise Christmas as an official holiday was Alabama, USA, in 1836.



Christmas time!

Around The WORLD

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

FRANCE

Chanel appoints new global CEO

French luxury fashion brand, Chanel named Indian-born Leena Nair, who had previously served as Unilever's top HR executive, as its new global CEO (Chief Executive Officer). Succeeding current Chanel CEO and owner Alain Wertheimer, Leena's appointment in the office is the first time that the fashion industry has picked up an outsider. Her tenure will officially start from January 1, 2022, and will be based in London.



UK

Records 78,610 new cases

The nation recorded its highest daily Covid-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic, with 78,610 cases reported in the last 24 hours. Amidst the new highly transmissible variant, the number of cases has soared up exponentially; owing to which, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has warned the citizens of a 'tidal wave', and requested all to get booster vaccinations by the end of January to strengthen immunity against the virus.

UKRAINE

Foreign forces to join drills

To strengthen its national defence capabilities and maintain stability amidst continued hostility from Russia, Ukraine parliament, on December 14, 2021, approved a draft law to allow foreign forces to partake in military exercises on its territory in 2022. The draft was submitted by the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, who plans to hold 10 large military troop exercises in the coming year. Till now, there has been no response from Russian side.



MALAYSIA

Vessel capsizes killing 16

At least 16 Indonesian migrants, headed to illegally enter Malaysia from Indonesia, have reportedly drowned and died as their boat capsized because of overload and stormy weather waves off the southern state of Johar that borders Singapore. With 14 people found safe and an additional 20 still missing, the rescue operations by Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and the navy are well underway.



SRI LANKA

World's biggest blue sapphire

The state-run National Gem and Jewellery Authority, certified the world's largest corundum, an immensely valuable blue Sapphire stone that was discovered three months ago in Ratnapura, gem city of Colombo. This rare gem, weighing around 310 kgs, has been named 'Queen of Asia' and is all set to be sold in the international market for the highest amount possible, as stated by Thilak Weerasinghe, chairman of the said authority.



INDIA

Durga Puja acquires heritage tag

As part of the 16th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, UNESCO included Kolkata's Durga Puja, an event wherein "divides of class, religion and ethnicities collapse", in its list of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'. With the intent to ensure protection of such cultural heritages worldwide, the said list was created in 2008, and now has over 14 Indian events enlisted in it.

DUBAI

First govt. to go 100% paperless

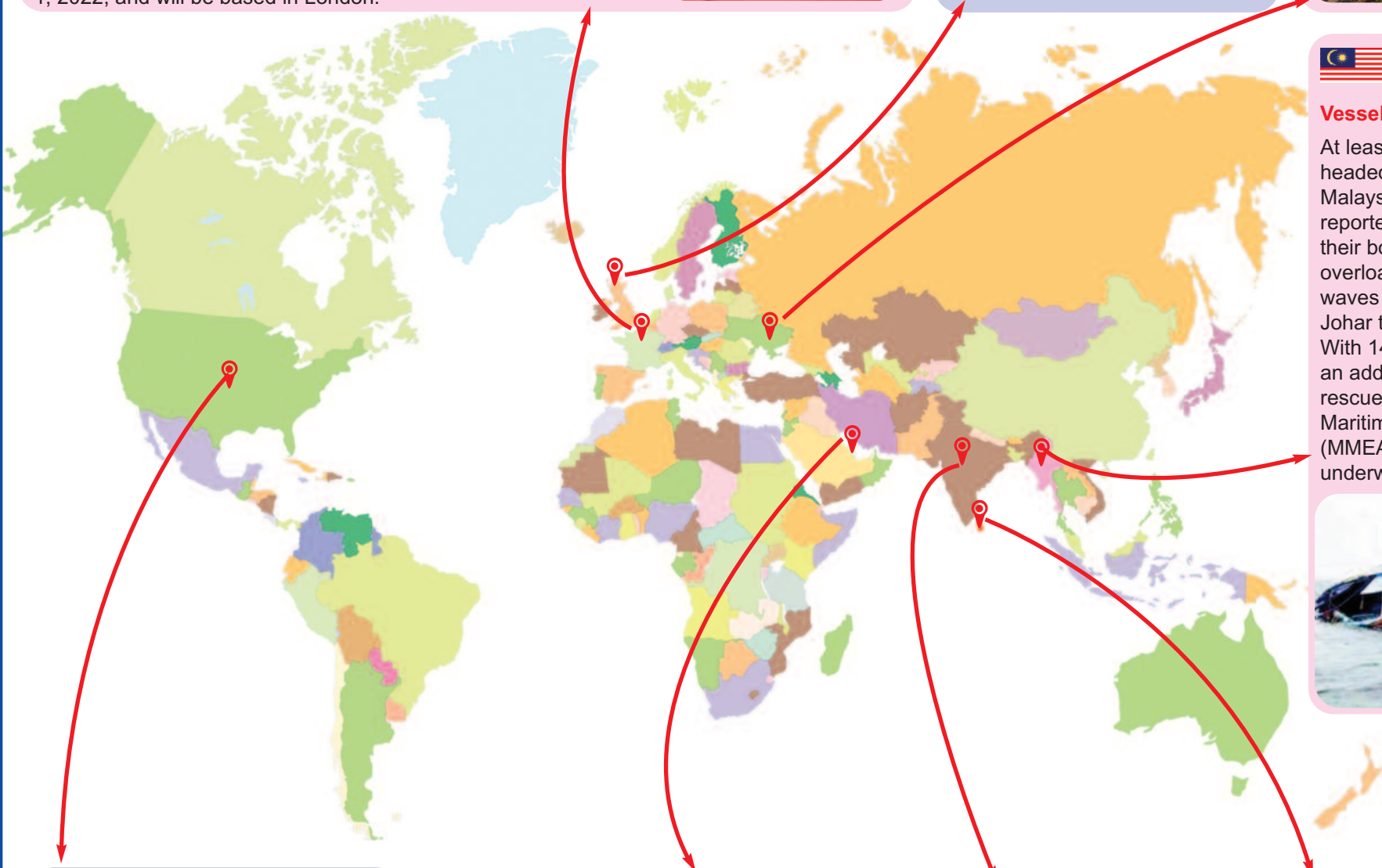
Having successfully achieved the objectives of the 'Dubai Paperless Strategy' launched in 2018, Dubai government has become first in the world to go fully paperless. The Crown Prince, Sheikh Hamdan, on Dec 11, 2021, announced that all government transactions and paperwork in the country have now been digitalised, a strategy that has managed to save a whopping 350 million USD and an estimated 14-million-man hours so far.



US

'Stolen' antiquities returned

The New York district attorney, Cyrus Vance, announced return of around 200 antiquities worth 10 million USD to Italy. Around 150 of these stolen articles have been recovered from Edoardo Almagia, an Italian New York based dealer. The articles recovered include a ceramic vessel called 'Pithos with Ulysses' dated 7th century BCE, a terracotta image of a goddess entitled 'A head of a maiden' from the 4th century BCE, etc., amongst others.





The actual date of Jesus's birth is unknown, but in early 4th century, the Church decided to celebrate it on Dec 25 every year.

Carving it out!

Spooky Story Of The Profession Of Pumpkin Carving



Arnav Goel, AIS Gurugram 43, X

Imagine you are walking down the street and you come face to face with the magnum opus of Edvard Munch, *The Scream*, but on a pumpkin! Welcome to the life of a professional pumpkin carver - replicating some of the best artwork humanity has to offer on an orange gourd with uncanny speed is just another day for them.

Who is a professional pumpkin carver?

For the general populace, carving a pumpkin entail lopping off the top, scooping the slimy seeds, and jabbing the unfortunate plant until

it barely resembles a jack-o-lantern. But this isn't the case for professional pumpkin carvers. Carving intricate designs on hundreds of pumpkins each month, they make your pumpkins look like string art done by a toddler. The innards and discarded pumpkins are sown right back in the earth, making this job environment-friendly.

But how does the profession of pumpkin carving even work?

Firstly, the carvers communicate with the client meticulously to make sure no misinterpretations about the design occur. Then, the right pumpkin is selected - typically one with

a long stem and a hollow body - and gutted, ready for carving. The design is first hand sketched onto the pumpkin using carbon paper. Then the carvers use an impressive repertoire of sharp objects, including pocket knives, linoleum cutters, and lemon zesters to slowly scrape away the skin and create a shadowing effect.

What skills do professional pumpkin carvers need to have?

Becoming a professional pumpkin carver is not as easy as it sounds. The job requires a dollop of creativity, patience and endurance. Artistic skill and basic knowledge of business and negotiating is a prerequisite for becoming a great pumpkin carver. It never hurts to have a college degree in an art-related course. A professional pumpkin carver makes anywhere from 19,800 to 47,330 USD, depending on the clientele and experience.

What are some tips from professional pumpkin carvers?

The first tip that pumpkin carvers give is to never cut the opening from the top. The stem provides the nutrients and increases the longevity of the pumpkin. Once you cut into a pumpkin, start moving as quickly as you can. Your canvas is a living thing having an average lifespan of five days. If your pumpkin is wilting a little, soak it in a tub of ice water for a few hours. It will firm up significantly. It can last for three days if it is left alone in the sun but its life span can be extended up to three weeks by following the above tips and keeping at an optimum temperature of 20°C.

Well, if you want your canvas to be an unconventional surface, you adore scaring people, and have artistic expertise, then this profession is carved out just for you. 🍂



Drowning in dues

Continued from page 1...

Time to be pennywise

The situation of our economy was already so bleak, and the pandemic pushed us back deeper. In such circumstances, we wonder if there is anything that can be done to fight off the knockout punch. Well, there is! One of the ways the world has managed to avoid a greater debt crisis in the past has been lower interest rates mixed with massive monetary policy support. Central banks throughout the world had lower interest rates and would supply liquidity, which would quickly establish swap lines and help many emerging countries in maintaining their market access. If we go back to paying attention to such measures, reports claim that it could add around 7.3 trillion USD back into the market, a financial aid we desperately need. Not only so, but the IMF

also needs to up their game if we are to go on the offensive. Even though they offer emergency finance support to around 76 countries, a lot of new programmes in their pipelines like Catastrophe Containment, Relief Trust, G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative etc., will make the situation lighter for countries when it comes to struggling financially. Wider adoption of enhanced collective action clauses in bonded and non-bonded debt, and also with an increase in debt transparency can help the world to address this terrifying issue.

Our society has innumerable achievements under its belt, and yet we are still suffering and crying under debt. With so much smartness in the world, maybe it is time for us to truly understand the real meaning behind the saying "pair utne hi fe-lao jitni chaadar ho!"

Towards hyflex and hybrid

The Experiment Of Fusing Work And Home To Get The Best Of Both Worlds

Nandita Bansal, XII E & Anjika Gupta, X A
AIS Saket

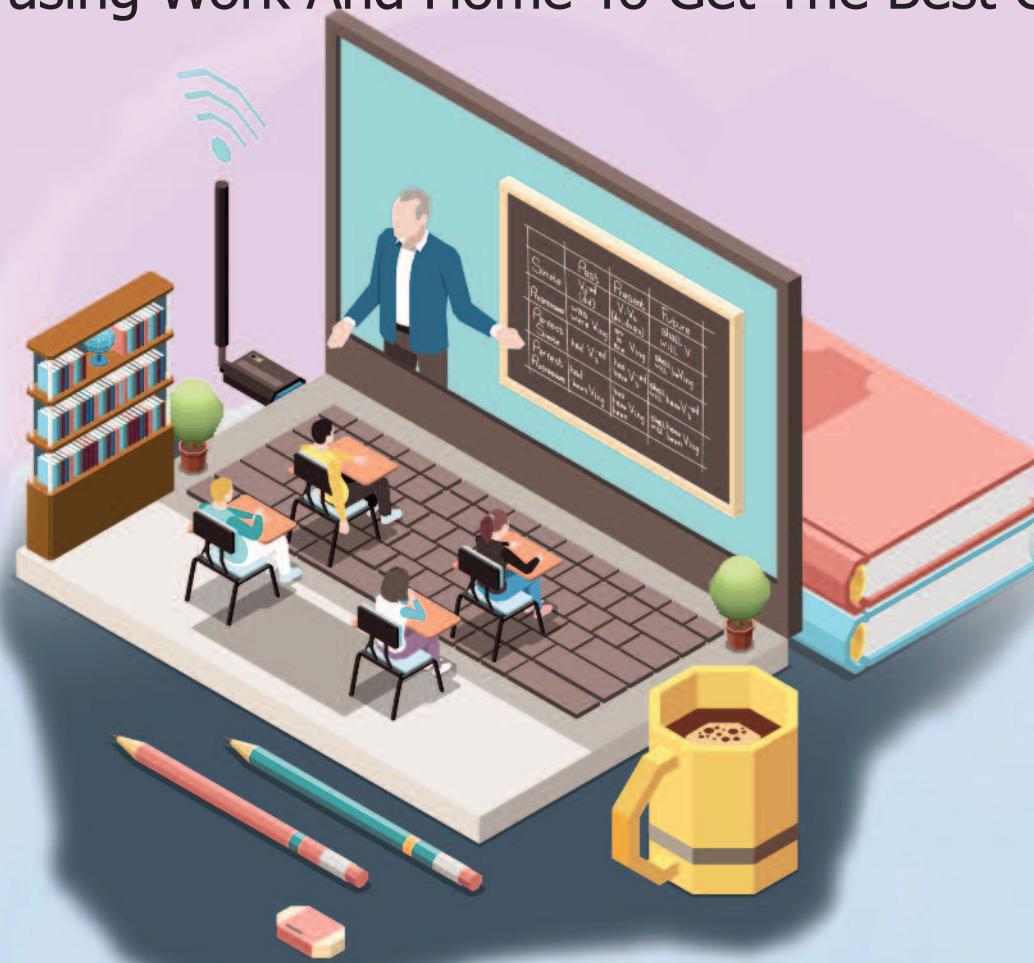
The pandemic has shaken the entire world to its core, forcing us to look for extreme alternatives to carry on living our lives. One such alternative that has truly shone in these times is often related to 'hybrid', incorporating itself in our education system as well as work culture. A mix of traditional face-to-face time and online activities, the question is whether this hybrid is here to stay or is it just a phase that will roll out after the pandemic is done and dusted with? Well, Leo found the answer to this question when he saw his father and grandfather in a heated discussion...

Grandfather: No, it just does not make sense. How can innovation take place through conversations among rectangles on a screen? I tell you; this generation is doomed!

Father: No, it is not. This 'doomed generation' has rather found the perfect solution by creating an environment that combines remote working with on-site working. This way I get to choose which I like more and can even divide my time between them to have the best of both worlds.

Leo: Yes, grandpa, dad is right! I even read something about hyflex classrooms as well where students can attend a class in-person and some can join in virtually from their homes. Even the teachers can teach remotely or in-person using various tools like video conferencing and other software. Isn't that cool?

Father: It is so cool! If implemented for my



work, it would mean that I only have to go to office for important events like kick-off meetings, orientations, team building processes, etc., but still carry on working from home. The same goes for Leo and his school classes.

Grandfather: Would that not be ridiculously complex to understand? It is so much easier if everyone just goes to school or office. What is the need for all of these shenanigans?

Leo: But grandpa, it can enable personalised

learning which helps each child learn at their own pace instead of being forced to rote-learn like robots. Not just so, but this gives them flexibility to learn as per their comfort and requirements, and creates a better and more understanding environment. Not to mention that AI and technology has made so many advancements to make our life easier, so why not use it to its full extent?

Father: True! I read in a survey that 9 out of 10 office going millennials think that having the freedom to choose where and when they work is more important than their salary. Work that was completed in an entire day at the office is now winded off in a mere 2 hours' time. Doesn't that save time, energy and productivity?

Leo: When I grow up and work, I would want to work at a place that understands my comfort and working style, and can focus on flexibility.

Grandfather: Well, Leo, it will also come with its own challenges for you, then, like Wi-Fi connectivity issues, distractions, overcrowded flats with no proper workplace - a definite contrast from a proper working office building. What will you do then?

Leo: Of course, there will be issues, grandpa. You told me that there is no smooth sailing in life without a little trouble, but we can all get through anything if we talk to each other and aim to find solutions. That's what we need to do with hybrid systems as well. There should be a regular communication between all the parties, so a track of work and productivity can be kept. It has its own struggles, but it is worth a shot. Don't you think so, grandpa?

Grandfather: If you say so! But I am unsure.

Australia celebrates Christmas aka Yulefest or Yuletide in July as it is the coldest winter month in the Southern Hemisphere.



Timeless timepieces

The Pendulum Strikes; Smart Watches Have Arrived!

Yashwini Seth, XI E & Daksha Tuteja, XI C, AIS PV

From being a precise seaman's instrument back in the 15th century to becoming a necessary military equipment in the 20th century, wristwatches have a timeless relevance that can't be overlooked. Whether we talk about smartwatches acing the digital sector or the intricate designing of a traditional analog watch made by a watchmaker, they incorporate every client's need profusely. Howbeit, even after looking at them for the last oh-so-many years, we haven't really looked through them. Read on as we try to right this timely wrong...

Mastering the analog

With the advent of smartwatches in the 1970s, the expected shift from analog to technologically advanced smartwatches was inevitable. But antique watches or mechanical watches have not completely lost their charm, but have instead aged like fine

wine. Swiss watches, known for their lavish and exorbitant prices, still exist as a popular choice amongst luxury class as these have maintained their exquisite craftsmanship, contributing to the type's enormous reputation for more than 400 years now. Furthermore, each analog watch is specially curated by experienced watchmakers who zero in on the tone, size, machinery, dials, strap material, and the overall appeal of the watch. The wide array of choices it offers is what gives it an edge over smartwatches.

The right smartwatch

Waking up in the 21st century, smartwatches have not only been able to cater to tech enthusiasts but have attracted

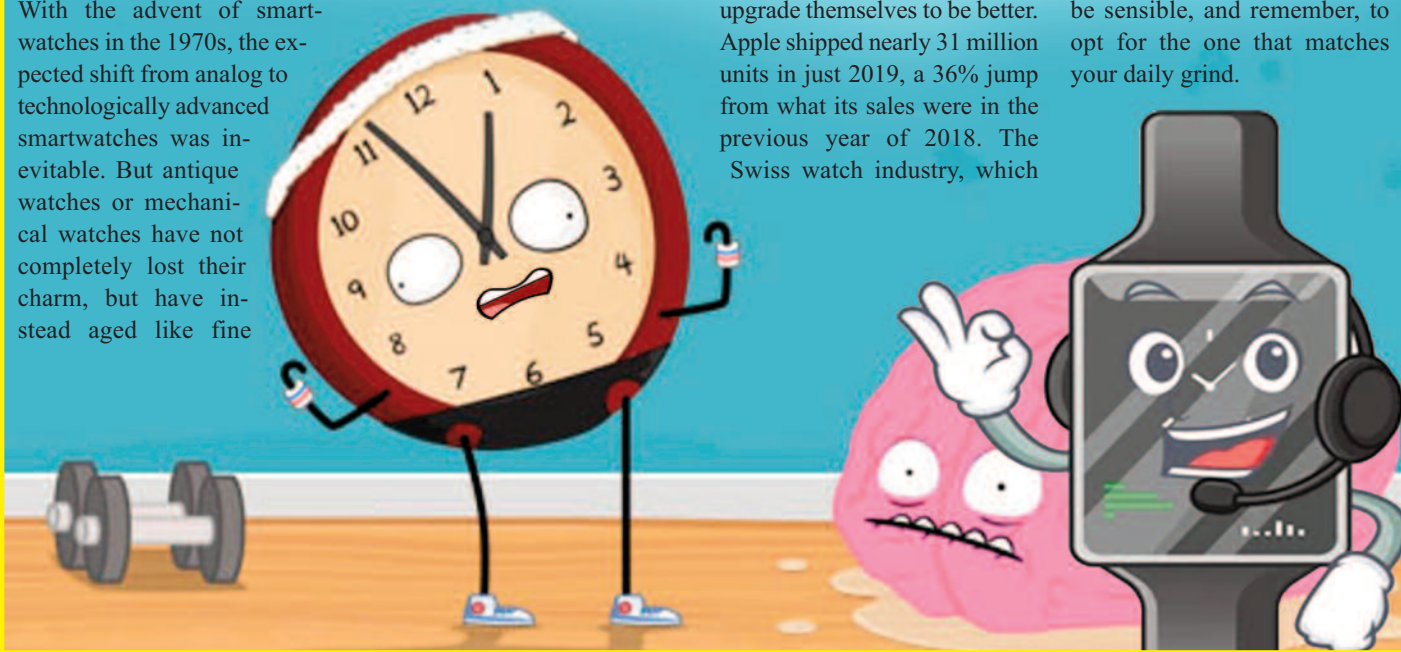
multi-taskers too. A smartwatch is equipped with apps that one may require to run errands, and brands are further adding several features, like heartbeat huntsman, sleep huntsman, smartphone connectivity etc., to them. Along with attributes like built-in voice-controlled personal assistants, the added daily goal completion signal in some is no less than a party. Though all these softwares consume a lot of battery and need regular charging cycles, these wearable computers do have sufficient LED screen space that makes it all worthwhile, proving that smartwatches are here to stay.

Analog vs digital

Statistically speaking, the watch industry is more in favour of smartwatches as they are able to upgrade themselves to be better. Apple shipped nearly 31 million units in just 2019, a 36% jump from what its sales were in the previous year of 2018. The Swiss watch industry, which

includes brands like Swatch and TAG Heuer, on the other hand, witnessed a 13% decline in its sales in the same year. In these, the elements used are more durable, and their essence lies in their longevity, whereas digital watches, because of software upgradation and lower costs, have a shelf life of less than 5 years. Recognising this dilemma, some brands have provided hybrid options to the customers. They have amalgamated both analog and digital features for a wholesome experience for the users.

So, if you are searching for a definite answer concerning smartwatches replacing analog watches, the way out is only up to you. In this competitive peddle of watches, bear in mind to be sensible, and remember, to opt for the one that matches your daily grind.



Act now or never

Continued from page 1

On economy vs environment

Many developing nations need growth in industry and infrastructure to boost their economy, but it also ends up conflicting with nature most of the time. To such a question, there is no easy answer. Countries are still struggling with this debate in international politics as well, but here the responsibility of developed nations also comes into picture because they have contributed to the cause against climate change to a large extent. The problem also becomes about equity because people below the poverty line are the worst affected in all tragedies. Another way to go about it is going back to the traditional knowledge systems and relying on traditional knowledge to make things more sustainable. There is no simple answer, like I said, but we have to continue to strike for a correct balance between boosting the economy and also caring for our environment.

On conspiracy climate theories

There is no easy answer to convincing people that believe cli-

mate change isn't real even though there are many theories and research that's been done on it. So, instead of focusing too much on persuading non-believers, I would suggest that the younger generation should focus on the actions that they can take to combat climate change. Instead of trying to pursue these people, you should keep spreading and sharing actual information and focus on what more can be done because actions speak louder than words.

On the message for Amitians

Stay happy! Young people today are stressed, anxious and worried about their education, career, or even life in general, so to all of them, I want to say that being happy is your own choice that you choose every moment and every day. When you are happy, you stand in a better state to take better actions and decisions. "Be the change you wish to see in the world" - this is my favourite quote, and to all the students reading this, I hope you adopt this in your personal life. Remember, it is our planet and it is our responsibility. 🌍

Artistic artichokes

Illustration: Ananya Mittal, AIS Vasundhara 6, X B

Ananya Mittal

AIS Vasundhara 6, X B

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.



Hey! My name is: Artichoke
I am also known as: Cynara cardunculus

About me

- I belong to the Asteraceae family and am one of the oldest foods known to humans.
- My name is borrowed from an Italian word 'articochco' which means high stump.
- I was domesticated around the Mediterranean and the Canary Islands over 1200 years ago. By the 16th century, Italy and France had begun commercial production of my varieties.
- Ancient Greeks and Romans have labelled me as a delicacy and an aphrodisiac.
- I have thick stems and large protruding leaves, and can reach a height of three to four feet.
- One plant of mine can produce up to 20 artichokes per year.
- If left to mature, my edible flower bud can grow up to three to six inches in diameter with purple petals on the top.
- The total antioxidant capacity of my artichoke flower heads is one of the highest reported amongst



all known vegetables.

- I have more than 140 different varieties, and each has a strong flavour, high nutritional value, medicinal properties, and crunchy texture.

What I offer

About 120 grams of me, can provide you:

- Calories: 64
- Carbohydrates: 14.34 grams
- Protein: 3.47 grams
- Fat: 0.41 grams

- Dietary fiber: 6.8 grams
- Water content: 100.9 grams
- Vitamins (B9, K, C)
- Other minerals like copper, magnesium and potassium

I can help you with

- Reducing bad cholesterol
- Aiding in better digestion
- Preventing gallstones
- Reducing risk of cancer
- Lowering high blood pressure
- Reducing risk of liver disease

Where can you find me

I am a perennial plant and require well drained loamy sand with pH between 6.1 to 6.5 for my cultivation. I grow best in frost-free areas with cool, foggy summers and warm temperatures ranging from 2-27 degree Celsius during the day. Though I am grown worldwide but, in 2019, Egypt, Italy and Spain became my top three producers and comprised 55% of my total global consumption. From 2016-2018, my overall global production has seen an increase of a whopping 18.3%. Now isn't that saying something!

My different avatars

- Jerusalem artichoke
- Baby anzio artichoke
- Big heart artichoke



- Castel artichoke
- Chianti artichoke
- Fiesole artichoke

Why I fear climate change

I am mostly cultivated in the Mediterranean region with temperate climate, which just goes to prove that surviving climate change would almost be completely impossible for me. Though farmers across the world have time and again tried to come up with hybrid seeds that can tolerate warmer climate, but extreme temperature fluctuations, whether too cold or too hot, always stood in the way and exponentially affected my quality every single time without fail. To add to that, the increasingly frequent heat waves are further damaging my growth and hampering my production capacity a great deal. Thus, I feel you should urgently intervene and mitigate climatic change if you want to save me from dying. You don't want to miss out on all my nutrition, now, do you?



The first use of Christmas tree goes back to ancient Egyptians and Romans, and the first use of trees on Christmas in modern world was in the 16th century Germany.

Maharana's pride

The Tale Of The Great Warrior's Companion And His Valour That Has Left A Mark

**Suhani Malik, Alumna & Shyla Basu, XII C
AIS Pushp Vihar**

The master doesn't choose the horse, the horse chooses the master! And I will choose Maharana until hell freezes over.

June 18, 1576 - as the dawn lined the horizon in faint yellow, the imperial army of Mughal emperor Akbar, commanded by Man Singh I of Amber, steadfastly made its way to incarcerate Udaipur. As a defense tactic to obviate the inrush of the advancing army, I with my master, my Rana of Mewar, Maharana Pratap and his flock of archers and cavalry guarded the narrow 1 km long pass, namely Haldighati, in the Aravalli ranges. We could hear the enemy horses galloping and closing in on us with every moment that passed. What ensued was a long bloody battle between us and them, between the loyalists that we were and the encroachers that they proved to be. Though out manoeuvring our opponents in a still inchoate battle, we were slowly and gradually inching closer into the quagmire. Maharana's subsequent fall rushed and affirmed Mewar's fall. He was bruised! My Maharana was in distress. Damned be the sword that touched my Rana. Oh, Rana! I needed to shield

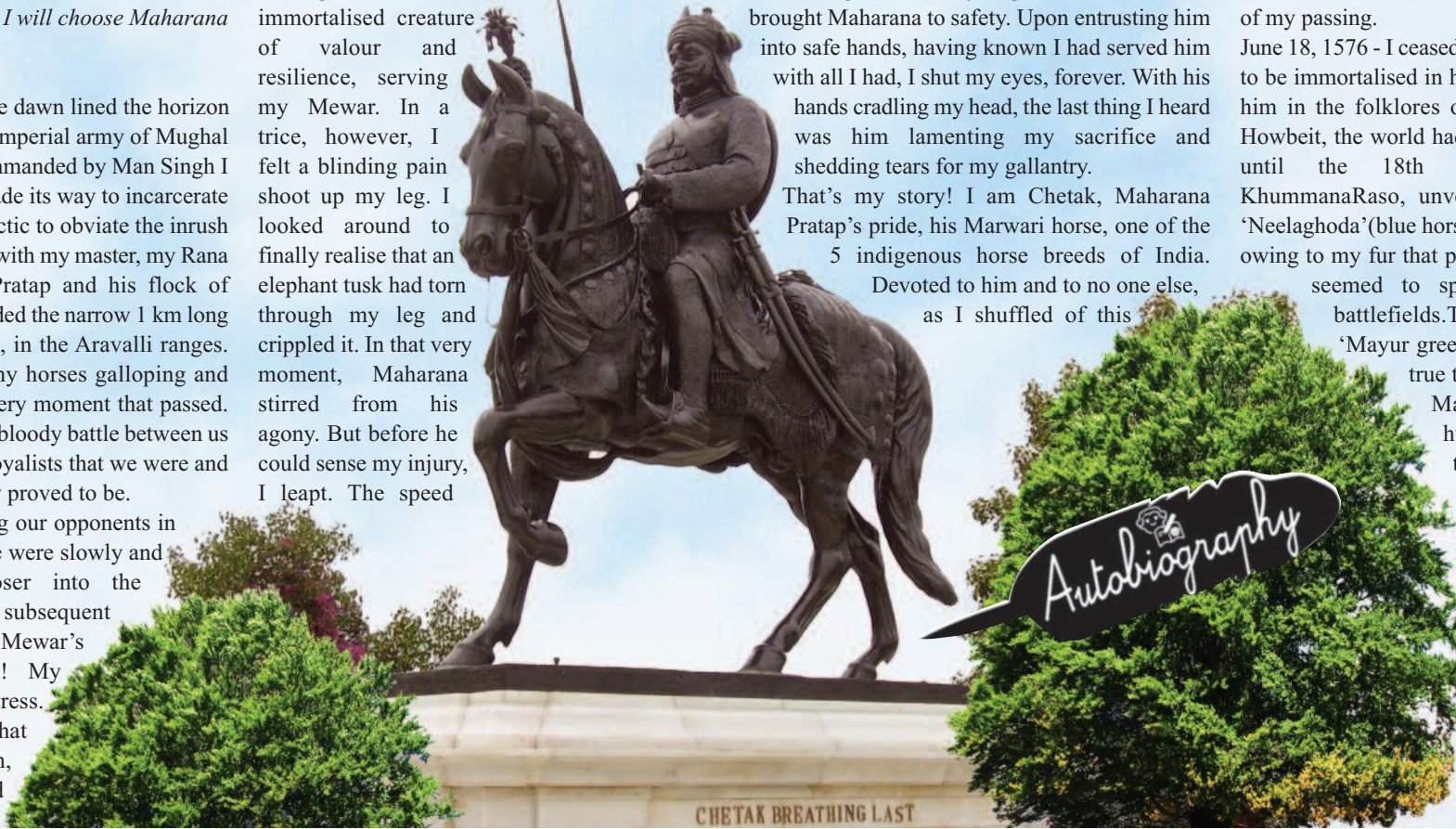
him as a bulwark against the enemy swords. And, so I ran. Feeling the life drain out of him with every shallow breath, I flew faster than the wind, leaving clouds of dust behind, as an immortalised creature of valour and resilience, serving my Mewar. In a trice, however, I felt a blinding pain shoot up my leg. I looked around to finally realise that an elephant tusk had torn through my leg and crippled it. In that very moment, Maharana stirred from his agony. But before he could sense my injury, I leapt. The speed

tore at my wound. But I knew I had to go on, faster than before, to protect my master before it was too late. Soon, I could see the castle from my blackening vision. My legs slacked off as I brought Maharana to safety. Upon entrusting him into safe hands, having known I had served him with all I had, I shut my eyes, forever. With his hands cradling my head, the last thing I heard was him lamenting my sacrifice and shedding tears for my gallantry. That's my story! I am Chetak, Maharana Pratap's pride, his Marwari horse, one of the 5 indigenous horse breeds of India. Devoted to him and to no one else, as I shuffled of this

mortal coil in his arms, he vowed to never let me slip from his memory and commissioned his people for formation of my *samadhi*, also called the Rakht Talai Chetak Samarak, at the very spot of my passing.

June 18, 1576 - I ceased to exist, yet I lived! I lived to be immortalised in his thoughts and alongside him in the folklores of the world contentedly. Howbeit, the world had no clue of my existence until the 18th century folk ballad, KhummanaRaso, unveiled me as Maharana's 'Neelaghoda'(blue horse). They christened me so owing to my fur that possessed a bluish hue and seemed to sparkle as I ran across battlefields. The poets tagged me 'Mayur greeva' for my peacock neck, true to the physiognomy of my Marwari breed, while the humans marvelled at my tale of fearlessness and troth. And as my story spread, I became an epitome of resistance and by extension, of the nationalistic fervour against any foreign incursion. [G I](#)

My fealty to Rana transcends the mortal realm; with him, I lived, with him, I eternised!



An Expedition To The Top Of The World...

Anika Bansal, AIS Vas 6, X D

With abundant time that the pandemic had dumped into our hands, I had been instructed by my mother to clear out the stacks of old notebooks in my study to make room for new ones. This led me to find my journal from three years back, where I kept a record of the most fascinating places I had ever visited. My most memorable journey in there was to the Barneo Ice Camp near the North Pole. And so, as I began to read the messy, old entries in the journal, and nostalgia struck hard...

Week 1

It's been a few days since I touched down, in the famed Anton-74 jet, at the northernmost airport in the world, and I have been nothing but enraptured by it. This makeshift runway is located 25 miles from the North Pole and is a part of a seasonal camp, namely Barneo, owned by the Swedish billionaire Frederick Paulsen. It costs millions to run and is uniquely dangerous as the pole itself does not move, but the ice and

everything on it are in constant motion. And since the ice sheet melts in summer, it must be rebuilt from scratch each year. This daunting task starts with the quest for an ice floe suitable for the camp. Once the site is found, the crew parachutes down. Next, the airdropping of bulldozers, drums of fuel, food, and tents takes place. All in all, the creation of the runway is an elephantine job in itself, and it is like no other.

Week 2

It's been more than a week, and the magic is yet to wear off. With its layout, Barneo feels like a quaint village, comprising of two mess rooms, one for crew and clients each. Between them are the cold storage and kitchen. There are medical tents, 2 helicopters on standby, a generator room to provide electricity, and washrooms. There is, however, an absence of hot showers, and you can only give yourself a good rub-down with the ice, which is an experience in itself.

The people visiting Barneo are riveting as well. For example, there is another group of researchers here

who are set to partake in a perilous expedition to the North Pole either via skis or helicopter. People can skydive or scuba-dive there which piques the interest of the adventurer in me; though it has been admittedly dampened a bit since the ocean there is frozen, as well as by the warnings of polar bears.

Week 3

As part of a surprise planned for us by our sponsors, we just got back from the top of the world where we got the chance to circumnavigate the entire globe in under a minute; yes, that is possible as all the meridians converge there. Isn't that impressive? Also, people from all over the world come here to take part in the Annual North Pole Marathon organised by the camp. But sadly Barneo season shall soon be coming to an end as rising mercury will melt the frozen surface of the ocean, and just like that, no human will be able to set foot on this extraordinary place for the next 11 months or so. Well, this has been one of the best experiences of my life, and I shall cherish it forevermore. [G I](#)

Quirky New Year

Avyaan Talwar, AIS Gurugram 46, V F

As 2021 is all set to dawn, and 2022 knocking on the door, promising joy, good health, and happiness in its wake, we cannot help but sneak a peek into how different cultures around the globe revel in the spirit of new beginnings. Here's looking at some of the quirkiest New Year Eve traditions, because why not?

Spain: With 12 seconds remaining on the clock until new year, Spaniards eat 12 green grapes to bring good luck in the coming year.



Brazil: Most Brazilians make an offering of white flowers and candles to Yemoja, the water deity, in order to seek blessings for the year to come.



Japan: Japanese follow the Buddhist tradition of ringing the Buddhist bell or Bonsho a total of 108 times at midnight on December 31 to bring in goodwill and banish all the worldly human sins.



Denmark: People in Denmark take pride in throwing dishes at their neighbours' front doors. It is believed the bigger the pile of broken dishes, the luckier you will be in the new year.



South Africa: To commence the new year fresh, South Africans as a customary practice throw all their old furniture out of their windows on December 31.



Ecuador: Ecuadorians welcome the new year by burning the bad memories of the previous one. They set fire to paper scarecrows at midnight as they believe it helps in banishing ill-fortune.



The Xmas song Silent Night is the most recorded song in the world with 733 different versions being copyrighted since 1978.



Christmas time!

Enterprise Excellence



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

2021 had its fair share of ups and downs. Thankfully it ends on a positive note, as Satyam Mehta of AIS Noida, has been featured in the latest edition of Forbes, a prestigious business magazine. Satyam has been accorded this recognition for his entrepreneurial initiative 'Rural Invest', an app designed to spread financial literacy among rural people. Equally heart-warming is the feeling that social upliftment is the thought behind Satyam's efforts. His success is testimony to the fact that a holistic education, which gives academic and human excellence equal importance, can do wonders for a child's development.

Indeed, even in the past, there have been several instances where Amitians have come up with excellent business ideas even as young, school students. This strong foundation, that helped them hone skills of also being good leaders, has today made them successful entrepreneurs. Being an entrepreneur, however, is not just about building an enterprise, it is also about being a responsible citizen. Entrepreneurship is the spirit of passion, perseverance and pragmatism, and at its core lies the vision for a better and happy future.

I am happy to see so many young innovators and inventors, being fostered at Amity. From smart bins to smart education, from saving the environment to helping the elderly, there have been a wide range of real solutions that have emerged from the bright minds at Amity. These talented children have made me proud, winning awards at national and international competitions. My blessings to all my students, who I am sure will keep the flag of entrepreneurial excellence flying high in the coming year as well. [GT](#)

Goodbye 2021

Goodbye 2021



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

In a few days from now, we will all welcome a brand, new year and bid adieu to 2021, a year that has been a mixed bag of emotions for each one of us. I recall vividly how we started 2021 with so much hope, thinking that the worst of the pandemic was behind us. And surely, it seemed to be going well until the first quarter when the second wave hit us unexpectedly and took away with it all our optimism of having a normal life once again.

Yet, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel and a rigorous vaccination drive brought this growing monster to a halt by middle of the year. Once again, our country rose like a phoenix and order was restored. Businesses bounced back, children returned to school and families came together to celebrate festivals. Yes, the losses have been irreparable, and wounds will take time to heal, but last year has also taught us the importance of many things we took for granted.

We learnt how to value those we love, how to regain our inner strength in the face of the worst hardships, and above all, how to reach out and help those in need. And when a society comes together to support each other, when all lines of class and community are blurred, there can only be one outcome. We reclaim a life full of confidence and courage to deal with whatever tomorrow may bring. I trust and believe that 2022 will be the year where this spirit of togetherness will shine even brighter. [GT](#)

Adieu General

Remembering A Man Of Action And A True Patriot Of India

Col RC Patial, Headmaster
Amity Indian Military College

Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life – think of it, dream of it, live on that idea... and this is the way to success.

— Swami Vivekananda

General Bipin Rawat's way to success, I suppose, flows out from Swami Vivekananda's above quote. This mantra was also the basis of his motivational words received by his niece Bandhavi Rawat, the national shooter who got 11 golds during the shooting championship which concluded after the tragic MI-17 helicopter crash on December 8, 2021 in Coonoor hills. She remembers him as always espousing that, "Whenever someone takes up any task, they should not rest until they complete it." She dedicated the gold medals to General Rawat and the other warriors who died with him.

General Rawat was known in the armed forces, and in the government circles, as a 'go-getter' and a hard task master who never took 'no' for an answer, and always wanted a solution. He was a man of action who never hesitated in taking hard decisions, even in the face of opposition. Cross border strikes and stand offs against the Chinese are sterling examples of taking a strong stand against adversaries. No wonder then, he was known as a 'no-nonsense General' who strictly adhered to rules. He was an honest officer who was upfront during media interactions, always speaking his mind instead of giving diplomatic answers. As India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), he had



CDS General Bipin Rawat
(1958-2021)

Pic courtesy: PTI

won everyone over with his articulate opinions. He was truly the 'People's General' as christened by our country's media. His untimely demise has left a huge void for not only his Regiment and the Indian Armed Forces, but also the nation. India has lost a great strategist who displayed immense acumen in the ongoing restructuring of the armed forces. There was not a single dry eye when he was honored with a 17-gun salute at his funeral. It was not just the armed forces, but the entire civilian pop-

ulation that stood up to pay respect to this distinguished officer and gentleman.

Indeed, to be a soldier is the highest call of duty and to lay down life in the line of duty is the ultimate sacrifice. The respect such a soldier gets knows no boundaries, and this is evident from a twitter comment of a Pakistani army veteran who wrote, "He has no land at Lutyens Delhi, no pizza food chain, no investment outside the country, children are not sent to US/UK. No bank account in Switzerland. He was building his retirement home in his hometown... This is the main reason why INDIA is mourning."

Over 25 countries, including their foreign ministers and diplomats, extended condolences to New Delhi in the aftermath of this tragic incident. The United Nations' chief, Antonio Guterres, also expressed his heartfelt condolences with these words, "As you may recall, General Rawat served the United Nations with distinction and we fully appreciated that work."

One will always remember General Rawat as a true follower of the Bhagwad Gita which tells us to be a karmayogi. He never refrained from taking action and performing it well. His purity of mind and action is what must have pleased our

Gods in heaven with whom he now rests. I am sure General Rawat is smiling down upon his country, which always came first for him.

About the writer: Patial RC is a retired Infantry officer of the Indian Army. He had a unique experience of serving in active CI Ops across the country and in Sri Lanka. He contributes his views on military and travel related matters in military professional journals quite regularly. The veteran is also a keen mountaineer and a trekker. [GT](#)

Meant to fly

It Is Time You Realise Your True Potential

Amara Sood
AGS Gurugram, Alumna

Perspective

One fine day, while walking down a lonely road, a man came across an abandoned eagle's egg. Seeing the neglected egg and spotting a nest nearby, he picked it up and safely placed it inside the nest. Little did he then know that the nest belonged to a backyard hen. So, as time thus passed and all the eggs hatched one by one, the eagle and the chicks grew up together, making the farmer believe that he was a chicken. He would do whatever the other chicks did; flying a few feet above the ground, clucking his wings, and scratching in the dirt, etc., became an integral part of his chick-like existence.

Years later as the eagle grew old, he saw a majestic creature with mighty wings flying high in the sky. The bird had a large, hooked beak and an appearance of a beast with strength that could tear apart anybody. Seeing it, the eagle wondered what it was. To quench his curiosity, he inquired his chicken cousins about the same. To which they replied,

"That's a golden eagle. It is the emperor of all birds, the ruler of the sky, but don't worry you will never be able to become like him because you are a mere chicken who belongs on the ground." As such, believing it to be the only truth of his existence, the eagle lived and died a chicken.

This tale was narrated by Anthony de Mello, a Jesuit Priest, to his disciples as it contains a profound message. It sheds light on how we, as humans, often contain ourselves to become chickens while we were born to be soaring eagles, emphasising how it is important for us to discover ourselves and realise our true potential. Howbeit, the most crucial question here is - how long will it take for us to make this shift, to be daring enough to find out our life's purpose and awaken to the truth at hand.

The story of Icarus delivers a somewhat similar message. Most of us must have read his tale and remember Icarus as the one whose father made him wings out of wax, so that he could escape from Crete. While at it, his father also warned him to not fly too high and close to the sun as the wings would then melt and lead

to his fall. Overcome by his giddiness and excessive pride, however, Icarus ends up dying by doing exactly what he was not supposed to. But what most of us miss out on is the fact that his father also cautioned him to not fly too close to the sea as his weight would cause his plunge into the water. Likewise, most of us do realise the downsides of being too pompous, but aren't aware of the pitfalls of being too modest, too fragile, and too afraid. It is thus, rightfully said that the greatest tragedy of someone's life is not when they aim too high and miss the mark, it's when they aim too low and hit.

The takeaway from these tales is thus, to try and create a balance between things. It is important to be not misguided by enthusiasm and over confidence, but at the same time, being too modest is also not healthy for your personal growth. It could prevent you from affirming your own identity. So, step out of your comfort zone and bring about changes in your life that favour you and help you attain an enhanced personality. Discover yourself and cherish it because that is exactly who you are meant to be!



GT M@il



Issue: Page 6, Dec 13, 2021

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'A clean slate' published on page 6 of the GT edition dated December 13, 2021. The article dwells on the human tendency to remember only the bright and blissful chapters of life. If given a choice, all of us would want to efface the distressing memories. Our memories are special, they define who we are and enable us to travel from the past to the present whenever we like. The grass always seems greener on the other side but what might look like a good 'escape' could turn out to be an impulsive decision. The article also rightly draws a comparison between a memory and a card in a pyramid. Pulling out even a single card means pulling out several other cards along with it. The complete deletion of memories isn't the best solution. While obliteration of disturbing memories appears to be the perfect way to deal with the anxiety and distress caused by the painful events, especially with the advancements in this field, we must understand the inexorable effects it can have on our personalities and future.

Deetya Gambhir, AIS PV, X A



The tallest Christmas tree ever displayed in the world was 221 ft tall and was presented in Seattle, Washington.

HISTORY *this* WEEK

Weeks, years, decades, centuries...as time goes by day by day, the world keeps progressing into a newer direction. But as our eyes always stay glued to the telescope, trying to get a glimpse of the shining future we work so hard to create, it'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 20-26** that played their role in shaping our society.

The world of inventions

DEC 23 1947

American engineer John Bardeen and American physicist Walter Houser Brattain, with the help from fellow physicist William Shockley, invented the first working transistor and demonstrated its results at Bell Laboratories in New Jersey, USA. Deemed as the most important invention of the 20th century, the transistor, aiming to replace vacuum tubes, was the first semiconductor device that could amplify or switch electrical signals. Having worked on it for nearly a decade, the three called the device 'a magnificent Christmas present' upon its successful completion on this day.



DEC 21 1898

Polish-French physicist Marie Curie, along with her physicist husband Pierre Curie, discovered radium as part of their study of uranite, a type of uranium ore. As the couple removed uranium from the ore sample, they were left with radioactive material that they figured should be 2 new elements, radium and polonium. Though they discovered polonium a little earlier in July same year, radium was found and named on this day. They measured radium's intensity at around 3000 times uranium, and were, in 1911, awarded Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their pathbreaking discovery of the same.



The world of celebration

DEC 24 1914

A series of widespread unofficial, impromptu cease-fires, popularly known as the Christmas Truce, occurred along some two-thirds of the 30-mile long Western Front during World War I. The following day, French, British and German soldiers met in no man's land to exchange gifts, talk, play football, and click photographs, creating one of the most memorable images of the truce. Since then, the Christmas Truce has become one of the most famous events of the first World War, where soldiers sing carols and exchange food, reflecting a mood of 'live and let live'.



The world of entertainment



DEC 21 2012

Gangnam Style, a song by South Korean singer PSY, became the first video ever to reach the unprecedented milestone of 1 billion views on YouTube. Released on July 15, 2012, the song, as the name suggests, refers to the upscale culture associated with the Gangnam district of Seoul, where people are considered 'modern, cool and classy'. The viral hook step of the song is an invisible horse-riding dance, performed by PSY. As of today, the video has over 4.27 billion views and 2.3 crore likes on the YouTube.



DEC 21 1937

Walt Disney Animation Studios released the first American fully animated feature film in the history, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Starring Adriana Caselotti, Roy Atwell and Harry Stockwell amongst others, the film had its local premiere at the Carthay Circle Theatre in LA, California. Based on the famed 1812 German fairy tale by Brothers Grimm, its story revolves around an orphan princess living with her wicked stepmother, the production of which took nearly three years to complete. Walt Disney was awarded an honorary Oscar for the same in 1939.

DEC 26 1963

British band The Beatles' single, namely I Want To Hold Your Hand, was released in America, marking the beginning of the Beatlemania.

Having already become a commercial success in UK, the record sold more than 1 million copies in America in the first ten days after its release, with a whopping 10,000 copies sold every hour in the New York City alone. The following year, the single reached No. 1 spot on the Billboard charts and reigned there for an impressive seven weeks before it was knocked down a peg by another Beatles song, She Loves You.

The world of politics



DEC 22 1885

Japanese politician and statesman, Duke Itō Hirobumi became the first Prime Minister of Japan, a position that he went on to hold 4 times, making his tenure the longest in the country's history. Ito, a well-educated Samurai of the Chōshū Domain, in his capacity as the PM, worked extensively to strengthen Japan's ties with other western countries. He was also the one who drafted the constitution for Japan, wrote the first Imperial Household Law, and set up the peerage system. Later in 1903, he resigned from his post to become the president of the Privy Council of Japan.



DEC 22 2010

Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT), a 1993 US policy which gave homosexual servicemen and women the right to join the military only if they kept their sexual orientation secret, was repealed. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate voted to rescind the policy, and the act for the same was signed into law by the then US President Barack Obama, allowing homosexuals to serve openly in the US armed forces. However, the full implementation occurred on September 20, 2011.

DEC 21 1891



The first ever game of basketball was invented at the YMCA Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts, when Dr James Naismith, a Canadian physical education instructor, was tasked to create a new indoor game to keep athletes in shape in cold weather. With a goal to create a game that would be simple enough to understand but complex enough to be interesting, Dr. Naismith formulated 13 rules for the same initially. As such, the game was played with 18 students, divided into two teams of 9 men each. The following year, on March 11, 1892, the school organised the first public basketball game.

DEC 22 1990



Canadian ice hockey defenceman, Paul Coffey became the second defenceman ever to record 1000 points in a record-breaking 770 games. Known for his speed and scoring ability, he ranks second all-time among NHL defencemen in goals, assists, and points, behind only Ray Bourque. By the time he retired, he played for a total of nine teams in the National Hockey League and 14 All-Star Games, and became a four-time Stanley Cup champion, winning the first three with Edmonton Oilers and the fourth one with Pittsburgh.

DEC 24 1814

The Treaty of Ghent, a peace treaty to end the War of 1812, was signed between Great Britain and the United States in the city of Ghent, United Netherlands (now in Belgium). The treaty restored pre-war trade and territorial borders between the two parties, with no side gaining or losing any territorial, economic, or political rights. It was signed into law by the Prince Regent (future King George IV) on December 30, 1814, and only came into effect upon ratification by the then US President James Madison on February 17, 1815.



The word Christmas was derived from Old English's Cristes-messe, which literally means 'Christ's mass'.



Christmas time!

A new family

Storywala



Sharanya Arun

AIS Saket, Alumna

The dew droplets took the form of diamonds against the green of the leaves. Sunshine filtered through the green leaves, turning them almost golden. The first signs of winter were here. It was quieter here in the woods, away from the bustle of the town.

Alice finally found herself at peace. But this peace was momentary. Alice knew that no matter how hard she tried to es-

cape, she would have to go back. Yet she wanted to soak in every minute that she spent in the woods. After sometime, she stood up and began making her way back to home because Anna and Marcus were all alone.

The children were found all alone in the woods by Alice a month ago. They looked famished and helpless. When Alice inquired about their parents, the children could say nothing because they were perplexed as to what had happened to them in a jiffy. The twins were worried be-

cause their parents were missing. She wanted to do every bit to help them and this is when she decided to take them to her little abode. It was only two days later that she had found out about the death of a couple due to a shipwreck, and also about the possibility of children missing in a local newspaper.

Alice could never muster the courage to inform the kids about the bad news. She knew how it felt to lose loved ones. Her heart pounded every single time she saw the kids and when they ap-

She wanted to do every bit to help them and this is when she decided to take them to her little abode.

proached her with inquisitive eyes, "Are they coming today?" "Not today, but soon," she replied in a comforting voice. Gradually the questions faded away with time because Alice provided them all the comfort she could afford. She had now become more of a parent figure than a stranger for the children. But whenever she saw them, dread hung on every inch of her body because someday she would have to show them the truth. And what scared her more was the outcome of the truth, what would happen once the truth was in front of them? Will the children hate her for keeping it from them for so long? Or will they understand her?

Nonetheless, Alice was determined this time to face them with the truth. She decided to reveal the same after her short visit from the woods. Surprisingly, Alice saw Anna and Marcus waiting for her outside the house. She anticipated something was wrong as she neared them. Anna ran to her with a newspaper rolled in her hands and said, "They are never coming back, aren't they? With a lump in her throat, Alice said, "Let's go home." Anna and Marcus surrounded their arms around her and walked with her back into the house. They didn't know what awaited them in the future, but they were now a family. 🇺🇦



Glass bottle art

Aishwarya Srivastava, AIS VKC Lko, IX A

Material required

- Glass bottle
- Tissue papers
- Newspaper
- Paints
- Golden dust
- Ice-cream sticks
- Water
- Glue
- Paintbrush



Aishwarya

Method

- Begin by cleaning up the glass bottle properly.
- Now take some glue in a bowl and mix it with water in equal parts to make a liquid paste.
- With the help of a brush, apply this paste all over and cover the entire glass bottle.
- Take paper tissues and tear them into smaller pieces. Once done, paste them directly on the bottle. Re-apply another coat of the paste to secure all ends and let it dry completely.
- Take your ice cream sticks and paste them horizontally on the bottom half of the bottle (refer to the picture).
- After covering the asked surface, paint the entire bottle with a dark brown colour and let it dry.
- In a bowl add water and soak some torn newspapers in it. With the wet papers, make small balls by combining multiple pieces of paper and leave them to dry completely.
- Take another set of newspaper pieces, dip them in water, and make 3-4 long cylindrical tubes from it, long enough to cover the entire bottle in one round. Leave them to dry.
- After the balls and tubes are completely dry, paint the balls in purple colour and the tubes in green.
- Start pasting the balls and the tubes on the top half of the bottle to create a bunch of grapes as seen in the photo.
- Once you are done and are happy with your design, add some gold dust or highlighter on the top.
- Your beautiful and creative glass bottle décor is ready.

WORDS VERSE

Messiah

Suhana Abrol

AIS Saket, XII E

Yesterday, I heard you pass by
You also caught the visitors' eye
Of course, you did, always do
But you're too humble to stand
In the limelight, it's just true

Such were your curious features
Your hair white as frozen wool
And sleek burnished bronze feet
Your eyes blazed with a fierce
Righteous fury, burning evil deeds

Why do you tickle one's curiosity
Is it your gait or your vigour



That catches their total attention
Or is it the way you promptly appear
After your prodigious resurrection

Alas, fate flipped a terrible toss

Thou pinned to the holy cross
Even at the very brink of death
Prayed for them all to be forgiven
Till your very last breath, O Lord!

The rabble soon broke even
The faithless and penniless men
They fought for your clothes
While the angels sang sorrowfully
Of your return and their oath

A testament of your iron will
Your immortal presence lingers still
In the pious air of Golgotha
Where the city glows softly
Under the bright Christmas star

And such was the sight
Yuletide lights and baubles make
The comely streets look bright
While the iridescent falling snow
Carols the wistful 'Silent Night'. 🇺🇦

Waiting for the GT interview

Ayden Sharma

AIS Gurugram 46, XI

As I joined the link for my interview
With Amity background behind me
I saw Shweta ma'am sitting upright
Giving careful pieces of advice

As the call for the first person struck
She left us with an ecstatic smile
I wondered when my turn would arrive

And I will be asked the questions piled

In a few minutes, the way lighting strikes
I realised, I forgot to wear my purple tie
I rushed to my mother with a helpless cry
Where have you kept my only purple tie?

Dressed, I stared at the laptop for a while
Like Arjuna aiming for the fish's eye
I had several moments of nervousness
As I knew that it was almost time



The moment was finally going to arrive
To greet everyone politely and to them
Show each and every poem I wrote
Howbeit, the wait was also worthwhile! 🇺🇦

Brush 'n' Easel

Navya Shukla
AIS Noida, IX E





An Italian tradition states that a Christmas dinner should have more than seven courses, making the dinner last for more than four hours.

Party in Belarus

Imaging: Deepak Sharma, GT Network



Short Story

Ayaat Tahseen Hussain
AIS Vasundhara 6, V E

It was Rina's first time travelling abroad and her destination, Belarus, seemed to be the land of fairy tales, sparkling with lights and trinkets. The air was thick with a celebratory fragrance as it was the time for the annual festival. However, Rina's heart was far from excited for she never wanted to come to Belarus to begin with. But owing to her father's job which required him to travel a lot and his wish to do so with the entire family this time, she was left with no other choice. And to make matters worse, it was Rina's birthday the next day. Her birthdays were usually hushed and sober as her father was rarely home, and her mother would be too busy with work, but at least she had her friends

with her; they were her only salvation as they'd celebrate her birthday with tremendous enthusiasm. However, now that she was in Belarus already, Rina, in an effort to shrug off her negative thoughts, decided to partake in the festivities the following day. The next day thus, keeping up with her decision, she got up early and got ready to wander the streets of Belarus. But as she was walking around, observing different stores, stalls and activities, she heard someone call out her name out of the blue. Rina turned around in surprise as she saw a figure approaching towards her. It was her childhood best friend, Mikki, someone Rina hadn't seen in years. She couldn't believe her luck. Running into her childhood friend in the middle of a foreign country was **uncanny**, but she was ecstatic to see her and so was Mikki.

Having exchanged all the courtesies thus, Mikki suggested they go back to Rina's hotel room to catch up and order some food, for she was starving. Rina agreed and they both walked back to the hotel where Rina and her family was staying. She wasn't too worried about her parent's reaction, because she believed that they'd be too busy with their work to notice. As far as she was concerned, they had already left the hotel to finish up their work. But nothing could've prepared Rina for what came next. The moment she entered the room, she heard a loud chorus yell out, "Surprise!" followed by bangs of glitter bombs. Rina couldn't believe her eyes; she rubbed them once, she rubbed them twice and rubbed them one more time for good measure. She wasn't dreaming and yet the scene in front of her didn't make sense. The

The moment she entered the room, she heard a loud chorus yell out, "Surprise!" followed by bangs of glitter bombs.

room was so beautifully decorated with balloons and ribbons that it resembled a greeting card. And in the middle of the room stood her parents who gestured her to come closer. "Your parents tracked me down and invited me and my parents over here. Happy Birthday Rina!" whispered Mikki excitedly as she gently pushed Rina forward. As Rina moved ahead thus, she was greeted with more familiar faces. Rina could see all her friends on the screen of her father's laptop. They had joined the celebrations through video calls. As they sang the birthday song for her in unison, her father hugged her saying, "Forgive me, beta. You had to be dragged all the way to an unknown country because of my job, especially on your birthday. I know I wasn't always around, but today, I wanted to do my best and this is what I could come up with. I hope you are happy with everything." The sincerity in her father's voice made Rina tear up. She burrowed her face in his chest in order to hide her tears and just shook her head. Her actions conveyed what words never could. Everything was perfect, and her smile outmatched the brilliance of the festival of Belarus. 🇧🇪

So, what did you learn today?
Word: Uncanny
Meaning: Strange or mysterious



Coconut snowman

Sapphire Almeida, AIS Noida, II F

Ingredients

- Desiccated coconut1 cup
- Milk1 cup
- Powdered sugar ¼ cup
- Cloves 2
- Black pepper2
- Gems candyto garnish

Procedure

- In a large bowl, add desiccated coconut and powdered sugar. Mix well.
- Now, pour some milk into this mixture and keep stirring to give it a thick paste-like consistency.
- Once done, use your hands to scoop out the coconut paste and ball them into sphere-like shapes. Make three such spherical balls and then place them one over the other.
- Now, use two clove pieces to make the hands of the snowman, and peppercorn to make the eyes.
- Finally, decorate the snowman with candies as per your wish.
- Your coconut snowman is ready!

Take A Look At Creative DIYs By Amities To Celebrate The Occasion



Clay Santa



Akshaj Sharma, AIS Noida, II F

Material required

- Small plastic bottle- 1
- Acrylic colours
- Air dry clay
- Glue

Method

- Take a plastic bottle and cover it whole with clay with the help of glue. Keep it aside to dry.
- Now, take small portions of clay and mould them to make Santa's face, arms, feet, parts of costume such as the belt, the gift bag, and the cap, etc.
- Sculpt the face and detail it further with eyebrows, mustache, beard, etc., using even tinier portions of clay.
- Once done, stick all the parts on the bottle at their respective places (as shown in the picture).
- Now, keep the whole structure aside for at least 24 hours for the clay to firm its hold and dry properly.
- Post that, paint the costume red; and the eyes, eyebrows, moustache, beard and cuffs of Santa white. Complete the look by painting the eyeballs and the belt black.
- Your clay Santa is ready!



Christmas tree

Vaanya Tyagi
AIS Vasundhara 6, III C



Material required

- Ivory sheets- 2
- Scissors
- Green chart paper- 1
- Miniature Christmas decorations
- Fevicol

Method

- Take an ivory sheet and make a large cone out of it.
- Take another sheet to prepare a base for the cone and paste it.
- Now, take a green chart paper and cut numerous 5x5 cm strips.
- Then take the strips, and while leaving a gap of about 1 cm in between, vertically cut it in order to make frills.
- Paste these frills on the cone, from the top to its very base.
- Lastly, decorate the cone with thermocol shimmery balls, Santa figures, sticks and gifts.
- Your simple yet fancy Christmas tree is ready!



Snowman

Yashvi Jain, AIS Noida, III

Material required

- Yarn
- Balloons- 2
- Tape
- Scrapbook paper (black)
- Glitter paper (red)
- Hot glue gun
- Glue
- Ribbon
- Red cloth

Method

- Blow up one large balloon and a smaller one. Use tape to secure the two together.
- Now pour glue & water and make a thin paste.
- Dip the yarn into this mixture and wrap it around the balloons.
- Once they are dry, use a pin to carefully pop and remove the balloons from inside the yarn circles.
- Cut out eyes and mouth of the snowman from black scrapbook paper, and stick them (refer to the picture).
- Use clay for the nose of the snowman, and stick it as shown.
- Now cut out two circles, one larger than the other, and one rectangle from the black scrapbook paper.
- Roll the rectangle horizontally to form a hollow tube-like structure. Secure it using glue.
- Stick the larger black circle at the bottom of this tube and the smaller one at its top to form a hat (refer to the picture).
- Now, wrap a red ribbon around this hat, and attach it to the snowman using glue.
- Using red glitter sheet and black scrapbook paper, form three designer buttons for the snowman and attach them with the help of glue, on the larger balloon.
- Finally, wrap a red cloth around the snowman's neck joint.



Writing is an art and there's no better platform to exercise it than your own beloved GT! To unleash the writer in you, GT brings you a new topic every time and asks for your views on the same. Here are some intriguing responses from young writers at Amity for the prompt...

According to me, the most significant event among the countless breakthroughs that marked 2021 was El Salvador adopting Bitcoin as an official currency. El Salvador became the first country to use cryptocurrency as its legal tender and made this move in order to facilitate remittance payments from Salvadorians living abroad. Moreover, citizens will be able to make tax payments in Bitcoin, and inclined businesses will be able to accept transactions using the volatile digital currency. This decision has had a great impact worldwide as now many countries such as China, USA and the UK are also considering adopting digital currency. As the world immerses into the digital age, all countries have their eyes set on El Salvador to see if it is leading the way or tumbling down the rabbit hole!"

Devang Narula, AGS Gurugram, XI

"2021 has witnessed a chain of significant events, some of which have made a deep impression on the history of the modern world. The 2021 Taliban offense of Afghanistan and the fall of Kabul brought adverse implications for the people of the country. The humanitarian and political crisis has claimed lives of hundreds of citizens along with ruthless torture and tyrannical laws on females. While some were fortunate enough to escape from the country, many lost their silver lining when the final American troops were withdrawn in August 2021. Seeing all this, we can only hope and pray for better days for the citizens of the country in 2022."

Koyal Das, AIS Gurugram 43, X B

"The Tokyo Olympics was definitely one of the most sensational and memorable moments of the year. One Javelin throw changed the course of Indian history forever!

23-year-old Neeraj Chopra became India's first track-and-field Olympic gold medallist and the second Indian to win a gold medal in one of the world's most prestigious sporting competitions. Not only Neeraj Chopra but other athletes like Mirabai Chanu and Ravi Kumar Dahiya won silver medals for weightlifting. PV Sindhu, Lovlina Borgohain, Bajrang Punia and the men's hockey team made our country proud by getting Bronze medals. Their victory paved the way for a new generation of athletes to pursue sports as a career and lead to more medals in India's future."

Saara Mathur, AIS Noida, XI G

"2021 has been a roller-coaster ride for sure. One of them was when the gymnastics star, Simon Biles, decided to drop out of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, prioritising her mental health and wellbeing over what the world wanted her to do. I believe that it takes strength and resilience to take part in the Olympics, but it takes even more strength and fortitude to withdraw. Thus, by vocalising her mental problems in the face of the global media, she has not only shattered the lingering stigma around mental health issues, but has highlighted this ignored issue."

Mariam Fatma, AIS VKC Lko, X B

"2021 brought an unparalleled re-boost in the economy, proving it to be an exceptional event of the year. In 2021, the global economy recovered and bounced back with a growth of 6%, being the swiftest in the past 50 years, and had the most vigorous post-recession recovery in the past 80 years! At the same time, growth projections in advanced economies, unprecedentedly accelerated, at the rate of 5.2%, as well as by 6.2% in universal emerging markets and developing economies. The GDP of many nations has also rebounded from the 2020 contraction and increased significantly. Let's hope this rate of progress continues in 2022!"

Chavi Gautam, AIS Mayur Vihar, IX C

"In 2021, there were several political upheavals including the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. And when the US President Joe Biden faced criticism over his move to withdraw American troops from the war-torn country, he justified it by saying that history will record it as a "logical, rational and right decision". Not just the withdrawal but the move also ended up causing Taliban to seize power of Afghanistan just two weeks before the US was set to complete its troop withdrawal after a two-decade war. We saw on the news how the insurgents stormed across the country and captured all major cities in a matter of days."

Anay Chaturvedi, AIS Gwalior, IX A

With 2021 coming to an end, according to you which social / political / economic event has been the highlight of the year and why?

The prompt
BOX

"The European Union's Digital Covid certificate or "Green Pass", that came into effect on July 1 with an aim to facilitate hassle-free movement of vaccinated travellers amid virus restrictions, was definitely the highlight of the year. As of today, this pass is in use in 31 European countries (27 members of EU bloc and 4 non-members). Cross country travel had been put on a halt all over the world since the pandemic erupted last year, and it was time people got the chance to reconnect with their families and friends living on the other side of the world. For human touch is all that was needed after the long COVID-19 haul. Though the pandemic's still far from over, we can at least fight against it and weed it out with our loved ones next to us and on our side."

Alifa Zehra, AIS VYC Lko, IX A

"We all know that the enactment of the three agricultural laws in September 2020 made more than two lakh farmers, majorly from Punjab and Haryana, march from their homeland to the national capital under the 'Dilli Chalo' campaign, violating all possible guidelines of social distancing. And in 2021, to end the misery of the 'kisan bhai' of the country, the hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the farmer agitation, the Farm Laws Repeal Bill was cleared, it marked the 'Vijay Diwas' for all farmers across the country."

Sudiksha Sarcar, AIS Gurugram 46, XII H

"The impact of COVID-19 continued from the previous year into 2021. The world was shaken by the devastation and loss of lives. But there was some hope in the form of vaccines. India rolled out a vaccination drive on 16 January, 2021 and in less than a year, it became the world's largest vaccination drive. It was the combined efforts of scientists, engineers, administration, industry, health care personnel, volunteers and people's cooperation that made it possible. India has managed to fully vaccinate about 30% (29 crore) of the eligible population whereas 71 crore have received at least one dose. This strength through adversity is a true highlight. It reinforces our belief that together, we shall overcome."

Akshita Shrote, AIS Vasundhara 1, IX B

"The introduction of the three Farm Laws that were initiated by the Parliament of India in September 2020 were repealed after a year-long protest. The laws that were passed keeping in mind the interest of farmers faced severe resistance and led to massive protests in areas such as Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi, amidst the pandemic. The protestors have finally begun to return home, happy and content, as the government gave in to their demands. Some people think of this as an act of 'giving up' but I believe it is an act of prioritising. In conclusion, taking the three laws back was a very sensible decision that would help restore peace back in the agricultural sector."

Yashika Das, AIS Saket, IX D

"We have all seen the news of cataclysmic heat waves, floods, storms, landslides, forest fires, and what not, that have been brought due to climate change. Postponed due to the pandemic from 2020 to 2021, the COP26 saw many preemptive promises, pacts, and powerful political criticism over the talk of the town - climate change. While 2021 has been a year of several benchmarks in several fields, in my opinion, the 26th UN climate change conference at Glasgow was the highlight of the year. Actions speak more than words and I believe we have seen quite some attempts towards tackling the issue in this two-week-long conclave."

Charu Anuraj, AIS Vasundhara 6, X A

"1,33,88,12,577 - no, it is not a phone number. It is the total number of vaccination doses that have been given in India in the world's largest vaccination drive, and the number is still increasing as you read this. All through the last two years, the world has been fighting valiantly against COVID-19. India too has put its best foot forward in the fight against this virus. While it normally takes 8 to 12 years to make a vaccine, it was because of the strenuous efforts of the scientists that our country made this record-breaking innovation of creating two vaccines, Covaxin and Covishield, within a span of one year. This vaccination drive has successfully helped India to flatten the curve of deaths due to covid. Undoubtedly, it is the largest social highlight of the year or the decade."

Naina Kapoor, AIS Pushp Vihar, X A

"The 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the new Covid-19 variants were two things that gathered most of the attention in 2021. The Olympic games started from July 23 and immediately became the centre of interest worldwide, to the point that they were even talked about days after the event eventually came to an end on August 8. Indian track and field athlete, Neeraj Chopra's golden throw was definitely the highlight for me. On the contrary, much to our dismay, COVID-19 came up with a new Delta variant that peaked in India in April and May, confining us to the four walls of our homes yet again. And more recently, in November to be precise, another new Covid variant known as Omicron came into force. Though it hasn't really blown up yet, the situation is more than likely to be the same as earlier, if necessary precautions are not undertaken."

Mridul Maurya, AIS Jagdishpur, XI A

Around 1.6 billion Christmas cards are purchased by Americans every year.

All top quotes contributed by
Ridhaan Talwar, AIS Gur 46, V A



Christmas time!

An optimistic roar

Satyam Mehta's Journey From Making An App To Featuring In Forbes!



Rural Invest app on Google Play



A glimpse of several initiatives by Satyam

Satyam's feature in Forbes

Stuti Kalra, GT Network

Some children are rather gifted. Yes, gifted, for how else do you describe children who have prestigious titles like the Diana Award 2021 to their credit. Or students who find their name in fine print in Forbes, a leading business magazine. **Satyam Mehta**, a student of **Class XII, AIS Noida**, has both the laurels in his kitty. So, calling him gifted wouldn't be a stretch.

But identifying and nurturing this innate potential is a task in itself, one that Amity educators seem to have mastered over time. So, when Satyam made it to Forbes for his free-to-use app 'Rural Invest', Amity's holistic approach to education was attested for success once again.

It is not surprising that this talented young boy has been recognised for this out-of-the-box entrepreneurial initiative, given the app's unique function to help rural India understand the nuances of personal wealth management. He has utilised every opportunity pro-

vided by the school to hone and develop his academic and social expertise. His engagement in programmes like 'Youth Power', an initiative of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, and 'NYS Leaders League' has helped him develop his leadership skills and critical thinking required to be a changemaker. Besides, he has exhibited his entrepreneurial acumen previously with JunkGuards, an initiative to dispose e-waste safely, and with Pravahkriti, an effort in the area of menstrual health.

Every innovation, however, has a story of inspiration behind it. Satyam shares that the idea for 'Rural Invest' struck when he observed his brother's financial literacy initiative, 'High School Investors', for school students. He realised that a large part of rural India is still bereft of economic literacy, and technology could be leveraged to meet this need. Motivated by his grandfather's advice to "save like a pessimist and invest like an optimist", Satyam went ahead to design the app with the

aim to train the simple-minded village folk on how to save and then invest in mutual funds. With 400 registrations and over 1 crore INR in investment, the app has already garnered a lot of success. This is a huge feat given the challenges that Satyam had to face during the pandemic.

In fact, it is this spirit of wanting to bring about meaningful change in the world that has always inspired Satyam. JunkGuards was born when he decided to use all the knowledge that he had gathered during a social impact competition of NYS Leaders League, where he had represented his school and won the first prize as well. The idea was to motivate everyone towards adopting cleaner practices and this effort, too, met with great success. The app, in its very first foray, helped collect around 700 kg of electronic waste and got it disposed safely. Equally applaud-worthy is his involvement in 'Pravahkriti', a menstrual awareness initiative undertaken as a part of Youth Power program of his school. This experience, he be-

lieves, helped him hone his leadership and people management skills. He strongly feels that it also provided him the foundation to develop the ability for critical thinking and problem-solving, qualities necessary to become a socially-conscious entrepreneur. This zealous change-maker may love listening to hip hop or playing chess and golf in his free time, like other youngsters of his age, but what really sets him apart is that he has set his goals much above the expected. He plans to pursue environmental research, so that he can work towards sustainable development. And yet, humbly and grateful enough, he attributes all his achievements to his family and school, who, he feels, have instilled in him the attitude of gratitude and compassion right from childhood. Satyam a role model for youngsters, believes that, even a small effort, mixed with the right dose of patience and passion, can make a huge difference!



From GT to print!

From The Indefatigable Pen Of 'Just Another Girl'

Mrinal Verma, GT Network

"Writing has always been my primary coping mechanism. My emotions, struggles, successes, and all the backend clamours in my mind are carefully stored in my poems and prose, which makes them a very personal treasure," says **Stuti Kakkar**, an alumna of AIS Saket, who is currently pursuing BA (H) Economics at Lady Shri Ram College for Women, DU.

Her love for writing, that started with her being a GT writer and later the editor-in-chief of her school, has finally culminated in her publishing 'Just Another Girl: A Stranger in a Strange World' - a part of the personal treasure she has put out for the

world to read and review, and that we did!

What is the book about?

It is an anthology of twenty poems. From introspective tales and tragic blues written in moments of suffering, to satire on society and even cheerful compositions, the book takes you on an emotional rollercoaster. The poems have been written at various stages of my life and finally compiled in this book.

And what inspired you to finally publish it?

During the second wave of COVID-19, there was a lot of uncertainty around us and even more pain, so I started going through my old writings and I found a new comforting embrace in them. I shared some of my poems with my friends who found them to be "extremely relatable". That's when I thought how great it would be if I could make someone feel understood and heard through my writings.

The process sounds easy in retrospect, but was it really?

No, it wasn't. The biggest challenge was answering the question - "Will this piece add any value to my reader's experience?" My main aim was to ensure that I am able to explain the context of the poem well. It was a very long process of writing, editing, proofreading, getting feedback, and starting the whole process again! I know a lot of writers get frustrated at this stage because what you might think of as your 'best work' might just be extremely ordinary to someone else. But to accept constructive criticism and discover new ways to improve yourself is the true journey of writing a book. And your struggles don't just end with writing - you have to get them published. Finding the right publisher is also not an easy task, but thankfully I found Book-Leaf Publishing. Now my book, which has about 51 pages and costs around 150 INR, can be

found on multiple platforms, including Amazon, Apple iBooks, Barnes & Noble etc.

What is the key message you wanted to put out with the book?

The most important message or takeaway I hope readers get is that they are not alone. We always tend to ask - "What's wrong with me?", but I hope that when people read my book, they realise that they are not alone, that there are people out there who have faced similar issues and yet rebounded. And my book is not for any specific age group because poetry knows no age. The book can be read by anyone and everyone, and everyone will take away something unique from it.

How has your experience been so far in the literary world?

It has been great! I have been writing for a long time, and the support I have received keeps me going. My parents have also



GT Author's Desk

been very supportive, which encouraged me further. My mother has an inclination towards literature and my grandfather was also an English teacher, so my family has always been appreciative. Even my school principal Divya Bhatia ma'am and vice principal Alka ma'am, and other school teachers were so supportive. Not to miss the GT family who played a pivotal role in nurturing me as a writer, and I am very glad that I had them!

