

**INSIDE**



**Cli-tide change, P4**



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**AMITe poll**

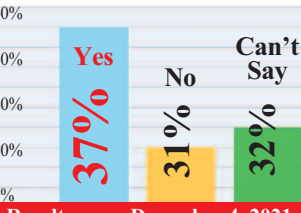
**Do you think global semi conductor chip shortage will impact India's automobile industry drastically?**

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

To vote, log on to  
 www.theglobaltimes.in

**POLL RESULT**  
 for GT issue November 29, 2021

**Do you think the soaring fuel price variations can be controlled if state-level taxes are regulated?**



Results as on December 4, 2021

**Coming Next**  
 Say Cheese!

# A 'pawing' leap

## A Look Into The Future Of Interaction Between Humans And Animals

Riya Kharyal, AGS Gurugram, XI

As suddenly as the pandemic hit, just as suddenly did humanity adapt its 'normal' to carry on living, proving that everything that can be done online, will be done online! So how could the world of animals and other creatures be left behind?! With many companies and countries switching to virtual zoos and circuses with various attractions, it does seem like the right step, but is it really?

**The animals are now on our screen...**

The world of tech and animals collided even before the pandemic struck, apt examples of it being Circus Roncalli and Justin Timberlake's 2018 NFL Super Bowl performance - both using holographic projections of animals to entertain the crowd. This opened a new door for discussion - do we need to see real animals to enjoy their beauty? Many circuses, zoos, and aquariums have since

eyed the concept, mainly because of the cost of maintenance of animals as well as concerns over animal cruelty. According to Handelsblatt, a single trip transporting animals safely in Germany could end up costing a circus crew up to 90,000 USD, burning too big a hole in their pocket. On top of it, extra care had to be taken as reports of horrifying animal cruelty were already damaging the reputations of circuses and claims of not enough care was turning public apprehensive towards zoos. Even organisations like the National Aquarium and Central Florida Zoo in USA were called out as the place meant to keep animals safe was instead training them to perform tricks on demand. It was the same complaints and lawsuits that caused famous companies like Ringling Bros and Barnum and Bailey to shut down after being active for around 146 years. In a world with more than 40 countries placing restrictions or bans on animal performances combined with a lockdown that restricted people's

movements to screens, virtual reality and its kin seem to be the sure-shot way of appeasing the agitated crowd.

**...but what about the ones in real life?**

Places like zoos, aquariums and circuses had various ill-fated scenes, but the pros could also not be ignored. In a world where animals were hunted and killed, and urbanisation placed biodiversity and wildlife under danger, places like these were the ones providing animals shelter and keeping them alive. Zoos and aquariums had long been homes of endangered species where they were not only protected and studied but also bred to increase their dying population. Even when WWF announced a 58% decline in the population of vertebrates between 1970-2012, it is because of the efforts of various zoos worldwide that species like the Arabian oryx, California condor, Corroboree frog, Bellinger river turtle, Golden lion tamarin, Regent honeyeater and many others made a comeback from the

trap of extinctions. Many researchers claim that doing away with physical zoos, having existed in history since 2500 BCE, will end up with terrible consequences. Research by Frontiers in Psychology proved that physical visitors of zoos and aquariums were more positively receptive about animals and their conversation than others, and that comes as good news seeing over 200 million people worldwide visited such places annually before the pandemic. According to Gusset and Dick, active zoos and aquariums spend at least 350 million USD worldwide on wildlife conversation, in addition to 160 million USD spent on field conservation and ecosystems. On a planet fighting not only a pandemic but also climate change, a new range of animals come forward as homeless every other day as a result of human actions.

Perhaps the solution to the question lies in a little bit of both, to set a balance. Instead of viewing technology as a replacement, the answer might lie in combining it with our conservative measures to make the earth an equal home for every single creature residing on it.



# We're here for the coach...

## ...Thangboi Singto, The Great Man Behind Training Young Football Players

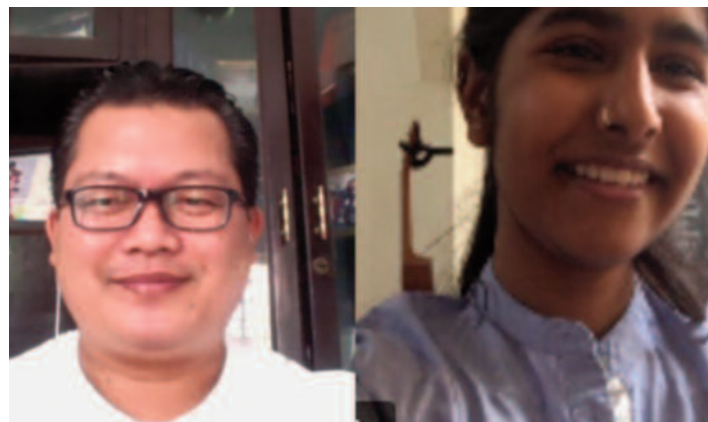
Anushka Ramesh

AIS Mayur Vihar, XII E

A notable figure in the field of football, Thangboi Singto has been coaching football players since 2009. Currently serving as technical director and assistant coach, Indian Super League (ISL) club Hyderabad FC, Thangboi began his career as an assistant coach with I-League club Shillong Lajong and has worked with English Premier League legends, Rene Meulenstein and David James. The 47-year-old holds a 'pro-license' from Asian Football Confederation and has had stints with North East United, Kerala Blasters, Odisha FC to name a few. In an exclusive interview, GT reporter interacts with him where he gives an insight into everything that revolves around the sport called football.

**When did you realise that you wanted to pursue a career in the field of football?**

I belong to Manipur where football is a popular sport. Moreover, my father played football and I used to



Thangboi Singto interacts with GT reporter, Anushka Ramesh

watch all his training sessions. Naturally, I picked up football in school and enjoyed playing the sport. Furthermore, I received support from my school which helped me reach this point, not just as a player, but also as a coach.

**You have coached a wide array of ISL teams. Is there anything that you found common between all these teams even though they are opposing each other on the field?**

The most common virtue I have found in every player who has been part of ISL team since 2014, is pro-

fessionalism and the desire to become better. At the beginning of ISL, Indian players got chance to train and learn from foreign players and their staff, whether it was in terms of technical abilities or physical training, diet or even mental health. So, I think that the main common factor between all the players would be their professionalism, their competitiveness and their desire to excel in whatever they do.

**What are the key differences you have noticed between young up-**

**coming players and senior experienced athletes while training them on the field?**

Senior professionals don't require much technical training because they are already gifted. What matters is how you manage them. In a field sport like football, tactics is very important. You need to learn the strengths and weaknesses of the opponent team and ways of countering them. So, with senior players, emphasis is on making them understand what I want on the field. On the other hand, youngsters need a little bit of moulding, a pat on the back, motivational talks along with more technical training on the field.

**What, according to you, is the most important virtue that should be reflected in every sportsman?**

I would stress the most on discipline and honesty. Without discipline, you will never reach your maximum potential. Factors like the number of hours you sleep, the food you eat, your calorie intake - all influence you as

a sportsperson. Also, sportspeople thrive only if they are honest with themselves and the team. For example, if a player has an injury and does not reveal this to the medical staff, just to play the game; it may lead to the team losing the match.

*Continued on page 5...*



Thangboi Singto



The Basilica de la Sagrada Familia in Spain, whose construction started in 1882, still remains unfinished with the deadline (2026) also pushed back because of the pandemic.



# India This Week

Aditi Jha, AIS Saket, XI F

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..



## Intelligent parcel delivery system launched in Pune

**News:** Infotech Post Office launched Pune's first 24x7 intelligent parcel delivery system, ANVIT, on Nov 29, 2021. Inaugurated by the Postmaster General of Pune region, G. Madhumita Das, this smart system, capable of storing 14 boxes of varying sizes for seven days, would enable receivers to collect their undelivered/missed packages sent via India Post at any time using a One Time Password. If successful, the system will be extended to other post offices in the state too.

**Views:** ANVIT will be amongst the first to modernise the anachronistic parcel delivery system of India. While it seems simple and convenient, it will be interesting to note how the working professionals, the targeted audience, adjust and react to it. Such technological advancements comprising smart storage and collection must be arranged in other parts of India as well.

Hridyanshu, AIS Saket, XI D



## Bill to repeal the farm laws passed

**News:** Having commenced from Nov 29, the winter session of the Parliament on its very first day gave clearance to the Farm Laws Repeal Bill 2021, retracting the 3 contentious farm laws passed in

2020. The move motioned without debate, came in as an upshot of the widespread protests that took place during the past year, and is deemed as the fastest repeal in recent times amidst protests by the opposition who demanded for a law on minimum support price for crops but were denied any sort of discussion on the same.

**Views:** Although the farm laws to all intents and purposes were meant to empower farmers through better market access and enlarging opportunities, the method of its ratification was not very propitious. Conversely, the opposition's demand for the legalisation of MSP will have its own shortcomings. Sugarcane mills' huge payment arrears to growers are proof of practical limitations of 'legal MSP'. A more feasible alternative would be deficiency payments to stabilise the income of producers in all regions as well as prevent unwanted grain stocks.

Bhuvi Pandey, AIS Saket, XI A

## New travel guidelines amidst mutated Omicron scare

**News:** To resist the spread of the heavily mutated Omicron COVID-19 variant, the Indian government has revised the guidelines for international arrivals. As per the new advisory, with effect from December 1, 2021, all international passengers coming from 'at-risk' countries are required to upload their 14-day travel history, along with a negative RT-PCR test report, on the Air Suvidha portal before their scheduled travel to India. They will be further needed to undergo post-arrival testing; if reports for the same turn out to be negative, they will have to follow a mandatory 7-day home quarantine.

**Views:** As a response to the apprehension regarding the unfamiliar omicron variant, the government has rightly and timely issued the new guidelines. As coronavirus cases are currently low, these guidelines will help reduce a possible surge. Be-



sides, the new variant is feared to be more contagious, and many experts believe it may affect the ability of the vaccines against Covid-19 itself. The WHO officials further warn of 'very high' global risk that can have severe consequences if precautions and guidelines are not adhered to.

Abhilasha Kuba, AIS Saket, XII E



## Largest Asian airport in Greater Noida

**News:** PM Modi, on Nov 25, laid the foundation stone of the 30,000 crores INR Noida International Airport in Jewar, UP; which once completed, will become the largest airport in Asia and the 4th largest in the world. Spread over more than 1300 acres and expected to launch operations by 2024, it is set to be completed in four phases with a capacity to handle 70 million passengers, 186 aircraft stands, and a multimodal cargo hub with over 1 million tonne capacity.

**Views:** Airports can perform a titular role in providing a rich and good first impression of the country to tourists and world leaders, especially for a developing country like India. Every single human who steps foot into this airport will witness the marvels India has to offer, and will also be a witness to India's rise towards becoming a superpower. Expected to become a key air cargo gateway to north India, Noida airport similarly would also play a crucial role in boosting industrial growth and investment substantially, in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Yashvardhan Jain, AIS Saket, XI E

# Around The WORLD

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



## BARBADOS

The world's newest republic

The Caribbean Island country became a completely free land after officially cutting ties with Queen Elizabeth II after 396 years, making them the world's newest republic. Dame Sandra Mason has been named as the first president of the country. Grammy-winning singer Rihanna has been declared a national hero for bringing global recognition for the country and the people.

## BELGIUM

300 billion EUR bid against China's debt

In order to do away with the Chinese debt-trap diplomacy, created with the Belt and Road initiative, the European Union has planned a 300 billion EUR global investment strategy. Described as a "true alternative", European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen wants it to be a trusted brand.



## GERMANY

Highest daily COVID death toll in nine months

With the toll reaching 446, Germany has reported the highest number of deaths due to COVID-19 in the last nine months. Hospitals have estimated the number of people in intensive care will be around 6,000 by Christmas. The Robert Koch Institute has also reported 67,186 new cases.



## FRANCE

Demand for energy bill to be VAT-free

James Murray, Labour shadow treasury minister, has made an appeal to the government of the country to cut VAT on energy bills to 0% to "help people through the tough winter months" and its "high prices". The call was made in front of the Commons and was supported by a lot of MPs as they debated on the Finance Bill, which enacts measures contained within the budget.



## MONACO

World Athletics Awards 2021

World Athletics have announced their awards for the year 2021 where they have named Norwegian Karsten Warholm as the Male Athlete of the Year for his record-breaking run in the 400m hurdles. Jamaica's Elaine Thompson-Herah was named Female Athlete of the Year. Other awards were also announced where Indian Anju Bobby George was crowned Woman of the Year.



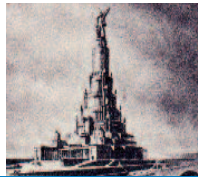
## RUSSIA

Putin warns against NATO

In a warning, President Vladimir Putin has stated that if NATO continues to expand and deploy its weapons near the country's border, Russia will seek Western guarantees. The demand comes amidst fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine. Antony Blinken, U.S. Secretary, has cautioned Washington to stand ready to impose heavy sanctions if such an invasion occurs.



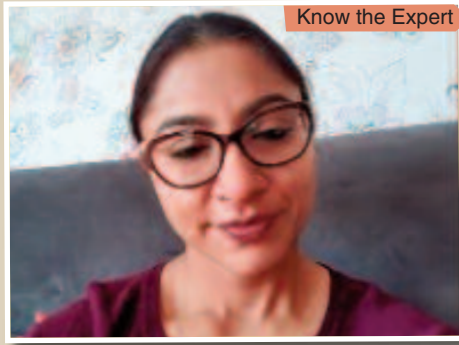




German invasion of the Palace of the Soviets in Russia in 1941 halted the construction of the palace forever as after World War II, Stalin lost interest in the palace.

# Of skin, nail and hair

Simply put, dermatologists are skin doctors who treat skin diseases or skin related conditions. Today, however, their role has morphed into something much bigger; catering to needs ranging from wrinkle free skin to deep scars arising from injuries. As a result, dermatology, today, has become a promising career option, with several specialisations one can rope in. Here are different niches of this booming field and all that it entails. *Pratul Gupta, X & Chhavi Chawla, XII, AIS Saket* bring to you what experts have to say.



Know the Expert

## Dr Priyanka Pal Mantri Dermatologist and aesthetic physician

With an experience spanning 15 years, Dr Priyanka Pal Mantri, runs her own private clinic, Skinfully Yours - Dermatology & Plastic Surgery Clinic, Gurugram. She is also a visiting consultant with several hospitals as Max Devki Devi Hospital, Saket and Columbia Asia Hospital, Gurugram

**The essentials:** In terms of educational qualifications, one needs an MBBS to become an aesthetic physician. Taking it forward, you must do post-graduation ie MD in dermatology where you can specialise in different sub fields. After MD, you put your learning into practice where you learn latest technological procedures such as the latest injection techniques, laser techniques, the protocols, etc. Therefore, you must attend workshops, conferences, fellowships etc and get hands-on certification courses offered by renowned pharma companies and organisations.

**The emolument:** In dermatology, your name spreads more by word of mouth because

of the kind of treatments you do and the results patients get. Word of mouth practice takes time to build. So, you don't start minting money in a couple of years; it takes time.

**The everyday:** As an aesthetic physician, it is a relatively easy and non-emergency practice. The working hours are quite comfortable like three to four hours in the morning and three to four hours in the evening. There are hardly any emergencies and if any, we're given a call when the screening has been done by the medical department.

**The exam:** The first challenge is that aesthetic physician is not a full time job in any of the hospitals. This leads to the

second challenge - 'competition' because most physicians in private hospitals are very senior who've been practicing for 20-25 years. As a beginner, you have to start building your own name, circulating your name among circles. You also have to start meeting the experts who can refer patients to you.

**The extent:** With the technological advancements, aesthetics as a field will grow more in future. You can undertake fellowships in specialised fields as micro needling, hair tattooing and carve your own niche. For instance, companies like Allergen conduct workshops and have programmes for specialized training.



Know the Expert

## Dr Raghav Mantri, associate director, aesthetic and reconstructive surgery, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket

With an interest in head, neck and breast reconstruction, Dr Raghav, has been performing plastic surgeries for the last 15 years. He is also a full time member with Association of Plastic Surgeons of India.

**The essentials:** You need to do MBBS followed by post-graduation in surgery and then super specialization in plastic surgery. It takes 10 to 12 years to get through all the exams and training to become a plastic surgeon- five and a half years for MBBS, three years for your post-graduation and then three more years for your MCh. After your general plastic surgery training, you can opt for fellowships in different fields.

**The emolument:** For remuneration, I can't tell you a figure because it is different for different places, cities etc. The starting pay is not high. You have to gain experience and become a more known name, which takes about 10 years at least and then, of course, you

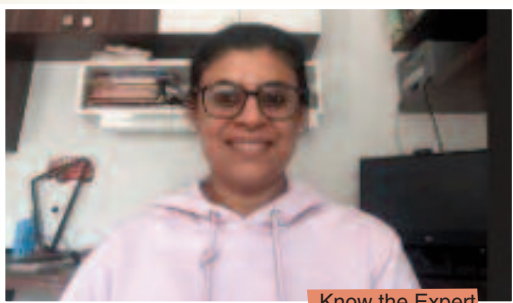
reach a level where it is high and very good.

**The everyday:** Initially, in the private sector there is no schedule because you are attached to many hospitals trying to make a name for yourself. That's how most surgeons start. However, as you build your name over the years, you get to make your own schedule. So, now I'm relatively free, unless I have some major emergency surgery.

**The exam:** Plastic surgery is a very demanding field, especially the cosmetic surgery part of it. However, reconstruction is most challenging because it's microvascular surgery. We transplant small muscles from

one part of the body to the other and the blood vessels which supply to these muscles are very small. To sew them is very challenging because it is 1/10th of the diameter of our hair. You can only see them under the magnification of a microscope. We also need to determine if these sewed vessels are perfusing blood or not.

**The extent:** Plastic surgeon is a riveting career option. When I started, it was in a very nascent stage, but it has really grown in the last 10-15 years. Better infrastructure is imminent. Patients are now more aware of plastic surgery being different from general surgery and they seek plastic surgeons for reconstructive procedures rather than general surgeons.



Know the Expert

## Dr Sushruta Kathuria, Dermatology Specialist, Safdarjung Hospital

An experienced dermatologist for 13 years, Dr Sushruta Kathuria has done her MBBS from Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC), New Delhi and MD from AIIMS, New Delhi.

**The essentials:** After giving your 10+2 exams, you need to enrol for MBBS. Once done, you apply for post-graduation (MD) where you select your field of interest. To gain more clinical experience, you can enrol for three years' senior residency programme. It's not a training course, but it's three years of working in the same field with more independence. Beyond that, there are short term courses if you want to make your name in a special specific field. These courses are optional though.

**The emolument:** Dermatology is an extremely lucrative field, especially if you are associated with private hospitals or if you have your own setup. It depends on the amount of investment you put in and the time you give; the returns can be very good. If you have your own setup for practicing cosmetic dermatology, then you can easily earn in lakhs per month.

**The everyday:** Since, I am a specialist in Safdarjung hospital, New Delhi and it's a government

hospital, my job is a nine to four job, but at the same time, we have patients who need extra care and we have to stay beyond the working hours at times. Sometimes, we need to come at night and check in case of an emergency call. In case of private practice, the working hours are flexible.

**The exam:** If you think of private practice, then the very first challenge is to set up a clinic and get footfall. Apart from this, you have to be a good listener, an expert and counselor, because in dermatology many diseases are chronic. You have to establish faith in the patient so that s/he comes back to you and moreover, listens to

you. Big hospitals do not take dermatologists on their panel very easily because dermatology is not a pure surgical discipline or a branch having many emergency cases. So, when you are out in private, you have to develop your practice on your own. Lastly, the lasers and other equipments are expensive and requires significant investment.

**The extent:** It is a great career field with many different opportunities. Like I said earlier, if you want to focus on the medical part, you can do that. If you want to do surgeries, you can do that. You can also specialise in dermatopathology, where you do skin biopsy and diagnose the condition.





After the Black Death of 1348, the work on Siena Cathedral in Italy was abandoned as the event reduced Siena's population to only 30,000.



# Cli-tide change

## The Deafening Calm Of Ignorance Before The Storm Of Horrid Consequences

Avni Munjal, AIS Gur 43, X D

For a long time, research has indicated that climate change is, as reported, an issue of paramount importance. From melting glaciers to the ozone layer depletion, the world has been facing several ramifications of the climate emergency. However, the threats that it now poses are even more harrowing and need to be addressed. Here's why...

### The trouble wobble

The natural cycle of the Moon's wobble, which takes 18.6 years to finish, will complete its cycle in the 2030s which will lead to catastrophic floods in the impending decade. As per the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, there were 600 floods from high tides in the US in 2019 which is anticipated to increase by huge numbers

in the 2030s. According to a study published in the Nature Climate magazine, the floods are projected to occur in clusters, lasting for a month or even longer. Besides, one cannot ignore the deadly floods that occurred in Western Germany, parts of Belgium and most of the Europe recently, which left the European scientists stupefied. Coming across such news, it strikes us that if some of the most developed, wealthiest, and technologically advanced countries don't seem to have any protection against such floods, what will happen to the remaining 152 developing countries of the world? This is not a new phenomenon, but when weaved with rising sea levels and climate change, it promises to aggravate coastal flooding across the world. According to NASA, during the first half of the cycle, the Earth's regular tides are suppressed. During the second half, the tides are amplified. The Moon is currently in the amplification half of its cycle, already causing escalated flooding along many coasts, a result of high sea levels caused by climate change.

### The hidden waters

The Antarctic ice sheet, which seems quiet and stable from above, is gradually losing its establishment and is imploding under its own load as global warming and environmental change are raising temperatures on the poles. The melting of water has made a few lakes under the ice (NASA discovered hidden lake systems under the West Antarctic glaciers), which has framed an arrangement of streams draining into the sea. This water from the ice sheet can possibly affect the dissemination of the Southern Ocean and its marine environments. Besides, the melt can significantly impact sea levels by about 0.74 millimeters per year, which will cause it to rise unchecked.

### Other fishes in the sea

Long dormant microorganisms and infections, caught in ice and permafrost for quite some time, are resuscitating as Earth's environment warms. From the bubonic plague to

the brand new Covid-19, humans have found ways to resist their infections, while they have been finding new ways to attack us. But what if the thawing of snow and permafrost on the poles exposes microbes we have never seen before or are over 1000 years old? Frozen permafrost soil is the ideal spot for microorganisms to stay alive for extremely significant stretches of time, maybe up to 1,000,000 years. This implies that softening of ice might open the Pandora's box of diseases. Scientists discovered fragments of RNA from the 1918 Spanish flu virus in corpses buried in mass graves in Alaska's tundra. Smallpox and the bubonic plague-ridden corpses are also likely buried in Siberia, which are being uncovered due to the melting of snowscapes. Horrible viruses might be the most probable guilty party for any such viral outbreak.

### Between the devil and the deep blue sea

One contention is that danger from permafrost microorganisms is innately mysterious, so they ought not to concern us. Given the circumstances, we should zero in on more settled dangers from environmental change. For example, as the Earth warms, northern nations will turn out to be more powerless to episodes of "southern" sicknesses like malaria, cholera, and dengue fever, as these microbes flourish in hotter temperatures. Thereby, increasing the number of cases of such infectious diseases. The elective viewpoint, however, is that we ought not to overlook such hazards just because we can't evaluate them. We should turn our focus on what we can control and prepare contingencies for every scenario possible, for there is a war coming. We need to be alert and buckle up as we cannot afford to lose.



# All-rounder avocado



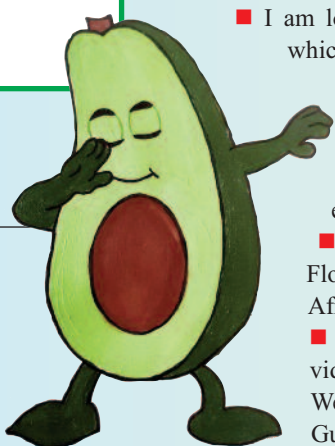
Fruits and vegetables make up the largest chunk of our nutrition. However, their role is not just limited to a wholesome diet. Their significance permeates across economy, environment, health and social impact, proving how they are, in fact, essential commodities to attain a sustainable world. Keeping the same in mind, the United Nations has designated 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables to make us cognizant 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.

Manishka Goyal,  
AIS Noida, VIII M &  
Ananya Mittal, AIS Vas 6, X D

Hey! My name is: Avocado  
I am also known as: Persea Americana

### About me

I belong from the Lauraceae fam-



ily and am a bright green fruit with leathery skin and large pits.

- My name 'Avocado' came from the Spanish word 'aguacate'.
- I surely have royal roots as I was first used as a tribute from townsfolk to local royalty in Mesoamerica, around 7,000 years ago.
- In need of fiber, get hold of me as I contain 7 grams of fiber which accounts for 27% of fiber the body needs per day.
- The National Cancer Institute found that eating even half of me will provide 19 mg of glutathione which functions as a great source to help work immune system normally.
- I am also known as alligator pears or butter fruit in some areas.
- As a fruit, I am climacteric, which means I won't ripen as long as I am attached to the tree.
- I am honoured as humans celebrate July 31 as 'National Avocado Day'.
- My size varies from no larger than a hen's egg to weighing 1-2 kg.
  - I am low in sugar and contain fiber which makes you feel fuller and is full of nutrients.

■ Mexico, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia and Columbia were my top producers in the year 2011.

■ I was grown commercially in Florida, California, Hawaii, South Africa, Brazil, Israel and Australia.

■ My variety in Mexico is divided into Mexican (drymifolia), West Indian (americana) and Guatemalan (guatemalensis).

### What I offer

About 100 grams of me can give you:

- Calories: 160
- Dietary fibre: 6.7 grams
- Carbs: 0.66 grams
- Vitamin C: 2.07 mg
- Fat: 0.1 grams
- Folate: 81 mcg
- Vitamin B6: 0.257 mg
- Potassium: 485 mg
- Vitamin E: 2.07 mg

### My different avatars

- Choquette (Smooth, glossy skin with watery flesh)
- Lula (Contains more water than others, has natural oils)
- Hass (Buttery, nutty flavour, bold green in colour turns purplish black with time)
- Reed (lighter, subtle flavour, green in colour, sized like a softball)
- Sharwil (Rough, green skin with yellow flesh, oily and bold flavour)
- Zutano (Yellow-green skin with a mild and buttery taste)

### I can help you with

- Improves skin and eye health
- Helps deal with arthritis and osteoporosis
- Helps in weight loss
- Improves digestion
- Prevents developing cervical cancer
- Helps regulate blood pressure
- Helps deal with bad breath
- Reduces risk of heart disease

### Where can you find me

I possibly originated in the Tehuacan Valley in the state of Puebla, Mexico. I was first domesticated in tropical America where I was cultivated as an individual seedling tree before the Spanish conquest. I did not receive much recognition till the 1900. It was later when the horticulturists found that my production was simple and thus orchards were established. Under suitable climates, I started growing in different parts of the world.

My top exporter is Mexico with total production area of around 415,520 acres, which produces 1.52 million metric tonne every year. Dominican Republic is my second largest producer in the world which produces 420,000 metric tonne annually. I am also produced in bulk in Peru, Indonesia and Colombia.

### Why I fear climate change

The production of subtropical fruits like me has become highly vulnerable to climate change. In order for my tree to flourish and grow, I need a stable temperature between -2 degree Celsius and 38 degrees Celsius. In freezing weather, my foliage which is necessary to protect myself from the sun's rays gets damaged. One Californian farm lost one in every 20 pieces of me due to the irregularities of the season. Even when the temperature is high with scorching heat, I get burnt up and become useless. Moreover, my production needs lot of water which results in usage of water resources which also is hindered by the climate change. If measures are not taken it would lead to serious ramifications for my yield.







The National Monument of Scotland, meant to be a memorial for martyrs of the Napoleonic Wars, was left unfinished in 1829 due to insufficient funds.

# Mapping music fans

## In Which Category Do You Fall ?

Riddhi Rastogi  
AIS Gurugram 43, XII D

Everyone responds to music in their own unique way. Some consider it as therapy for a tired mind. For others, it's an ice-breaker during awkward conversations. Most importantly, music allows one to feel all the emotions that exist in our lives. At the same time, there are those for whom music is not just a passion or pastime. It's their very identity and they can go to any length to protect it! Introducing you to...

**The K-Pop fans:** These fans are so religious about their K-pop Gods, that saying one has never heard them or doesn't like them triggers a thirty minutes session about what's wrong with your life choices. This is then followed by another fifteen minutes of YouTube to change your minds. After these two sessions, even if you don't like K-pop any bet-

ter, you'll still have to submit to the K-pop cause. Else, you should be ready for more such head-banging sermons.

**The One-Directioners:** The English-Irish pop-boy band, which went on a hiatus in January 2016, is a rage with the teenage crowd that stays up till 2 a.m. to listen to 1-D numbers. At other times, they will be spotted praying for the band's much awaited comeback. 1-D has two kinds of fan following – the first is made up of those who accept willingly that they are die-hard supporters of the band. The second group will not admit to this openly to avoid embarrassment but will definitely listen to these numbers when no one's in earshot. And why not, these songs do take us back to our happy childhood days.

**The Bollywood brats:** Quite a few people listen only to Hindi film songs and absolutely love them. Understandably so, as Bollywood has all kinds of songs, for every occasion and every mood. Whether these are romantic numbers sung by Arjit Singh and Atif Aslam or party songs that Mika and Honey Singh have popularised

at every celebration, Bollywood music lovers are truly spoilt for choice. So much so that if anyone is found criticising this music as sub-standard, these fans have the perfect retort, "We don't find you dancing and partying along with 'Western classics' at Diwali and Holi parties, do we?"

**The Classics fans:** These are songs that you want to listen to when it's raining outside and you are all by yourself enjoying hot pakoras and a steaming cup of tea. Left to themselves, fans of the classics can spend hours on their own listening to and humming along with these timeless songs. On the other hand, during family gatherings, they are experts at choosing the best songs ever from a range of genres, singers and timelines. Such music listeners, and in this case, also keen music players will keep a tab on your reaction to their choice of songs and then eagerly wait for you to complement their DJ services and musical taste!

So, if you now spot such fans amongst your friends, be sure to applaud them for their choice. Even better, enjoy the music while it lasts!

# Let's talk, shall we?

## The Very Thought Of This Phrase Gives You Jitters

Sucheer Menon  
AGS Gurugram, X

"I want to talk to you," rings in your ear, chilling your spine to the core. But I am sure you are aware of the aftermath these words carry, the gravity this sentence holds, and the panic that ensues. Hearing these words makes us remember every single moment of the life we have lived and regretting it altogether in a span of 2 seconds.

"I want to talk to you," says the teacher...

...and you can suddenly hear your heart-beat. What did I do now? Does the teacher want to tell me I failed my test? Did I make a horrible mistake in my assignment and now she is calling me to the front of the class to use me as an example of 'what not to do'? Oh, God! Is she going to take me to the principal's office? Am I getting expelled? As these and a million more questions and worries run through your head, you make your way to her desk only for her to discuss your younger brother's marks with you

and take the report to the parents.

"Yaar, sun," says the friend...

...and so you know that your friendship of 5 years is about to come to an end. They want to tell you that they have found someone better. They now have a new

best friend and they no longer want to invite you over for birthday parties and sleepovers. They probably always thought you were annoying and were only friends with you because they felt sorry for you. "Stop overthinking, you idiot!" screams

your friend, breaking you out of your reverie. Of course, they know you well enough to know you'd do that. That's one of the reasons why they hate you. "I just wanted to tell you that my mom finally gave me permission so I can come over to your house on Sunday!" Oh, phew! That was a close one.

"Beta, we need to talk," says the mother...

...and so all your plans of chilling with Netflix come crashing!

As your mother walks into the room with the most serious face you have ever seen, the room suddenly turns into Iceland even though the heater is on. Worrying about the vase you broke and hid when you were 10 or how you made your younger sibling cry when nobody else was home, the strict gaze of the parent is enough to make you confess. The carpet you stained, the low marks you once got...everything flashes before your eyes, and knowing these are the last moments you live on this planet, you only wish you had a minute to say goodbye to your friends. All this only for your mom to whisper "We couldn't get you that PS5 you wanted for your birthday, we're sorry!"



# A Screamer!

continued from page 1

**How do you inculcate confidence amongst players following a defeat?**

You might be the best player in the world but that does not mean that you will never lose. But the coach will know that you gave your 100% and will applaud that. After a loss, it's better not to talk to the players straightaway. We should let them grieve on their own first by giving them some space. There should also be a personal connection between the coach and players because personal attachment helps the coach to keep the team together and train them better the next day.

**Do you think in India, football is taken as seriously as cricket even now?**

In terms of viewership, football isn't much behind cricket. In fact, when ISL started streaming the matches on television in several languages, the viewership skyrocketed. When I was working for Kerala Blasters, I would notice thousands of people in the stadium wearing yellow colour and calling themselves 'The Manjappadas'. But, in terms of selecting it as a career option, football is not something parents still encourage their kids to get into. They need to be made aware that football player in ISL can earn in the range of 40 lakh to a crore annually, just like high-paying corporate jobs. I am glad that now we have All India Football Federation in Delhi, it will

**You might be the best player in the world but that does not mean that you will never lose. But the coach will know that you gave your 100% and will applaud that.**

allow children to play football and reach professional levels. Also, with the help and support of Asian Football Confederation and FIFA, India has grown in the field of football. We are not high up in the global rankings yet, but we are making our way steadily.

**What would be your advice to the people who want to pursue a career in football?**

Get in touch with a good coach or a good academy. If you have a good coach, half your battle is won. But do your background checks properly. You might be going to a luxury academy but if the training is not up to the mark, your progress will slow down. Also, the game is about your own passion. You have to be very inquisitive and seize every initiative; you have to read, learn and ask in order to grow.





## Spirit of enterprise



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

"Amitians make it to the top 100 at Tinkerpreneur 2021." My happiness knew no bounds as I heard this news. It indeed is a matter of immense pride for all of us at Amity that from a whooping 9000 students from across the country, 16

Amitians proved their mettle in this prestigious competition.

Organised by Atal Innovation Mission, Tinkerpreneur 2021 was a 9 week long boot camp that saw students come up with their own digital ventures, exhibiting their entrepreneurial skills. While three Amitians made it to the 'Top 100 innovators and entrepreneurs', thirteen others were chosen in the 'Most Consistent' category. These students were able to impress industry stalwarts with their unique projects that ranged from innovative ideas for water resource management to online markets.

What excites me is that in making these projects, these bright minds were able to implement all the right principles of marketing, branding and selling. The reason for their success also lies in the fact that they understand that for an idea to work, it should benefit everyone. After all, entrepreneurship is not just about selling products and making profit, it must also exhibit character and compassion needed to create a better future. Their projects aimed at bringing about lasting changes in the society for the betterment of one and all, exhibited the spirit of entrepreneurship in its truest sense.

Our students prove on a regular basis, through such triumphs, that enterprise is about both individual originality and a sound education. I am glad that we, at Amity, have been able to provide this foundation. [G](#) [T](#)

## Indian ideals



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

What a heart-warming start to the cold month of December, as we hear about Parag Agrawal being made the CEO of Twitter! With Agrawal's elevation to this top post, over half a dozen global tech companies are now being headed by Indian-Americans! From

Google's Sundar Pichai to Microsoft's Satya Nadella, Adobe's Shantanu Narayen to IBM's Arvind Krishna, Indians are spearheading global roles in some of the biggest conglomerates across the world - a matter of pride for all of us.

These success stories are proof that India is truly an intellectual superpower. These high achievers are a testimony to the fact that, despite its varied socio-economic limitations, India has the capacity to produce people with excellent academic and emotional capabilities. When we delve deeper we realise that the journey of these stalwarts has always been about promoting progress for all, encouraging a culture of fairness and treating everyone equally without prejudice.

Agrawal's senior colleague has vouched for the fact that he is a leader who listens to his heart as well while taking important decisions. And then, who hasn't heard the story that American Vice President Kamla Harris - also of Indian descent - once narrated about her childhood? She has shared that her best memory is walking down the beach hand-in-hand with her Indian grandfather. She has also mentioned how she learnt about being fair and true to her ideals because of the passion with which her Indian family would speak about the importance of democracy. Indeed, we should all be proud that we belong to India, a land that never ceases to surprise, incite, amaze and inspire! [G](#) [T](#)

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Published for the period December 6- 12, 2021

# The pink business

## The Story Behind What Being A Woman Can Cost You For Life!

Aditi Jha, AIS Saket, XI F

**Y**ou're alarmed as sirens ring through aisle ten of the department store and a woman's voice booms out of the speaker "Do not pick the pink one!". Being a woman has never been all fun and games, because the history of this sex is soused in discrimination and struggles. And just when you try to wrap your head around the price you have to pay for being a woman, it turns out there are even more hidden charges and being a woman is a lot more expensive, literally!

In 2015, the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs released a report for price disparities for 794 comparable products from 91 brands sold throughout the city. The study revealed that women faced an average price difference of 13 percent for personal care products among the 122 products compared in the study. The products sold were all the same - helmet to protect your head, hotel kits with essential items etc., and yet everything in the colour pink (marketed towards women) was a different price. The same product with the same quality and features cost more just because it is coloured in pink or, to say, in a 'girlish' colour. But this 'pink' tax has been around for ages and was (and still is) considered normal. In fact, the first time this issue was even talked widely about in India was in 2018 when protests led to the Indian government scrapping the goods and services tax on sanitary pads and female hygiene products. Before this, there was a 12 percent tax on sanitary pads which were labelled as 'luxury'



items. No wonder the world and the parliament direly need female representation. And the sad part is that the National Family Health Survey 2015-2016 estimates that of the 336 million menstruating women in India only 121 million women, which is roughly 36%, have access to these 'luxurious' sanitary napkins.

But it doesn't come to anyone as a surprise that this gender-based pricing is just another way of discrimination. Women are asked to pay a higher amount just for the pink colour, something that has always been stereotypically attached to us. Industries also try their best to cash in on these stereotypes by marketing products to women in specific ways like pink packaging and typical feminine de-

signs and decorations. And of course, let's not forget the ultimate 'For women' label that shoos away any thoughts of gender neutrality. When we think of it in retrospect, it makes no sense to put gender labels on a lot of items like soaps, creams, clothes etc., because they are to be used by all. But society has built itself in such a way that women must always pay more for everything, and of course, everything that is made 'for women' is not fit for any man to use. So, what are we to do? Are women just supposed to be exploited by this pink tax even after knowing the harsh reality? Of course not! As a society, we today stand with a dire need to bring about more legislative changes, and laws to safeguard people against

gender-based pricing. On a personal level, there is much to be done. Consumer awareness is a quintessential part of the process. One must compare product details and only buy the pink or the women's version if you find it significantly different and better from the generic version. Companies with gender-neutral pricing must be promoted and consumers must only pay for services and goods that can justify the additional cost for the women's version. Moreover, until the government and industries decide to put an end to this unfair practice of gender-based pricing, avoid the colour pink like you avoid people during a pandemic, well at least like you ought to. Thus, prevent the spread of such unjust practices. [G](#) [T](#)

## Disability in ability

### Consideration And Inconsideration Towards PWDs

Shyla Basu, AIS PV, XII

**"A**dvait, I had a horrible day today! I tried to play the good samaritan, yet ended up being terribly misunderstood. Walking to work, I noticed a blind man looking around. I felt sorry for him and steered him across the road. On reaching the other side, I was surprised to see him scowling and exclaiming, "Why would you do that? I was just waiting for my daughter!"

"Heading back home, I happened to come across a man with an artificial limb. Craving redemption, I shifted to make space for him. As I tried consoling him saying, 'I am sorry that happened to you', he glowered at me and went far away to sit somewhere else."

"Now, you have Cerebral Palsy, would you also react like them if I were to be nice to you?" "How are you so sure you were being kind?" probes Advait. Saday looked at him, perplexed.

Roughly around 2.68 crore people in India have one or the other kind of disability, which is a fact known to all. Howbeit, do those "disabled" prefer to be treated as a lesser person due to their disability? We know not! Whether out of genuine concern or otherwise, this assumption is domineering and ableist, to put it mildly. Not only does it erroneously portray disability as something



negative, but it also compels those disabled to be ashamed of their situation in life, to feel less valuable and unwanted. When the world-renowned physicist Stephen Hawking died in 2018, the world framed his disability as a crippling affliction. "The man who gave a mass-market appeal to science despite his debilitating illness", read some of the news headlines; "the man's now relieved of his physical constraints", tweeted some of his contemporaries. Used with such abandon when talking about disability, terms like "despite" or "relieved of" have deep roots in systemic ableism, and end up misconstruing people like Hawking as "brave" men who rose to heights despite being "weak". Paralympic athletes, for that

matter, are seen in the same light. For society has a highly polarised view of disability, the misconception that it either begets "superhumans" or "scroungers"; those like Hawking who can successfully overcome their disability or others who are weak, so cannot. This narrative is like repudiating the disabled for who they really are; as if the disability isn't a part of their being but a baggage they need to get rid of in order to live a normal life, where in fact, it is the society, the non-disabled lot that needs to cast aside its inaccessibility. For it isn't the disabled who stare at their own limbs, or who decide what they can do or can't, it is the world around them. So, don't try and fix them to fit them, fix the world to include them!



Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the page 5 article 'Gifts of lockdown' published in the GT edition dated November 29, 2021. This article talks about the new normal version humans have been warming up to. The article sends us back to the first time we heard about the virus and how we reacted to it. We entered into an untold hour and have been stuck in it ever since. But life has to go on sooner or later! Peeping through the window of buoyant rays, every generation locked in their house became tech-savvy. This break gave us an insight into life, relations, self-care, and most importantly, our mental health! During this time, the remote work turning mainstream set an example for all of us to start working on our dreams irrespective of the hustle. Each one of us got a lifelong gift from this hour! Now, all we can do is keep on working and until we bid COVID-19 a goodbye, let's keep sanitising! [G](#) [T](#)

Radhika Kapoor, AIS Vas 6, Alumni





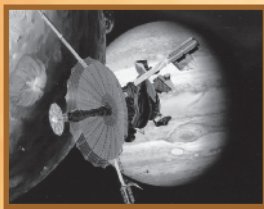
Ryugyong Hotel in North Korea is the tallest unoccupied building in the world, whose construction was halted in 1992 because of economic crisis and dissolution of the Soviet Union.

# HISTORY *this* WEEK

**W**eeks, years, decades, centuries... as time goes by day by day, the world keeps progressing into a newer direction. But as our eyes always stay glued to the telescope, trying to get a glimpse of the shining future we work so hard to create, it is important to take a break and appreciate how far we have come. Let us look back at the pages of history falling between December 6-12 that played their role in shaping our society...

## The world of technology

Galileo, a space probe named after the celebrated Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei, arrived at Jupiter, and became the first spacecraft to orbit around Jupiter. It was launched with a mission to examine the gas giant and its enigmatic satellites. During its 8-year voyage, it kept sending data and evidence about Jupiter and its moons till 2003, when it entered the planet's atmosphere and was burnt. Its primary mission was a tour that consisted of 11 orbits of Jupiter and even included encounters with Ganymede, Europa and Callisto.



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DEC  
07  
1995

DEC  
09  
1968

The computer society of Association for Computing Machinery/Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (ACM/IEEE) organised the Fall Joint Computer Conference where Douglas Engelbart presented "the mother of all demos". This nickname was given to a live demonstration which introduced a complete computer hardware and software system called the oN-Line System or NLS. The 90-minute presentation talked about different aspects of modern computing like windows, hypertext, graphics, processing, navigation, video conference, computer mouse, file linking, reverse control etc. The demonstration influenced both Apple and Microsoft for their future projects.



DEC  
12  
1901

On this day, Italian physicist Guglielmo Marconi sent the world's first wireless transmission over 2000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean from England to Canada. Until then, it was an impossible task to transmit radio waves beyond 200 miles, and because of this, he is credited with the creation of a practical radio wave-based wireless telegraph system. This invention of transatlantic transmission won him several adulations and awards, and even led to him being credited as the inventor of radio. He was also awarded the Nobel Prize in physics in 1909.



## The world of politics

DEC  
07  
1941

350 Japanese fighter planes attacked the United States' naval base at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, over the course of an hour, and pushed America to come out of its 'neutral' status and officially enter World War II. On the American side, 188 US aircrafts were destroyed, 2403 people were killed, and 1178 were wounded. The Japanese side paid the price of 29 aircrafts, 5 midget submarines, and 64 servicemen. This surprise attack led US to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki as an act of war on Japan.



DEC  
06  
1865

The 13th amendment of the USA's constitution was ratified to finally abolish slavery. The new clause, which was initially passed by Congress on January 13, 1865, stated that "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." The change for abolishing slavery was brought in by Lincoln after winning the civil war against the Confederacy.



DEC  
08  
1991

The leaders of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus signed the Belavezha Accords, which officially stated the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the announcement of the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent

States. The Accords proclaimed that "the USSR, as a subject of international law and a geopolitical reality, is ceasing its existence," but various former Soviet republics retained their close links with Russia and formed multilateral organisations. The Baltic states went the other way and became a part of the European Union and joined NATO.



## The world of United Nations

DEC  
10  
1948

The United Nations General Assembly held a meeting in Paris, France, to finally adopt the milestone document in the history of human rights - The Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The drafting of the same took nearly three years. The declaration outlines 30 rights and freedoms given to all human beings and is accepted across the world.



The United Nations General Assembly established the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with a mission to deliver emergency food and healthcare to children and mothers ravaged by World War II. Starting as a fundraiser, UNICEF focused mainly on child health. Spread across 190 countries, it is by far the world's farthest reaching humanitarian organisation, and aims to work for the welfare of underprivileged children by providing them with quality education, security, healthcare, upholding their rights and encouraging them to reach their maximum potential.

DEC  
11  
1946

## The world of science

DEC  
06  
1967

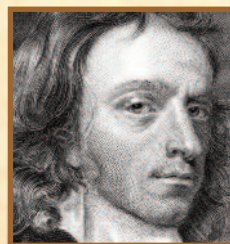
Adrian Kantrowitz and his team of surgeons performed the United States' first heart transplant and the world's first pediatric heart transplant at the Maimonides Medical Center. The donor was an infant who was an anencephalic baby, and the recipient infant was 19 days old who was suffering from tricuspid atresia and Ebstein's anomaly. The kid lived for 6 hours after the surgery but couldn't survive. Though it failed initially, this surgery has saved many lives since then.



## The world of celebrations

DEC  
09  
1608

The English poet and civil servant, John Milton, was born. He served his country under its Council of State and later under Oliver Cromwell, but was mostly known for his epic poem Paradise Lost which was first published in 1667 and is regarded as one of the greatest works of English literature. He was also known for Areopagitica which is said to be one of the world's most powerful defence of freedom of speech and press. He has also been tagged as one of the "greatest authors".



DEC  
10  
1830

The date marks the birthday of Emily Elizabeth Dickinson who was regarded as one of the most important figures in American poetry. During her lifetime, only 10 of her poems and one letter were ever published, and it was mainly after her death that her younger sister made her writings open to the public. Her poems dealt with themes of death, immortality, aesthetics, society, nature and spirituality. Her writing style was also considered unique from her peers as it comprised short lines, often used slant rhyme, unconventional capitalisation and punctuation.





Rashid Karamah International Exhibition Center in Lebanon sits with unfinished construction because of wars, geopolitical shifts, epidemics and the COVID-19 pandemic.



# The devil on the left

## Storywala



S. Mysha Urooj  
AIS Noida, XI H

For as long as I can remember, I have had the ability to see angels and demons on people's shoulders. When I was a kid, I used to think that they were dolls; a white doll and a black doll. People with a good heart and known for doing good deeds would have a brighter angel and a duller demon. On the other hand, people who had the tendency to hurt others and had malice in their hearts had a darker demon and a faded angel. I have seen them in all combi-

nations possible to mankind. But yesterday I saw something that I had never seen before. A girl named Jia, whom I was supposed to meet at the café for the first time, had no angel on her shoulders. Only a solid devil perched on her left shoulder. Dread filled my whole being when I realised what it meant. How terrible a person must be to not have an angel at all? I wanted to run away instantly but dug my heels in. This meeting was important and it was a one-time thing anyway. We sat down and ordered. As we started talking about work, to my surprise, I realised, she seemed like a nice per-

I was still confused as to why she did not have an angel. Was I losing my powers with time? I looked at her as she raised her hand in goodbye.

son; funny and kind. Our casual conversation was interrupted every now and then by my distracted gaze which fell upon the solid black figure on her left shoulder. Whenever she caught my eyes on her shoulders she looked back to see what was I looking at. Eventually, she gave up and asked "What's wrong?" I just shook my head with a smile. After an hour or so, we got up to leave.

I was still confused as to why she did not have an angel. Was I losing my powers with time? I looked at her as she raised her hand in goodbye. A deep scar ran along her wrist. As she noticed my eyes fall on it, she flushed and let her hand fall back at her side. I immediately felt guilty for unknowingly invading her personal space. I tried to reassure her through my smile. She immediately turned around and started walking, but I moved forward and stopped her.

She looked behind enquiringly and I said, "If you ever need to talk, maybe we could meet again?" "I don't need your pity." She replied with a hint of anger in her eyes. "No, but you could use a friend." I replied and the look in her eyes softened if only a minuscule bit. She nodded and left, leaving me to my own thoughts. I realised that I had got it all wrong. A brighter angel does not mean a better heart; neither does a darker devil imply a bad personality. Maybe the more demons a person has the more they need someone's help in life. Maybe angels and demons do not define our personality, rather our struggles. 🇮🇳



## Antique Table Lantern

Ayra Moin, AIS VKC Lucknow, XI

### Materials required

- Cardboard
- Glue gun
- Spatula
- Chart paper
- Scissors
- Paint brush
- Blue paint
- Metallic silver paint
- Plaster of Paris (POP)
- Water
- Bowl
- Decorative flowers



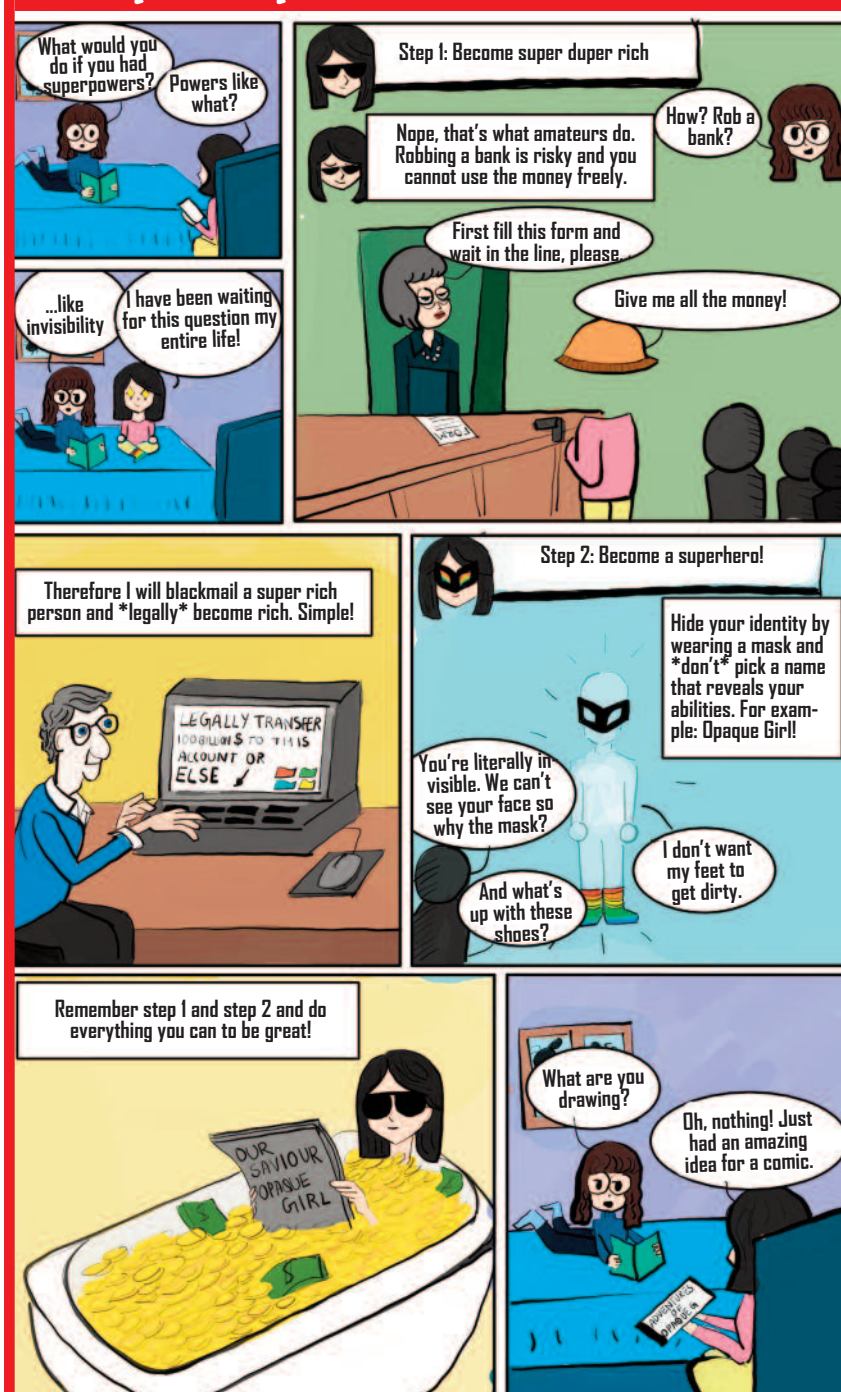
Ayra Moin

### Procedure

- Using scissors, cut out four rectangular shape cardboard pieces of dimension 6.5" length and 4" width.
- Now, cut out a rectangle in the center of each of these pieces so that their dimensions are 5.5" length and 3" width. For this, you will need to keep a space of 0.5 inches from each side of the piece.
- Stick the four pieces together along the edges using a glue gun so that the resultant piece is a hollow 3 D box.
- Cut a triangle from the cardboard with each side measuring 4 inches. Cut out three more triangles like these.
- Using a glue gun, paste one side of the triangle to one of the edges on top of the hollow box.
- Continue doing so with the other three triangles.
- As a result, all of the triangles will come together in the form of a pyramid. Refer to the picture shown.
- After this, cut out 8 pieces of cardboard strip of 4" length and 0.4" breadth.
- Stick the strips horizontally, leaving 2" gap from top and bottom. Repeat with all the sides.
- Now, take some Plaster of Paris in a bowl and mix water in it to make a thick paste. Apply the paste on the structure with the help of spatula or with a knife and make the outer surface uneven to give a nice rugged antique look. Keep the structure aside for 6 hours to dry.
- Paint the structure with acrylic paint of your choice and as the first coat dries, paint another layer with a metallic paint of your preference.
- Stick a decorative flower outside the lantern to jazz it up. You can place a fancy diya inside it and your classy antique lantern is ready!

## Superpowers!

Prisha Prasad  
AIS Gur 43, X B



## WORDS VERSE



Sanya Kalra, AIS PV, Alumna

Have you ever seen a painting  
They're strokes of colours so still  
They're forever too hard to fathom  
They're tragedies you'd want to live  
They're passion held captive  
They're stories with endings  
One stroke at a time, they get deeper  
On thin, frayed paper, you look closely  
They're the universe in its making 🇮🇳

## Winter is here!

Yashasvini Verma, AIS Noida, XI J

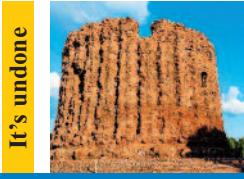
The air is cool, the sun is warm  
Breeze smells of a nearing storm  
Dark clouds have yet not gathered  
Young birds fly above haphazard

Withering leaves - orange and yellow  
Emulating flames of the fire mellow  
Ash rises and drifts into the night  
Silver moon shines large and bright

Vibrant festival lights on balconies  
Shining over close-knit families  
We warm palms over the cinder  
Monsoon gives way to the winter 🇮🇳







The Alai Minar in New Delhi, India, was left unfinished after the death of Sultan Ala-ud-Din Khalji in 1316 AD and the Delhi Sultanate being taken over by the Tughlaq dynasty.

# Another mother

Illustration: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network



## Short Story

Khanak Gupta, AIS Gurugram 46, VIII

Hina had always been a bright girl. She was hardworking, with an ambition to surpass her humble roots. She lived alone with her mother in an apartment complex. She and her mother were extremely close as they had no one else but each other. Her father had passed away in an accident when she was just a baby and ever since, her mother had been her sole caretaker. Nay, she was more than that; she was a mentor, a parent and a friend, all-in-one. Hina was also blessed with good friends and kind neighbours, people who were dependable. Among those close neighbours, Ms Mehta was a cut above the rest. She cared for Hina as if Hina was her own daughter. Since Ms Mehta was a widow with no children of her own, it was understandable why Hina was special to her. But everything changed when Hina's mother

went missing one day. Worried, Hina asked Ms Mehta to drive her to the police station to file a report. The police promised to do their best, but they couldn't let Hina live by herself as she was still a minor. She had no other living relatives, hence Ms Mehta volunteered to be her caretaker. Hina was relieved that she wouldn't be alone in this horrific ordeal. Ms Mehta, too, was very accommodating to Hina and her needs. Hina was incredibly grateful to her for being so kind and caring. But as the days went by, with the police being no closer to finding her mother, Hina grew increasingly frustrated. She feared the worst but Ms Mehta promised that she'd be there for Hina no matter what happens.

A week after her mother's disappearance, Hina overheard Ms Mehta talking to someone on her phone. "No matter what, it must not be found," Ms Mehta said coldly. Hina had never heard her sound so cold before and hence cu-

Hina snuck inside Ms Mehta's room and sought out her phone. She wanted to know what was Ms Mehta talking about and to whom.

iosity won her over. So, when she went to bathe, Hina snuck inside Ms Mehta's room and sought out her phone. She wanted to know what was Ms Mehta talking about and to whom. She rummaged through her phone and found the recently dialed number she was looking for, and attached to it was a message with an address. Hina ran out of the house in order to find whatever was hidden in that address, which led her to a small garage on the outskirts of the town. The garage was damp and dark, so Hina started to look for a light switch and the moment she found it she flicked it on. The bright light illuminating the room was too bright for Hina for a moment, but as soon as her eyes adjusted, she was greeted with a horrible sight. It was her mother, unconscious and tied to a chair. "Mom!" Hina yelled as she ran to her mother and immediately informed the police. She heard the garage door open behind her. There stood Ms Mehta with a crazy look on her face. "You weren't supposed to find this. You have been a bad girl just like your mother, I must punish you!" Ms Mehta cackled, her insanity evident in her tone. Just then, the police barged in, subsequently arresting Ms Mehta and freeing both Hina and her mother.

So, what did you learn today?

A new word: Rummage

Meaning: To search untidily through something



Khyati Jain

## Cheese dosa

Khyati Jain, AIS Vasundhara 6, III

### Ingredients

Regular rice.....	¾ cup
Black lentil .....	½ cup
Fenugreek seeds.....	¼ tsp
Cheese (grated) .....	¾ cup
Salt .....	to taste

### Procedure

#### For batter

- In a large bowl, add rice, fenugreek seeds and urad dal. Pour water and soak them for 4-5 hours.
- Once done, drain water from the bowl and grind the soaked ingredients in a mixer. Add water if needed and grind until the mix turns smooth; neither too thick nor too watery.
- Cover the paste with a plate and allow it to ferment overnight.
- Once the batter is fermented, you will see tiny air pockets in the batter. Add salt to this mix and whisk it well.

#### For dosa

- Heat a non-stick pan over low flame and grease it with oil.
- Now, pour a ladle full of batter in the pan and swirl it as thinly as possible while maintaining a spiral motion. Cook until the bottom turns light brown or golden.
- Then, flip the dosa and cook the other side for an equal amount of time.
- Sprinkle grated cheese all over the dosa and cook on low flame until the cheese melts.
- Now, fold a part of one side and overlap it on the other side of dosa.
- Your warm cheese dosa is ready! Serve it fresh with sambhar or coconut chutney.

## POEMS

### Peaks to pebbles

Dharaa Khare, AIS MV, VII A

He'll turn peaks to pebbles for you  
He'll help you in everything you do  
He'll help you with pain and sorrow  
Whether it comes today or tomorrow

To him you must be honest & true  
He'll turn peaks to pebbles for you  
Faith you must always have in him  
His light and shine will never be dim

Fear of anything he can subdue



He'll stand strong beside you  
He controls every bit of his creation  
His miracles leave you in admiration

### Wintertime

Aditi Thakur, AIS Gur 43, VIII

Oh! Magnificent wintertime  
You are truly mighty fine  
The whole year goes round  
Only then you come around  
Silver snow and golden sun  
You make everything fun  
Coats, jackets and thick socks  
It is time for them to rock  
Late morning, early nights  
That truly is a fun sight  
You give us, so much rest  
Which is why you're the best



## Riddle fiddle

Ansh Verma

AIS VYC Lko, IV A

1. I'm found in socks, scarves and mittens; and often in the paws of playful kittens. What am I?
2. What can fill a room but takes up no space?
3. I turn once, what is out will not get in. I turn again, what is in will not get out. What am I?
4. What has many keys but can't open a single lock?
5. I'm light as a feather, yet the strongest person can't hold me for five minutes. What am I?

Answers: 1. Yarn 2. Light 3. Breath  
A key 4. A piano 5. Your

## It's Me



### KNOW ME

My name: Vikrant Arya  
My Class: I  
My school: AIS VKC Lko  
Born on: February 15

### MY FAVOURITES

Teacher: Pratibha John ma'am  
Subjects: English and Environmental Science  
Friend: Saanvi Das  
Games: Hockey and Cricket  
Cartoon: Peppa Pig  
Food: Biryani  
Mall: Phoenix Palassio, Lucknow  
Book: What Do You Do with an Idea?

### MY DREAMS AND GOALS

Hobbies: Reading, playing with puzzles, and colouring  
I like: Playing cricket with my dad and talking to my parents  
I dislike: Wasting time  
My role model: My parents  
I want to become: A doctor, because they cure sick people  
I want to feature in GT because: I want to become famous.

## PAINTING CORNER

Dhruv Sharda  
AIS Vas 1, VIII





The construction for the Hassan Tower, Morocco, ceased in 1199, just four years after the start, due to the death of Sultan Yacub al-Mansour for whom it was intended.



*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...*

"The electric vehicle industry in India is picking pace with 100% FDI, new manufacturing hubs, and increased push to improve charging infrastructure. PM Modi's administration also unveiled a 1.4 billion USD plan to make India a manufacturing hub for EVs, cutting taxes to spur purchases and manufacturing hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. Soaring fuel prices have further led to prompt efforts to shift the nation's motor scooters, that consumes 70% of local gasoline, to electric models. Several plans also seem to be underway to build lithium-ion battery factories in India. So, we are moving in the right direction but as they say, Rome was not built in one day. So, the boom will happen, however, it will take time."

**Sara Maheshwari,**  
AIS Noida, XI M

"India's long-awaited transition to electric vehicles is finally gaining traction. And this increase in interest in electric vehicles is due to two primary factors: to combat air pollution, and to reduce the country's dependence on foreign crude oil. Tax cuts, subsidies on raw material imports are also contributing to this transformation. The recent incentives towards the increased supply of key components are allowing manufacturers to produce affordable EVs. With the 'Make in India' initiative, India has efficiently scaled up battery manufacturing and will soon become the world's leading battery manufacturing hub. So, these issues might look mountainous, but if we keep going at this pace, nobody can stop India from becoming an EV nation."

**Adya Mishra,** AIS VYC Lko, XII B

"I believe EVs are the future of automobiles. As we are aware, automobiles are a major contributor to the increasing pollution that suffocates the world. Electric vehicles, when introduced, will contribute significantly to reducing pollution by cutting down on the emission of harmful gases. Although, currently India faces many roadblocks towards the development of this industry such as building charging stations throughout the country, and lack of enough batteries for the production of vehicles. Though the government has taken many steps for promoting it and has even forecasted that by 2030, 30% of the cars and 75% of the two wheelers sold will be electric. Right now, the EV business in India might be at its initial stage, but this large untapped market holds great potential to grow and flourish in the coming years."

**Prakhar Agarwal,** AIS Gwalior, VI A

"Global automobile brands have been copiously juggling to find new and sustainable alternatives. The EV (Electric Vehicle) industry in such a situation comes as a beacon of hope. The future of electric vehicles seems promising in India if we take into account the launch of 'TATA Tiger EV's' and 'Mahindra e-Verito's' under the National e-mobility programme. The government has reduced GST on EVs to 5% from a whopping 28%, in addition to converting 30% of the public transport to EVs. If more of such efforts are made, there is no doubt that India can emerge as one of the greatest EV producers and export hubs in the world."

**Sudiksha Sarcar,** AIS Gurugram 46, XII H

"The Indian government has drafted EV policies and rolled out various demand and supply incentives as part of their efforts to encourage the adaptation of EVs across India. In my opinion, all these efforts would not go in vain. The stringent regulations being drafted by the Indian government in response to the rising levels of vehicular emissions, and the growing demand for environment-friendly vehicles are expected to drive the growth of the EV market over the forecasted period, even though there are a few initial drawbacks such as high costs. In addition, the consumer preference is shifting to electric vehicles. As the EV market grows, so will the number of charging hubs and lithium-ion batteries. Soon, battery-powered cars will be cheaper than conventional ones!"

**Devang Narula,**  
AGS Gurugram, XI

**Will EV business boom in the Indian market or will scarcity of charging hubs, shortage of lithium-ion batteries and high costs act as barriers to progression in this sector?**

The prompt

**BOX**

"The last decade has seen a phenomenal boom in the EV industry world-wide as countries pledge to become carbon-neutral economies. Many countries are trying to ban non-electric vehicles as early as 2025. In a country as large as India, however, the shift in the automotive industry seems rather slow and poses numerous obstacles. The charging infrastructure of the country is not up to scale with its desire to become a leader in the automobile industry. At the same time, the dependency of India on importing Lithium-ion batteries while levying heavy import duties does not sit right with foreign investors. Despite the government's promises on subsidies and the low-cost maintenance, the common people seem sceptical and unmotivated to pay the initial high cost of the EVs."

**Charu Anuraj,** AIS Vasundhara 6, X A

"It's not all gloom and doom for the EVs in India; the industry is on its upward trajectory. While the initial cost of purchasing electric vehicles is high, in the long run, it will turn out to be relatively economical since it requires less maintenance and isn't affected by fluctuating gas prices. With reduced service costs, EVs have started to gain popularity among leading automotive manufacturers. Recently, the government also announced their plan to install 6,000 charging hubs for EVs across nine expressways in the country. The EV market in India is at its burgeoning stage, and is poised to emerge as one of the leading EV markets in the world. Of course, there will be hiccups along the way as is the case with any major transition, but India will definitely achieve this feat, one that will redefine our future."

**Jasmine Kaur Kohli,**  
AIS Saket, XI D

"It is expected that by 2030, the global energy consumption would rise by 53%, with road transport accounting for most of it. Such an assumption proves our need to adopt more sustainable and environment-friendly practices. But, the problem is the availability of these vehicles as well as their charging stations. The Indian government needs to provide subsidies to EV companies which, in turn, will boost their availability and demand. Charging stations need to be constructed by the government. As production increases, the government needs to provide essential exceptions and labour facilities for lithium-ion production to take place cheaply in India and then only can it succeed seamlessly."

**Aditya Hingorani,** AIS Pushp Vihar, XI G

"A lot of challenges come along with owning EVs in India such as scarcity of charging hubs, maintenance etc., even when they offer great benefits such as reduced air and noise pollution, faster speed than petrol cars, lighter to drive and manage etc. In my opinion, the progression of this sector cannot happen until these challenges are not dealt with within our country. And to overcome these challenges, funds are highly needed. The government and private-sector companies working in the field, need to work hand in hand to provide customers the requisite services at reduced prices. Switching to EVs is a great idea, but at the moment, the road ahead seems tough, given the numerous challenges that stand in the way."

**Mokshita Grover,**  
AIS Gurugram 43, IX A

"Our vehicles may be capable of helping us reach our destinations but they are certainly taking our planet towards its impending doom with the amount of fossil fuels they consume. Thus, the least we can do here is make slight changes in our lifestyle, which will not only enable us to live a better life, but also preserve a more inhabitable Earth for the upcoming generations. And electrical vehicles can prove to be a big contributing factor in this. Though EVs have become commonplace in many countries, their concept is still at its nascent stage when it comes to India. With the cost of the electrical vehicles being much higher than the normal vehicles, an average person might not be able to afford it. But the gas prices are soaring high too, so why not invest in something that might be better for the planet and for us?"

**Ritisha Jaiswal,** AIS VKC Lko, IX A

"The electronic vehicle business in the Indian market has skyrocketed, but this progression needs to be complemented by increasing momentum of provision for a charging ecosystem. Needless to say, shortage of lithium-ion batteries and high costs may limit the number of buyers or act as an impediment for growth. But with growing technology, many companies are now working towards the emergence of various models to improve the burning ecosystem. There is still a long way to go for the sector to promise feasibility to the users, but with companies like Hero Electric, who have set up ambitions of setting up 20,000 charging ports by the end of the year, this sector will expand."

**Avika Kumar,** AIS Mayur Vihar, IX A

"E-vehicles are the need of the hour as per the environmentalists, but are they aware of the ground reality of developing nations like India? Although a giant step has been taken up by the Indian economy in the field of technology, certain obstacles in the form of poverty, increasing population, lack of awareness, and negligence have hindered plenty of plans which are still far from implementation. Lack of finances, variable geographical conditions, and population ratios often delay the execution of plans. At present, 29 companies have offered e-charging centers but control in the sale of petrol/diesel vehicles can stimulate buyers towards e-vehicles. I feel that in another 10 years, e-vehicles would occupy 25% of our transport coverage and help India lead a sustainable future."

**Sanidhya Bhatnagar,**  
AIS Vasundhara 1, VIII C

**Question:** With 2021 coming to an end, according to you which social / political / economic event has been the highlight of the year and why? Send your response to the Editor in chief / GT Teacher Coordinator of your school latest by Dec 12, 2021.

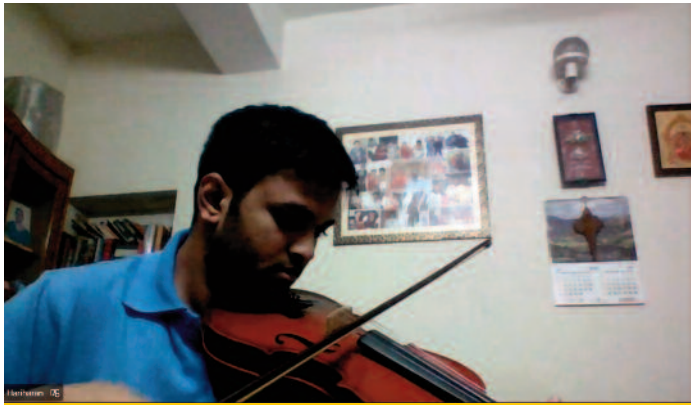




St Peter's Church in St George's, Bermuda, first started its work in 1874 but it was soon abandoned due to conflicts in the congregation, lack of funding, and a hurricane.

# Breakout 2021

The Euphoria Of Music Enchants The Young Musicians



A young violinist strums out the notes of melody at the event



A keyboard artist unlocks the key to inner joy with his music

## AIS Saket

The Western Music Society of the school organised the 8th Breakout, an inter-school competition of western music, virtually on October 9, 2021. The objective of the event was to give young and talented musicians from various schools an opportunity to celebrate their love for music. Held under the visionary leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of

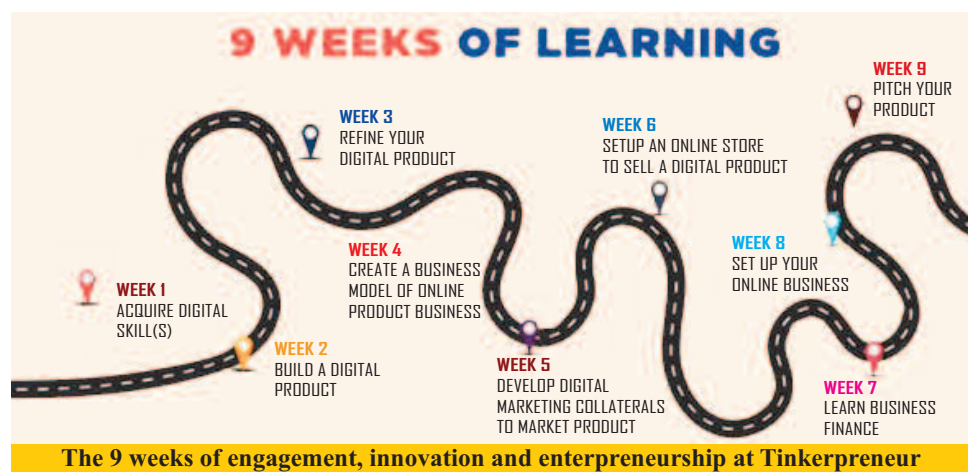
Schools and RBEF, the competition saw participation from 30 eminent schools all over India. It began with lamp lighting ceremony and school principal Divya Bhatia's motivational address to the participants. There were two categories, live and pre-recorded. Live category comprised online instrumental performances, and pre-recorded category had solo singing and original composition competitions. In original compositions, students had written and com-

posed their own songs on the given theme. Instrumental category had students competing in playing various instruments like keyboard, piano, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, drums, and unique instruments. In guitar, AIS Mayur Vihar won the second prize in both electric guitar and the acoustic guitar, while AIS Saket bagged third prize in electric guitar. AIS Mayur Vihar bagged second prize in piano as well. In bass guitar, AIS Saket won first prize

and AIS Mayur Vihar won third. AIS Saket stood first in drums as well. AIS Gurugram 43 bagged the first prize in unique instrument and AIS Saket won second prize in the category. In keyboards, AIS Mayur Vihar and AIS Noida won first and third prizes respectively. AIS Vasundhara 6 and AIS Noida bagged second and third prizes in solo song, and AIS Mayur Vihar won third prize in original composition. Overall trophy was won by AIS Mayur Vihar. 🏆

# Tinkerpreneur winners

The Newage Tinkering And Thinking Entrepreneurs



The 9 weeks of engagement, innovation and entrepreneurship at Tinkerpreneur

## ACSF

Sixteen Amityans proved their innovative excellence and entrepreneurial aptitude at Tinkerpreneur, a two-month long summer boot camp organised by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) Niti Aayog, from May 30-August 1, 2021. The opportunity to explore their potential at the first of its kind, national-level digital skills and exclusive entrepreneurship camp was given by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, whose vision is the foster creative and thoughtful global citizens and nation builders. Amity's Children Science Foundation (ACSF) facilitated participation in the camp which focussed on cultivating a hands-on innovative mindset and entrepreneurial skills in school children. In the camp, students were mapped with highly experienced mentors, in order to track their

progress and guide them to create their own online venture. The camp involved regular sessions by experts on various topics such as design thinking, ideation, marketing, business model preparation, etc. It also comprised technological sessions for equipping students with latest technologies like 3-D modelling, programming, game development, artificial intelligence, internet of things, drone making, cyber security and many more. Participants submitted assignments and quizzes on a weekly basis via the AIM app, which were then evaluated by the 'Mentor of Change' assigned to them. In the final week of the camp, they submitted their final product and pitch deck developed using the skills acquired at the bootcamp. The Mentors of Change evaluated the final submissions of their mentees and finally the AIM team evaluated the top entries in order to declare the top 100 innovators and entrepreneurs.

The brilliant 'Top 100 innovators and entrepreneurs' were: Aditi Mishra (VIII), AIS Noida for app 'Indiexam'; Aditi Bhatnagar (VII), AIS Saket for website 'All Tech Solutions'; and Pranji Aggarwal (X), AIS Gurugram 46 for online marketplace called 'Cherry'.

The bright young minds who were honoured for being 'Most Consistent' were: Vaishnavi Garg (X), AIS Mayur Vihar for 'Innovative ideas for habitat and water resource management'; Vatsal Garg (VI), AIS Noida for quiz game 'Knowledge Knight'; Shaurya Singh (VI), AIS Noida for website 'Shaurya's Game Store'; Aarav Jain (VI), AIS Noida for 'V Tours' app; team of Anushka Manoj (VIII) and Pranav Manoj (IX), AIS Noida for Ninja gamers 'Strawberry Game'; Kritika Singh (X), AIS Saket for 'Kreedesign Infotemplates' for building infographic presentations; Lakshita Agrawal (IX), Anwesha De (IX) and Jhanvi Roy (IX), AIS Saket for 'Storygenix' a website of books and creative writing; Samarth Kalra (VI), AIS Vasundhara 6 for website 'Medicine Bank'; and team of Anirudh V Kamath (VI) and Shaurya Kumar (VI), AIS Vasundhara 6 for multi-facility (games, music, educational resources, etc.) platform for children 'Kiddy'.

The bootcamp provided students with a thorough introduction to entrepreneurship and equipped them with key digital skills and frameworks to create their own online venture. They were thoroughly mentored by the industry experts into key businesses and instilled entrepreneurial skills. 🏆



Children enact as famous Hindi poets and recite poems

# LiterAmity 1.0

A Multilingual Lit-Fest

## AIS VKC Lucknow

The school organised its first LiterAmity, a lit-fest of English, French, Sanskrit and Hindi languages for the students of Class VI-VIII from September 27 to October 1, 2021. The event aimed at kindling the creative spirit and literary aptitude of the students and enhancing their appreciation of literature. During the event, Hindi 'Sahitya Utsav' was held for Class VI students, in which activities like role plays, poetry recitation and enactment of biographies of famous Hindi authors were performed. Class VII students celebrated a French literary fest titled, 'Decouvrir La France' (meaning: Discovering France) wherein, they showcased their fascinating skills as orators, creators and authors. They mesmerised everyone with various presentations on topics like seasons, dresses, cuisine, history, monuments of France etc. Class VII also participated in a two-day lit-fest of Sanskrit, 'Subhashitotsav', in which they read verses on moral values like truth, learning, hard work, philanthropy and religion.

words' for Class VIII, saw students engage in different activities like enactments, monologues, speeches, debates, role plays, integrated with music and art, and Ted Talk. The various facets of English literary fiesta woven beautifully by the students revolved around themes like, conservation of nature, thoughts of a schoolboy, teacher-student relationship, etc. They delivered famous speeches of the modern world leaders and activists like Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, Malala Yousafzai, Emma Watson and Greta Thunberg with invincible conviction. Students also did role-plays of prominent literary geniuses like Ruskin Bond and Sarojini Naidu and presented different aspects of literature like, the kinds of poems and poetic or artistic devices through vibrant Adobe Spark videos. Lively debates and original story presentations in all the languages added a flavour of uniqueness to lit-fest. It was an event that enriched the literary knowledge of young minds and instilled in them the love for languages. School principal Rachna Mishra applauded the performances of the students.

# Excellence in education



Arti Chopra Principal, AIS Gur 46, receives the award



Dr Bhavana Kulshrestha Principal, AIS Vas 1 with award

## Amity Group of Schools

Two branches of Amity Group of Schools in Delhi/NCR were awarded for their exemplary excellence in education at Eldrok India K-12 Summit held on October 5, 2021. AIS Gurugram 46, was honoured for 'Excellence in Adapting Holistic Learning Pedagogy' while AIS Vasundhara 1 was awarded for its 'Excellence in Value-Based Education Programs with Global Perspective'. The prestigious awards were won under the visionary leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, who has always dreamt of and strived for

spreading holistic value-based education through Amity Group of Schools. The passionate spirit of Arti Chopra, Principal, AIS Gurugram 46, Dr Bhavana Kulshrestha, Principal, AIS Vasundhara 1 and their team of educators and experts for achieving excellence in value-based, quality, holistic education lies at the core of this victory. Eldrok India K-12 Summit was held to felicitate the think tanks from the field of education and build knowledge by communicating face-to-face with one another in a productive and yet, wholesome manner. The event witnessed the discussion on challenges, opportunities and advancement in education. 🏆



Children with storybooks

# Readersville

## AIS Vasundhara 6

To foster the love for books and venture into the realms of imagination and curiosity, the toddlers of Nursery and Class I partici-

pated in Readersville on November 12, 2021. During virtual circle time activity, the little ones were initiated into the importance of reading and were taken on a virtual library tour. They listened to audio stories of famous tales like The Pied Piper of Hamelin and The Shoemaker & the Elves. It enhanced both their listening and comprehension skills. To ignite the creative element, they made origami bookmarks during craft activity.



Ta Keo Temple, a part of Angkor Temples of Cambodia, was never finished due to political instability in the country.

All top quotes contributed by  
Priyanshi Das, AIS Vas 6, VII E



# A tragic comedy

## The Tale When Plato Planned A Visit To A Society Ruled By Viral Memes

Samiksha Dubey, AIS Noida, XII

Circa 300 BC. Plato, the Greek thinker, stood at the pier, orating his thoughts in front of the toga-wearing crowd. Flashes of light from the mirrors shone on his face, giving the artists scope to sketch his face better. The subject of his discourse was humour. The mere utterance of the term made Plato frown, but he must speak. He must speak about how distasteful comedy was to him. Slanderous, immoral, stripping one of his rational control, Plato could go on, as others quickly scribbled down his rather critical views about this disgrace. The Republic nodded in affirmation. For Plato, the world would be a utopia without comedy. Suddenly, a temporal rift occurs and Plato finds himself faced with an uncanny sight.

It's 2021 AD. Good lord, everyone looks so...um, happy. But what is so delightful about this place? Why are they laughing? Such destruction. The world should have ended back in our time. What has happened to this acumen that humankind once possessed? Good lord, don't they know that laughter is malicious? All that energy is wasted in laughter. I wonder what went wrong.

Look at common folks staring at a bunch of iron boxes and laughing. This is a park, for God's sake. Walk! What do they see that contributes to this ungodly outburst? Is it some sort of an absurd theory? "Aye lad! What are you looking at, there?" "It's a meme, dude." "A what?" "A meme! Do you live under a rock or something?" "Strange child. Why would I live under a rock? I have a perfectly fine cottage to live in. Anyway, "What is a 'meme'?" I have to study this atrocity." The strange child explained while stroking his fingers over the metal plates, shifting through its contents one by one. An internal monologue set off in his despairing heart.

Dear God, I implore from the very bottom of my heart- fix these humans. This is a sheer wastage of time. What is so imperceptible in their comportment that you cannot make it right? Look at them making faces with a sentence written over their head and incessantly chortle for absolutely no reason. I pray to you, please restore harmony in the republic and save mankind.

And what are these 'Stand Up Shows' people keep blabbering about constantly? They pay others to make them laugh? Our earth is doomed. It appears to me that these mortals are

undergoing gradual mental derangement. I foresee what is to become of them. And what is this 'Laughter Therapy'. A new oxymoron I reckon.

Laughing is no remedy; it's highly malicious!

"Hey, clueless robe guy! Hey, listen! Yes, you oldy," a teenager interrupts Plato's train of thought.

"You! You and your fellows are ruining your lives, and my life here. My mental well-being has gone for a toss seeing all these nonsensical memes."

"Chill man. Here, look at this." The teenager shifts Plato's sight to another nonsensical meme. Plato though enraged with the words of the teenager, couldn't stop himself from seeing the meme cuboid.

The reaction that Plato gave was inevitable. What more? Plato found himself losing control. He exhaled an outburst of laughter. Perhaps a dash of humour once in a while isn't that bad as he reckoned. Or perhaps, it is all a trap, and humour is malicious after all!



# Who is the Changi tree?

## The Story Of The Great Tree That Has Borne The Fruits Of The Ages

Yusra Zahra, AIS VKC Lko, VIII

They say, "Trees are sanctuaries. Whoever knows how to speak to them, whoever knows how to listen to them, can learn the truth." I say they said it right! In my roots and my shoots, in my trunks and my twigs, there lies the eccentric saga of my native soil. Dig a little deeper and you would see it.

Now haughtily dubbed as Changi, my homeland, in the early 17th century Singapore, was referred to as Tanjong Rusa. I wasn't born then but that is what they say - the chroniclers! I, in fact, found roots on the East Coast in the 1800s, while they happened to have traced me in the pre-war navigational maps a little later in 1888. Not just me but the whole community of Chengai trees, all belonging to the biological species of *Sindora wallichii*, from where the village acquired its current name. True to our genus, we all had massive crowns and were extremely tall. I particularly stood out in this respect, being 76.2m tall, 20 storeys high in layman's terms, with a base diameter of 3.5 m. Huge? That I was!

Together, we all made for a contented lot. Together, we witnessed Changi's exceptional transmutation, both taxonomical, from Tanjong Rusa to Tanjong Changi to finally Changi, and topographical, from a malaria-infested swampland to an Imperial getaway location in the 1890s known for its tranquil milieu. However, regrettably, my compeers could not make it to Changi's establishment as a strategic military base during WWI and



WWII. For it was their blood and suffering that paved way for this geographical refurbishment. As a defence tactic to stave off the increasing fear of Japanese incursion into the territory of Singapore, they were all hacked down in the 1920s, clearing ground for nestling the British

Royal Artillery batteries. Know the pain of losing your kinsmen? I do, for I have been through it several times.

Being the lone survivor then, great still, I whiled away my time in agony yet serving my purpose to the very end. For the

troopers around me, I was a landmark for their military establishment; for me, they were stiff-necked recalcitrants indulged in war and bloodshed. Year after year, they fought and fell as I watched and bled, until it was time for me to bid them adieu. February 1942 - the fateful phase when they sensed I was no longer needed. As the Japanese army closed in on us, they felt I would function as a ranging point for the enemy artillery. Who knew the very stature I swanked about would someday be my doom! The next thing I knew was death. The painful death they gave me by tying dynamite to my trunk and blighted me to the ground. In my naked death-wound, one could witness all my years - all the struggle, all the suffering, all the pleasure, all the attacks withstood, and the tempests endured. The pain I went through, the dreadful scenario I encountered has not yet been blurred in my memory. Nonetheless, I was now gone! The fate of my countrymen is still unknown, to me that is. For I had heard tales that claimed my fall would bring about Singapore's fall. What ensued next, however, is for me a massive black hole.

The battle lasted for a week, i.e., from February 8th to the 15th, and resulted in Japanese victory over Singapore, the fall of the nation as they claimed; 80,000 British personnel were made prisoners of war, which definitely was the largest British surrender ever the world has seen, while Changi was later turned into a huge prison of war camp. The fall of the nation as they claimed had arrived and how.