

INSIDE



History this week, P7



Quarantine special, P10

AMITe poll

Do you agree with Delhi government's decision to introduce patriotism sessions in schools to make students staunch patriots?

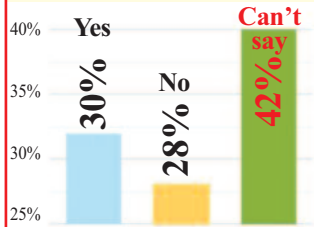
- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Can't say

To vote, log on to
www.theglobaltimes.in

POLL RESULT

for GT issue March 15, 2021

Do you agree that addressing the hygiene and sanitation issues faced by women can play a huge role in realising the Swachh Bharat Mission?



Results as on March 20, 2021

Coming Next

Prompt Box

When Error Erases The Ecosystem, Efforts Revive It

Nandita Bansal, XII & Nitya Jain, VIII, AIS Saket

Wildlife on planet Earth is under siege from all sides. Flip through a newspaper and you'll find it's no secret that we are losing an overwhelming number of animals each day. Felling of trees, cases of animal cruelty, poaching, and hunting of animals all bear evidence that the problem is multifaceted. From the tiniest ant to the largest shark in the oceans, every animal plays an essential role in maintaining the ecological balance of nature. We have been exercising unwarranted supremacy over our fellow beings for decades and it's now time to delve into the plethora of problems threatening the existence of wildlife and some positive news about the efforts underway to conserve it.

Resurrecting the dead

There are 41,415 species on the IUCN Red List, and 16,306 of them are endangered, threatened with extinction. Even when scientists predict that over 1 million species are on the verge of extinction, it is human hope that makes us believe that all is not lost. In the wake of this crisis, Aussie Ark, an animal preservation project, started to rewild parts of Australia with Tasmanian devils, which were wiped out in the mainland around 3000 years ago. Many species like the elephant shrew, the red kite, the terror skink, and the Bermuda petrel, that were thought to be extinct have reappeared! This is all the hope we need that wildlife will once again flourish as it did decades ago.

Restoring the habitats

Through activities like unsustainable agriculture, energy production, and mining, the world's natural habitats continue to disappear as they are harvested for human consumption. And the result? Wildfires on land, pollution in the air, and contamination of water bodies, rendering the

Reviving the ANIMAL KINGDOM



wildlife homeless. But in a positive turn of events, governments all around the world have buckled up their shoes and the launch of countless renewable resource projects is a testimony to that fact. Furthermore, on June 5, 2021, i.e., World Environment Day, the UN will launch its campaign, Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with the aim to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems throughout the world.

Paving the way

Animal cruelty, as terrible as a sin it may be, is still quite prevalent all over the world. But some changemakers have ap-

peared: the Chinese government stopped testing imported cosmetics on animals. To prevent abuse against animals, the Indian government has come up with a draft to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, proposing a penalty ranging between 750-75,000 INR or jail up to 5 years. Not just prevention, but the world is also taking active steps to safeguard its animals. With India having the largest number of wild Asian elephants in the world, about 555 of the global population, it also falls upon the country to take care of them. For the same, Wildlife Trust of India started its Right of Passage: National Elephant Corridors Project with an aim to

identify elephant corridors, and maintain them for the safekeeping of our beloved animals. And not just consciously, humans have also been hurting animals in their hubbub of infrastructure, connectivity, and urbanisation that has increased the number of fatal animal-vehicle collisions. However, as LA gears up to build a bridge across a busy highway to save its mountain lions, and as a critically-endangered gibbon species in China is being saved with the creation of a simple rope bridge across a 15-meter gap in the forest, one can only believe that more such measures are to come to help out our furry friends.

Continued on page 6...

Follow your passion

Says Pronob Sarkar, As He Talks About His Passion For Tourism

Nitya Gupta, AIS Noida, XII G

When talking about the Travel and Tourism sector, to not mention the name of Pronob Sarkar, President of Indian Association of Tour Operators, becomes implausible. He is unfaltering in what he does and very aptly deserves the adulation he receives in the industry and outside. As a founder member of the destination management company Swagatam Tours Pvt Ltd., he has an in-depth knowledge in this field and has travelled abroad extensively, promoting and advocating Indian tourism. He has been associated with the Indian Association Of Tour Operators (IATO) for over 15 years and has served it in various capacities, becoming the 'voice' of the entire travel fraternity. As the Guest of Honour at the 15th World Tourism Day, held at Amity University, Noida, he shares his success story with the GT reporter for everybody to learn and seek inspiration from.

How has your journey been so far in the tourism industry?

My experience in this industry has been wonderful. I love what I do and it has been my passion since I was very young. I have a specialisation in Tourism and



In conversation with GT reporter

there's nothing else that I would have wanted to do more.

According to you, what is the one essential quality of an Industry expert?

According to me, a person cannot simply become an expert by getting a degree or reading a book. To become an expert, one needs to have a practical experience in the particular field. Without this, there surely is no expertise and no success.

How has the organisation IATO helped promote national integration?

We are the national body of the entire tourism industry in India. With over 1600 members combined, we have helped in bringing the people of the country closer by connecting one state to the other. Not only this, but our international linkages have helped in bringing different countries together. People from varying cultures and languages have been assimilated and linked together

in order to make India a perfect melting pot as it always has been and should always be.

Past few years have seen tremendous changes in all walks of life, how do you view this change in terms of the tourism sector?

Tourism is the fastest changing sector. From paperwork to apps, we have come a long way. The various technological advancements have definitely made the job a lot easier. But the most important thing here is to have the ability to adapt with the changing scenarios. Without adaptability, there can be no advancement.

What is your advice to the people wanting to join the tourism industry?

Tourism includes many different things. Travel is one aspect of it and hospitality is another. In fact, travel itself is a wide term. It includes international or domestic travels or further it can also be linked with connectivity as to airline, railway, etc. So, one should first thoroughly research and understand which field they would like to work in and then only form a career in it.

What is your message to Amityans?

My message to each and every student here would be that they should pursue the subject that they love the most or the one that interests them the most and opt for a job opportunity in that particular course only. Everything else will surely follow; success will be your way undeniably!



Pronob Sarkar, President, IATO



India This Week

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.



India forex reserves 4th biggest in the world

News: India's foreign exchange reserves have become the 4th biggest in the world, standing behind only China, Japan and Switzerland. With India's 580.3 billion USD foreign currency holding, it edged out Russia standing at 580.1 billion USD. The country's central bank still continues to hoard dollars to cushion the economy against any sudden outflows even though the reserves mostly flattened out this year after months of rapid increase.

Views: I believe there are two major reasons for this great achievement. When the pandemic began, central banks of all nations increased the money printing to support their economy, and as a result, the flow of money increased as well and moved to regions where there is a higher scope of growth, i.e., India. Also, as China was the first affected country from Coronavirus, many companies moved their manufacturing bases to other countries like India. All these factors came together to boost India's foreign reserves, making it surpass Russia.

Aditi Thakur, AIS Gurugram 43, VIII



1st Indian fencer to qualify for Olympics

News: Making history, Bhavani Devi has become the first ever Indian fencer to qualify for Olympics, securing herself a spot due to her performance in the Fencing World Cup. As Hungary lost in the quarterfinals, Korea was allowed to progress to semifinals and Devi qualified through the Adjusted Official Ranking method.

Views: Fencing, based on traditional swordsmanship, is slowly but surely gaining popularity in India, and a major credit goes to Bhavani Devi and her constant feats. Hailing from a conservative Tamil family and a country where fencing isn't given much importance, qualifying for the highest echelon of sporting championships is an extraordinary achievement. Bhavani Devi's ability in sabre, which is the fastest sword event, is remarkable.

Avrit Sharma, AIS Gurugram 43, X



CA, CS, ICWA equivalent to PG degrees

News: According to University Grants Commission, qualifying exams for Chartered Accountant, Company Secretary, or Cost and Works Accountant will now be considered equivalent to earning a postgraduate degree. The decision was made after the request of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to help students pursue higher studies and improve their mobility. "It will not only help CAs in pursuing higher studies, but will also facilitate the mobility of Indian CAs globally," said the institute.

Views: This move by UGC and ICAI is a positive step and decision that will bring CA, ICWA, and CS students at par with the other postgraduates of the world. Also, this is a unanimous consensus that this decision will allow students to appear for UGC NET examinations. They will also be eligible to apply for PhD. Not just so, but by making them equivalent to PG degree holders, it has opened many new doors for them that will help them advance in their careers. This definitely is a significant step in our country to boost all commerce and finance related professions.

Ragini Singhal, AIS Gurugram 43, VIII

2nd largest vaccination drive in the world

News: India's inoculation drive has become the second largest in the world, both in terms of daily doses and total vaccines given, with around 1.26 million doses being administered every single day. The country's daily dose rate has also tripled in the last 20 days, and experts claim that the speed will be increased in the future to break the transmission cycle of COVID-19.

Views: Even though this is a huge feat for India, we must always keep in mind that things are still going too slow. Even today, one year after Coronavirus was announced a pandemic by WHO, we see a shocking rise in cases because of people who refuse to follow COVID-19 rules. If the world wants to go back to what it once was, this vaccine drive is the only solution as well as following the restrictions laid down by the government.

Mansha Rapria, AIS Gurugram 43, X



Around The WORLD

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



USA

Xenophobic shootings kill 8

Shootings at 3 massage parlours in Atlanta have reportedly led to the death of eight people, most of which were noted to be women of Asian descent. A 21-year-old Caucasian man has been arrested by the police in the case. The killings come amid a wave of rising racist attacks against Asians in America, and an outrage on social media against it has been ongoing with calls of #StopAsianHate.

GERMANY

830 mn USD incentives for vocational training

The government has announced that firms offering vocational training to its employees will see an increase in incentives by 700 million euros. The workers and trainees were facing reskilling challenges due to digitalisation, automation and electrification in several areas of work worsened by the pandemic.



NORTH KOREA

Refusal of peace talks with US

The first Foreign Minister of the country, Choe Son Hui, has stated that no talks will be done with the US if the latter refuses to roll back their hostile policy towards North Korea. Calling it 'US delaying-time trick', the statement was issued hours before the US and South Korea met in Seoul for their first joint talk to discuss North Korea's nuclear programme.



JAPAN

Super Mario theme park at USJ

The much-awaited, Super Mario theme attraction park has finally opened its gate at Universal Studios Japan in Osaka, inspired by the game created by Nintendo Co Ltd. With the cost of around 550 million USD, it is the newest addition to Universal Studios Japan's roster of franchises which already include theme parks based on Minions and Jurassic Park as well as The Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

ANGOLA

700 million USD for sustainable growth

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors have approved a 700 million USD Development Policy Operation for the country to support its efforts to boost financial and social inclusion, and to strengthen macro-financial and institutional environment for increased private sector growth. This policy will also help Angola to deal with their economic crisis pending since 2015.



AUSTRALIA

First population drop since World War I

For the first time in more than a century, the population of the country, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, has seen a decline due to the pandemic-induced border closures. The population grew less than 1% in the last year, and the last time the country saw such figures was in December 1916, during World War I.





An altruistic career

An Earnest Look At What Life As A Welfare Worker Exactly Has In Store For You

Prerna Mam, AIS Noida, VIII L

“He who lives in the social group, must have no aversion to social work, that is, collective prayer. He who loses himself in God, sees the whole world as God.” As inspiringly propounded by Mahatma Gandhi, social work is but a result of historical evolution. His ideals of non-violence and selflessness enthused the masses to become social workers and to serve the society, calling for social activism in its truest sense.

How did it begin?

In 1936, based on the Schools of Social Work in the USA, Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work, now known as the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, was founded, and subsequently, two other Schools of Social Work were also established. The emergence of such schools resulted in the formation of the Indian Conference of Social Work in the year 1947. Since then, the annual congregations of this organisation have brought about a remarkable change in the scenario, as it got together industrial organisers and professional workers in every field of social service.

How to go about it?

If you believe social work to be your



calling, then there are several institutes and organisations that will help you realise this goal. Some of the premier institutes are Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Dept. of Social Work at Delhi University, Loyola College of Social Sciences, to name a few. The minimum requirement for this field is a three-years bachelor's degree in social work. One can also opt for a two-years master's in social work (MSW) with a bachelor's degree in any course. It must be kept in mind that MSW is a requisite for anyone aiming to pursue clinical so-

cial work. If at all you wish to be just associated with social work, then there are several diploma and certificate courses available as well!

What skills are required?

Social work comes with its own sets of challenges and competencies. If you can identify with all the following skills, then probably you have what it takes - communication and listening skills, empathetic attitude, problem-solving, organisational skills, adaptability, critical thinking, and professional commitment.

What kind of opportunities it offers?

The domain of social work bestows you with many options when it comes to pursuing a career. Let's look at some of the possibilities in store for you.

Medical Social Worker: You provide necessary psychological assistance to patients and help them deal with grave illnesses or conditions.

Welfare Officer: You assume the role of a fundraiser for any private organisation. You also associate yourself with the welfare of children and women or less privileged section of the society.

Community Development Officer: You are involved in urban planning, housing needs and assessment of infrastructural projects with a community or city.

Probation Officer: You arrange rehabilitation services and supervise convicts, whilst managing their job training.

Why one should think about it?

As a social worker, you can expect a remuneration of INR 1,80,000-7,00,000 per annum on the basis of work and experience you have had in the field. In a more realistic sense, social workers are those who serve the society unconditionally and ardently. A degree or career in social work also renders you an edge over the others if you are thinking to pursue government jobs in the longer run. In addition, there are various sectors, such as healthcare, education, NGOs, corporate, government, etc., where you can find yourself working with Smile Foundation, Amnesty International, UNICEF, Green Peace, Care India, Oxfam, and many other human rights agencies and old age homes.

Thus, social work makes for an incredibly fulfilling yet emotionally taxing career choice. There are several avenues of this area that can be explored by those with an unconventional approach, the ones who also wish to contribute for the greater good! 🇮🇳



The world of edutainment

Jasmine Kaur Kohli
AIS Saket, X A

We have all heard of the term 'Infotainment', a concept made fashionable by media houses who now, instead of focusing on just plain news, emphasise on entertainment as well. Would it not be wonderful if we could instill the same sense of enjoyment in education too and call it 'Edutainment'? Sounds weird, but that is perhaps the only way to engage children with their studies in a more effective fashion.

Learning was fun in childhood because, as toddlers, we understood concepts by playing games. Enter teens and all we were left with

were books, books and more books. With no visual support or learning by association to help children, studying has become a drudgery. Here, Indian cinema, a form of entertainment that appeals to both young and old alike, might have some lessons for us all. It is replete with instances that showcase how learning can be fun too.

Math, for instance, is a subject that gives nightmares to most of us. To remember complex formulas is a brain-wracking task, but if you have seen the film 'Nil Battey Sannata', you would certainly remember that 'sin² θ + cos² θ = 1'. All because of one entertaining song 'Maths mein dubba gul'. Perhaps, if we had rap

songs for all our SST chapters, we would all score 100 per cent for sure!

Then there was this film 'Hichki', wherein a basketball court was used to teach the concept of 'Law of Conservation of Mass'. Also, the scene where the teacher uses eggs to explain the formation of parabolas in quadratic equations can't be forgotten.

This is not to say that we expect our teachers to break into an impromptu song in the classroom or take us for picnics all the time. We do know the difference between reel and real life. But if a little entertainment could replace our blackboard sometimes, it would surely go a long way in building happy kids.

Give ample mock tests

The word 'Entrance exam' is self-sufficient to make one feel nervous because it brings along an array of questions popping in your mind. Well, how about you get to listen from someone who has experienced it already? To all the young aspirants, GT brings to you a special column 'Amity Alumnus', where star performers from AICE will share tips and tricks to put an end to all the nervousness and fear associated with entrance exams. Read on...

How and when did your journey for IIT-JEE begin?

I was always passionate about science and math, so, appearing for JEE entrance exam was a natural choice. My journey for the same began in Class XI as I joined accelerated synchro programme offered by AICE.

How did you prepare for IIT-JEE?

I went to the coaching classes regularly and never missed any class. I took all the mock tests to analyse my performance and to find out where I needed to improve.

What role did AICE play to help you crack the competitive exams?

The faculty was great and gave us practice questions that were truly challenging. Our teachers also helped us with doubts and there were multiple mock tests.

How did you manage regular studies and prep-ups for competitive exams?

AICE helped me in managing regular studies along with the JEE preparation. CBSE classes were held in the first half of the day and JEE preparation in the second half. So, it was very balanced.

Which field of engineering did

you choose and why?

I chose chemical engineering because I found it interesting.

backlog. Also, try to appear for as many mock tests as possible as these tests help you to know where you need to improve. Solving all

previous years' question papers further helps in getting a good idea of the exam pattern.

According to you, when should an aspirant start preparing for exams?

Well, I personally feel Class XI is the right time to start since the syllabus for JEE is from Class XI and XII.

What are the key learnings that you would like to share with young aspirants?

Learn to analyse the mock tests properly; same mistakes should not be repeated at any cost. It is also important to stay motivated throughout as the journey is long to avoid early burn-out.



AMITY
ALUMNUS

Name: Nikhil Gupta
AICE Batch: 2019 - 2020
AICE Programme: Accelerated SYNCHRO
Currently pursuing: Chemical Engineering
College/University: IIT Delhi

Are there some preparation strategies to crack IIT-JEE?

It is important to focus on all three subjects equally and to develop subject specific strategies. Aspirants should be consistent in their studies too in order to avoid a

Rapid fire

One word to describe...

Your alma mater: Progressive

The motto of your life: BHAAG

Your passion: Motivating

Yourself: Optimistic



It snowed once

But It Surely Won't Again If Humans Continued With Their Unsustainable Ways

Radhika Pandey
AIS Mayur Vihar, X

“That’s beautiful, John!” said John’s mother, admiring her son’s artwork. It was a beautiful painting indeed- two mountains covered in a blanket of snow. For many, this may have been an ordinary scene, but for John, it was beyond that. “Oh! You should bring your paints with you when we go to the mountains, there you will be able to draw the real thing,” added his mother. Suddenly, his eyes were adrift with excitement. His

dream of seeing snow was finally going to come true. For as long as John could remember, he had always loved snow. He was all of eight, when his science teacher announced that they were going to study snow next. Little John could barely contain his excitement. But when the teacher told him that snow was nothing but tiny ice crystals that stick together in clouds, he was rather disappointed. For him, snow was magic and this simple explanation didn’t do justice enough.

His love for it was so obsessive that his father had almost thought he was mentally ill, but his mother had always assured him that this was no more than a childhood fantasy. Every time, the two argued about John’s fanatic love for snow, his

father trumped by bringing in the incident where John almost beat up a friend simply because he said snow kills plants and animals.

This would leave the mother speechless. How could she forget a ballistic John in tears? She remembered patiently explaining to John that plants which grow in snowy regions find their own ways of adapting. She told him how these plants grow in shapes that help them shed the snow easily. She’d also apprised him on how animals like Deer, elk, bison, etc., use their hooves

to clear the snow and grow shaggier coats to keep themselves warm.

A day away from the trip, John was as eager as one could be. He slept sparsely that night, but who could blame him? He was a teenage boy a day away from seeing his first love. Anyone would be excited, isn’t it?

Morning came, bright and cheerful, the sun was yet to rise, but John’s family members were ready to depart. The day had started brilliantly and John could already predict the beautiful end.

It wasn’t until the last three hours of the journey that John caught sight of the mountains and a bright smile stretched on his face as his heart pumped wildly in his chest. They were almost there! John almost felt like crying, but he saved the tears for the real treasure - the snow. Another hour elapsed,

and there was no trace of the white magic. He still hoped and prayed with all his might. They reached the destination and he hastily got out and looked around. The entire place was covered with green; no white, soft snow in sight and that was when John started crying. They later found out that it hadn’t snowed on this mountain for over 2 years. Climate change, they said. His parents didn’t say a thing; they didn’t have a right to. Now, it wasn’t just the fact that they had given John false hope, it was also the fact that they were the ones who had caused the snow to melt and the climate to change in the first place. So, they just watched as they had watched the polluting fireworks burst, watched as their child threw away his world.

And yes, it did snow once!



Illustration: Radhika Malhotra, AIS Mayur Vihar, XII

A pool of destruction

A Look At Oil Spills - Marine Life’s Worst Enemy

Shubhangi Lakhanpal
AGS Gurugram, X

Imagine a humongous pool of oil swathing around huge areas of an ocean, coating, injuring and killing everything in its wake. Now imagine thousands of such pools enveloping oceans all around the globe. Seems terrifying, right? Sadly, this is reality. Over the years, several large-scale as well as small-scale oil spills in major water bodies have left marine life gasping for air. Oil spills are the discharge of oil into the seas and oceans by ships due to accidents caused by human error or natural calamities. Its consequences are so grave that a research done by one of the biological diversity organisation found that oil

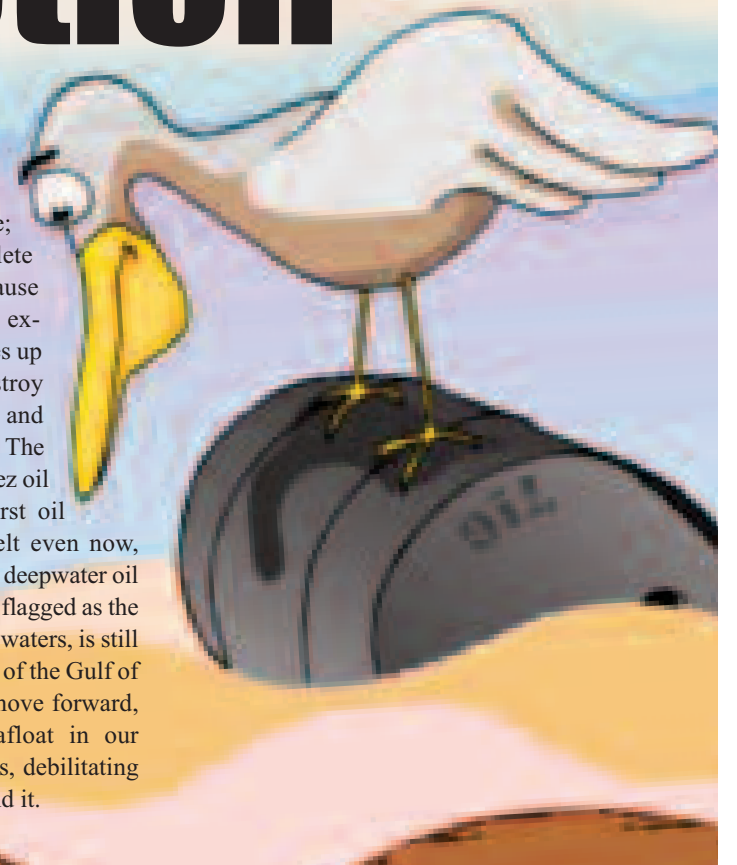
spills have harmed or killed approximately 82,000 birds of 102 species, approximately 6,165 sea turtles, and up to 25,900 marine mammals, including bottlenose dolphins, spinner dolphins, melon-headed whales and various other aquatic species.

Furthermore, oil destroys the insulating ability of fur-bearing mammals, such as sea otters and the water repellence of a bird’s feathers. It also clogs blowholes of whales and dolphins, making it impossible for them to breathe properly as well as disrupts their ability to communicate. Other marine life such as fish, shellfish, etc., face deathly effects of oil spills. Their eggs and larvae can get destroyed by oil and to add to that, fish and shellfish can digest oil, which could cause adverse changes

in their reproductive systems.

Even if marine animals escape the immediate effects of an oil spill, their food supply is contaminated by the presence of oil. Marine animals that consume fish exposed to oil may die of poisoning. Long-term damage to species and their habitats and nesting or breeding grounds is one of the most extensive environmental effects caused by oil spills. The damage done by oil spills not only harms aquatic organisms, but it also harms aquatic plants. As oil is less dense than water, it floats over the water body. This prohibits sufficient sunlight from reaching the aquatic plants due to which the aquatic plants are no longer able to photosynthesize, thus leading to their death.

An oil spill does not only affect marine life; it can destroy complete ecosystems and cause many species to go extinct. As the oil washes up on shores, it can destroy beaches, marshlands and other aquatic systems. The effects of Exxon Valdez oil spill, one of the worst oil spills ever, can be felt even now, after 32 years. The BP deepwater oil rig explosion in 2010, flagged as the biggest oil spill in US waters, is still killing the inhabitants of the Gulf of Mexico. And as we move forward, gallons of oil lay afloat in our oceans, seas and lakes, debilitating all forms of life around it.



The write way!

They say putting all your love, efforts and dedication into the piece of literature isn't a child's play, but sometimes, maybe it is, and our young writers of Amity prove exactly that! Read on as we bring you the stories of our young authors who have penned their way to success, literally.

Nothing can ever stop you...

...If Your Eyes Are On The Goal, Proves Aishwarya Singh

Aishwarya Srivastava
AIS VKC Lucknow, VIII

If you have the passion to follow your dreams, no goal is ever too difficult; all it needs is some perseverance - this is the mantra that has always guided **Aishwarya Singh**, studying in Class XI of **AIS VKC Lucknow**, who recently published her first book *Mona Lisa*. Her tryst with writing started when she was merely 11, no small feat in itself. She believes that her writing style is inspired by her favorite authors LJ Smith, Stephanie Meyer and JK Rowling. The story of *Mona Lisa* is completely original, though. The book is built around the life of a thirty-one-year-old woman named Anna Eder Smith who faces challenges at every step. When a doll *Mona Lisa* enters the story, it turns Anna's life upside down. Anna

loses a lot, but never gives up the hope to survive. And that is all we will tell you, for this book is a must-read for all. Just like her protagonist, Aishwarya too faced difficulties on her creative journey but never gave up. "It was not easy to convert a story into an entire book," she says, "I had to make sure I used good vocabulary and that every chapter ended on a note of suspense. Looking for a fine publisher wasn't an easy task, too." But once she stopped worrying about finding a publisher and began focusing on finishing the manuscript, it was a smooth ride. She had started the first chapter while she was in Class VIII, but it was all the spare time she found during last year's lockdown that finally saw the book through. Even though the book has themes of fear, horror, sadness and suspense, Aishwarya wants the readers to remember it for its final

take away - hope. "Once you choose hope, anything is possible. Hope gives you the confidence to step out of your comfort zone and try anything out. Despite facing many tragic problems, Anna kept the hope alive that she would one day find happiness." Everyone needs a support system to succeed and luckily for Aishwarya, her parents and teachers were always there for her. No wonder then, she is already working on her second book, namely 'Good Vibes'. "It is a romantic fantasy, a young adult story about the life of Emma Witson, an adorable eighteen-year-old girl; Lewis Morgan, a vampire and other supernatural beings." However, studies have taken centre-stage at the moment and the book is on hold. Thus for the moment, go grab your copy of *Mona Lisa* and walk along the path of hope that leads us all to a happy ending! 📖

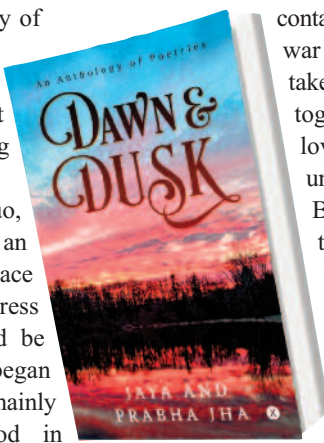


The youngest verses...

Can Move The World, Prove The Jha Twins

Mahi Modgil, AIS Gur 46, X A

Scribbling an emotional line or two in your notebook about life experiences is not a rare thing for teenagers, but to publish a full anthology of poetry at fifteen is. Meet **Jaya and Prabha Jha**, twin sisters studying in class XII J at **AIS Gurugram 46**, have recently published an anthology of poems titled *Dawn And Dusk* and are already showing great promise as budding poetesses. For this talented duo, writing is a safe place, an 'Innisfree' of sorts, a place where they can express themselves freely and be understood. They began writing short stories - mainly about their childhood in



Kolkata and Mumbai - in Class VI. It was a trip to Shimla a year later that inspired them to write poetry, for what can be a better way to describe the beauty of nature? Even a simple tree or a floating cloud, all became their muse and ignited in them the love for poetry. Both sisters got ample support from their parents and teachers from day one. "The anthology contains 40 poems on love, war and nature. It has taken us four years to put together this labour of love," say the sisters in unison. It was after their Board exams in 2020 that the idea to publish these poems occurred to them. "We went for self-publishing because traditional publishers seldom publish poetry

anthologies. Also, with the pandemic, advertising was not what it could have been. Nonetheless, the journey was spectacular." Describing the same, Jaya and Prabha say, "The entire process of choosing a cover, writing author information and blurbs was completed in a week and within another, our book was live for sale." Jaya and Prabha are also voracious readers - their favourite authors are Khaled Hosseini, Ruskin Bond, Rick Riordan and JK Rowling - and this is the reason why writing comes easy to them. They are already ten chapters into their next book, a fiction novella which combines Hindu mythology with modern life. Writing is going to be just a hobby, though. They are aspiring to take the civil services exam. Armed with the potent combination of determination and creativity, we know they are surely going to succeed! 📖

With determination and discipline...

Dreams Come True, Proves Deval

Ritisha Jaiswal
AIS VKC Lucknow, VIII

To write a book in just about a month seems a herculean task, but **Deval Mishra**, a Class VIII student of **AIS VKC Lucknow**, has gone ahead and done just that. Inspired by William Shakespeare, it is natural then that this prolific playwright and poet has been part of Deval's journey as a writer at every step. "I wanted to write stories of my own after I got inspired reading my first novel,

Shakespeare's *Macbeth*", says Deval. He began writing formally in October last year, but penning a book at his age posed a host of challenges. Like most authors, his main struggle was to script a conclusion that not only kept the characters real but also added a twist to the whole narrative. But no challenge is hard enough for someone who has the will and determination to succeed. In fact, Deval managed to maintain a perfect balance between writing and studying throughout. "I would usually write at night," says Deval, "when everything is quiet and I could focus properly." He also expresses gratitude for his parents and teachers who were supportive of his endeavour no matter what. It took not more than a month for the book to go to the print. "It was like a dream come true for me when the book finally hit the shelves. It is a story about the life of a poor farmer boy who wanted to serve his country." Even at this young age, Deval's aim is to spread the patriotic message that everyone should serve their country because it gives us so much to be proud of. When asked about the future, Deval reveals that he has no plans to write another book at this time. He does, however, want to tell his young readers that there is no time like now to begin to read and write. "Reading is a good habit. It needs to be cultivated and I am convinced it makes us a better human being as well," he says. As JK Rowling's famous quote says, 'If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book'. Maybe, you can find yours with Deval Mishra's, *The Road that leads to our Destination!*



Yandex is the largest search engine in Russia and has a global market share between 0.5% and 1.16%.



One journey to another



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

Each year my heart swells with elation as I see my students complete another fruitful year of learning. But this year while I am happy to see all of you enter a new chapter of your life, I am also proud for all of you have completed a phase of this journey of learning that was dotted with challenges.

As the pandemic altered life as we had known it, it did not elude the academic world either. Up until last year, one could not have imagined a scenario where kids would stop going to school. So, did learning come to a halt? No. If 2020 threw unforeseen challenges, it also set a milestone for the courage that humankind showed in overcoming those. Virtual learning and online classrooms were embraced. It sure came with its fair set of challenges. From setting a complete IT team that could facilitate online learning of students to training teachers who now had to unlearn chalk-board teaching; a lot had to be done. But, we moved on, bit by bit. Each challenge presented an opportunity, opening up new vistas of knowledge dissemination. And look how far we have come today, walking on the road less taken, completing an entire academic session. Each academic session is worthy of applause for it marks the culmination of hard work, both on the part of teachers and learners. But this academic session deserves a standing ovation for everyone involved for this year the partakers have shown a virtue essential for the survival of humankind – courage. The courage to move forward despite all odds.

My heartiest congratulations to all of you for completing this one of its kind journey, and beginning another one.

Respect their space



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

One Sunday morning, while cleaning out my cupboard, I chanced upon a family album full of pictures. As I poured over these memories from my childhood spent in the small town of Bokaro, my house-help shared that she, too, belonged to a hilly, tribal area of Jharkhand where her family had owned some agricultural land.

Curious to know more, I asked her why she had swapped such a beautiful habitat for a polluted, city life. Apparently, her family could no longer till their land as wild animals had invaded it. With their own habitat in forests and hills having been destroyed as a result of unchecked human activity, these animals had started preying upon cattle, killing locals and destroying farmlands. This story of human-animal conflict stirred my heart. It was a classic case of fight for space. Take jungle safaris, for example. We call them a learning experience about nature, but what we actually do is encroach upon the living space of forest life. Imagine how we would feel if strangers kept turning up in our homes uninvited and disturbed our basic way of living?

Animals, too, have a right to breathe, eat and roam in a space they can call their own. Initiatives like special animal corridors and animal-friendly, responsible safari tours are the only way forward. The penguin parade of Philip Island Nature Parks in Australia is an example the world can follow. I hope the next generation understands that loving animals is also about giving them their own peaceful space for living. [GT](#)

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Untouchability unraveled

Shedding Light On The Relentless Fight Taken Up By The Dalits

Arshya Gupta, AIS PV, XII G

With more than seven decades of independence, we have been enjoying freedom every second. Yet there are some whose freedom comes with a label called 'Dalit', an inference of the Indian caste system.

The earliest mention of caste system is found in Rig Veda around 1500-800 BC, where it was called 'varna system'. One of the many perils associated with the caste system was the problem of untouchability, which till date is deep rooted in the society.

The womb of darkness

Unholy and impure - words that describe the condition of untouchables in the society till 18th Century. Subjected to extreme prejudice and treated with scorn remarks, they were often forced to partake in humiliating practices such as wearing a bell around their neck to announce their presence, wearing slippers on their hands instead of feet, sitting on the floor, eating in separate utensils, etc. They accepted their fate with resignation and succumbed to the injustices acted against them by upper caste people. With every step that the untouchables took forward, their gloomy situation took two backwards. Their condition seemed as pitiable as ever until the expansion of British civilisation in India, who began to disagree with the discrimination of the lower classes and undermined the supporting pillars of the caste system.

Crawling with dim hope

The onset of 19th century brought a glimmer of hope with social reformer Jyotirao Phule and his anti-caste Dalit movement. This step ignited a spark in the mind of untouchables who never thought of standing up for themselves and raising their voice against the prej-



udices. For once, there was smile on their face, as Jyotirao Phule formed the Sathyashodak Samaj to attract attention towards the need for education and upliftment of several depressed groups, while focusing on the ideals of human well-being, happiness, equality, etc. But soon, the wishful light which lit up in the hearts of the untouchables was again diffused by the British, who started encouraging occupation based on different castes.

Rebellion to rise

Putting their heads down, the untouchables had almost accepted their fate, but who knew that there was light at the end of the tunnel. In 20th century, the untouchables rose to break free of iron shackles with the support of two prominent beings, BR Ambedkar and

Mahatma Gandhi. From being referred to as 'chamars' and 'achoot', they were given a new name - 'Harijans (God's People)' by Gandhi to overcome the derogatory terms. On the other hand, Ambedkar fought for the system of reservations (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) to be provided to Dalits, which they finally received in the late 20th century. The rebellion brought a new identity to them along with a sense of accomplishment, thereby, integrating Dalits into the society and uplifting them to stand equal to upper caste society.

Sniffing out the light

At present, one can see a stark transformation in the lives of Dalits. The system of reservations turned fruitful as literacy rates shot up to 66% among

SCs and 59% in STs. From the fear of raising voice, the Dalits have turned the tables by utilising education as a powerful tool and have shown their presence in every field, from literature to science, some even holding prominent positions. For instance, Ram Nath Kovind is the second Dalit to hold the position of President of India. Yet, all that glitters is not gold- it is the same community where 54% are still undernourished and 37% live below the poverty line. They are still offered menial jobs as manual scavenging, which estimates to employment of 1.3 million Dalits. One might say, they are at the highest that they've ever been but the age-old prejudices against them still prevail. Even though they stand above-ground, they continue to live in the dark shadow of their 'superiors'. [GT](#)

Reviving the animal kingdom

Continued from page 1...

Prioritising the wild

The window of a posh black SUV rolls down, and a piece of plastic is carelessly flung down on the street. Animals often get their heads, feet, or wings trapped in this plastic and may suffer from overheating and suffocation. If ingested, plastic can also cause intestinal blockages and can become fatal for them. To find a solution, several countries and organisations have been engaged in formulating policies. For instance, India through its National Marine Litter Policy introduced in 2018, has been keeping a check on plastic waste flowing into India's coastal waters and cleaning up the same by implementing different techniques and methods. On the other hand, World Wildlife Fund, through its ReSource: Plastic project, is helping many organisations of the world to minimise the waste that is cre-

ated out of the element to save the world's ecosystem, especially marine life. The dream is to create a plastic

free world by 2030, where the oceans will sway only with marine life and not plastic leftovers, and it is high time the world starts working on turning this into a reality.

The struggle thus is real. Whether minuscule or humongous, each creature, a part of our beautiful, diverse and exotic wildlife, finds itself at a precarious spot. While the efforts of world governments are laudable, the public needs to do its bit, too. Seeing examples of volunteers at Anand Van Mitra Mandal, Pune, building an artificial pond for birds, to Nandankanan Zoo in Bhubaneswar reviving its 'adopt an animal' campaign, and Arunachal Pradesh engaging in aquaculture technology parks and field schools to promote conservation of aquatic

animals, proves that humans have still not yet lost their humanity, and with a little bit of effort from everyone, we can create Earth to be a beautiful home for all once again!



GT M@il



Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'More than just shy' on page 5 published in the GT edition dated March 15, 2021. The article takes into account the stigma that surrounds social anxiety and bashes it to the ground, uncovering the fact that it is not abnormal to feel a certain way. It creates a visual in the readers' minds about the grave challenges that a person who suffers from social anxiety might've to face and helps them empathise instead of sympathising with such people. Thank you, GT, for denuding the mockery and taboo that clouded the sun of social anxiety and instilling confidence in all those who suffer from it. [GT](#)

Aayushi Bawa
AIS Noida, XII F



With its market share below 0.5%, DuckDuckGo serves 47 million searches per day.

HISTORY *this* WEEK

Weeks, years, decades, centuries...as time goes by day by day, the world keeps progressing into a newer direction. But as our eyes always stay glued to the telescope, trying to get a glimpse of the shining future we work so hard to create, it is important to take a break and appreciate how far we have come. Let us look back at the pages of history falling between **March 22-28** that played their role in shaping our society.

The world of sports

MAR
28
1939

The New York Renaissance (Rens), an all-black team, beat the National Basketball League champions Oshkosh All Stars, an all-white team, by 34-25 to win the inaugural World Professional Basketball Tournament held in Chicago. The victory made them the first all-black team to win a world championship outside the Negro Basketball league, paving way for the racial integration of professional basketball in the near future. The Rens' lineup comprised many Basketball Hall of Fame members such as William Gates, Charles Cooper, etc.



The world of celebration

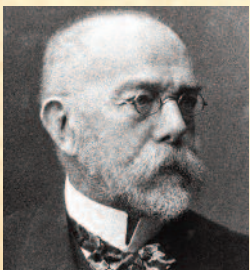
MAR
22
1873

Spanish National Assembly banned the centuries-old slavery system in Puerto Rico. As part of the law, all the slave owners were given some monetary compensation for each slave they freed. But the slaves were required to work for their former masters for another 3 years before they could be actually free. This day is thus celebrated as Emancipation Day and is an official Puerto Rico holiday, commemorating the abolition of slavery on the island.



MAR
24
1882

German Physician Dr Heinrich Hermann Robert Koch identified the bacterium, tubercle bacillus, which causes tuberculosis. His discovery was a turning point in the history of medicine, providing an in-depth understanding of TB that had affected the world for millennia. Later on, in 1890, he discovered tuberculin as a cure to this disease, which turned out to be an ineffective therapeutic agent yet a valuable diagnostic tool still. Thenceforth, in an effort to raise awareness about TB, the day is celebrated as World Tuberculosis Day.



The world of entertainment



MAR
23
1743

German composer George Frideric Handel's sacred oratorio 'The Messiah' premiered in London. Written in 1741, the composition was based on a libretto compiled by Charles Jennens from verses of the Church of England's Book of Common Prayer and the Bible, and was first performed in Dublin in 1742. Opening to a modest public response at first, it went on to become one of the most performed choral works in Western music, almost a staple of the Christmas holiday season.



MAR
24
1939

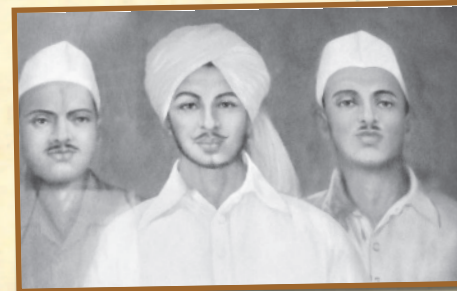
Wuthering Heights, an American romantic period drama based on Emily Brontë's 1847 novel of the same name, premiered in Los Angeles. Directed by William Wyler, starring Merle Oberon, David Niven, and Laurence Olivier, the film omits the last 18 of the novel's 34 chapters, leaving out or shifting most of the second generation characters. In 2007, the film was chosen by the Library of Congress to be preserved in the US National Film Registry for its historical and cultural significance.



MAR
25
1939

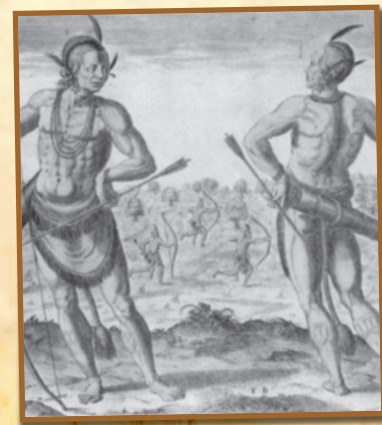
Billboard magazine debuted its first formal country music chart known as the 'Hillbilly Hits' chart. Displayed on a semi-regular basis, monthly at most times, the chart highlighted and honoured smash singles in the genre. Some of the hits from the debut year include 'Annabelle' by Hoosier Hot Shots, 'It makes no difference now' by Floyd Tillman, etc. However, the chart was soon discontinued in 1942, and was replaced by the 'Most Played Juke Box Folk Records', only to be finally titled as the Hot Country Songs chart in 1962.

The world of politics



MAR
23
1931

As part of the Indian independence movement, revolutionary Bhagat Singh, aged 23, and his associates, Shivaram Rajguru, aged 22, and Sukhdev Thapar, aged 23, were hanged to death for the assassination of British police officer John Saunders. They were originally ordered to be hanged on March 24 but due to the rising sentiment in favour of the brave sons of India, the schedule was advanced by about 11 hours. Since then, the day is celebrated as Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Diwas in India.



MAR
26
1910

African American lawyer William Henry Lewis was appointed as the United States Assistant Attorney General by the then President William Howard Taft. As part of Taft's 'Black Cabinet', he was one of the four African Americans appointed to such high office then. His nomination thus sparked a national debate, with opposition from the Southern Democratic block that advocated racial segregation. Notwithstanding which, his position was finally confirmed in 1911.

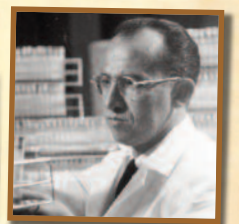
MAR
22
1622

Opechancanough, brother and successor of the then Chief Powhatan, led a surprise attack on the Jamestown Colony, initiating the Powhatan War and killing 347 colonists. Popularly known as the Jamestown massacre, the attack was a part of the resistance movement led by the Powhatan confederacy whose lands were forcefully seized for tobacco cultivation by the English settlers. The colonists then avenged the massacre by assaulting Powhatan people for the next ten years.

The world of invention

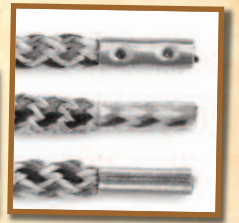
MAR
26
1953

American virologist Dr Jonas Salk announced his invention of one of the first successful polio vaccines. Having begun his research work on poliomyelitis (causative agent of polio) in 1948, it took him 7 years to discover the cure; first trials of which were conducted on Salk himself, his family and other polio patients. Post a successful run of which, the vaccine was pronounced as 'safe and effective' in 1955. Before his invention, polio would paralyse or kill over half a million people worldwide every year.

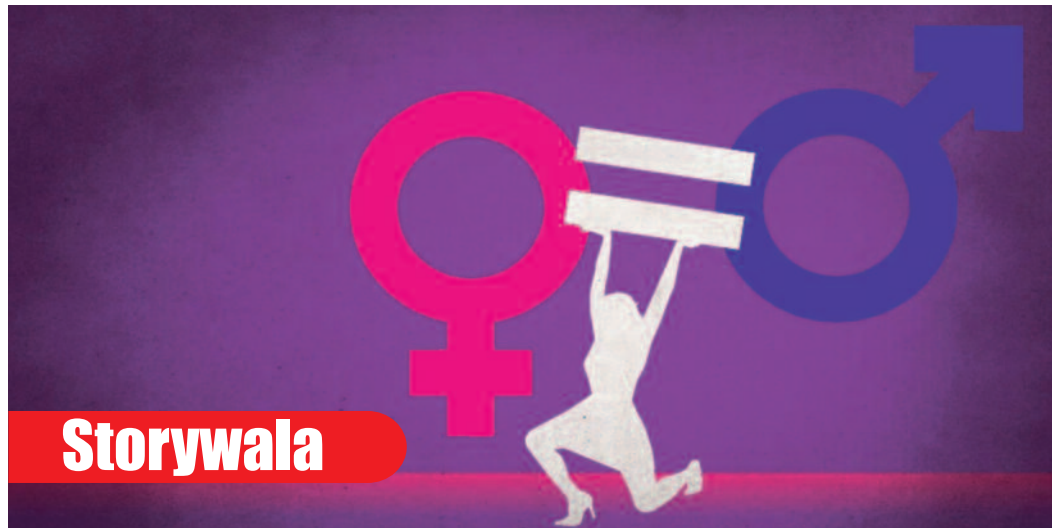


MAR
27
1790

English inventor Harvey Kennedy invented and obtained patent for shoelaces with aglets. Aglet is the metal or plastic wrap at the end of the shoelace that keeps it from unravelling, making the whole process of threading the lace into shoe holes easier. Before the discovery of agletted shoelaces, shoe strings were made from a variety of material such as leather, hemp and rope net, etc., and were fastened over the top of the foot with an additional perforated leather strip and a buckle.



The great battle



Storywala

Ishita Misra
AIS Noida, X

After a long, gruelling day at work, close colleagues Harry and Tony were walking towards the bus stop, when they saw a poster that spoke of the rise of a new sports-woman. Looking at the poster, Harry suddenly exclaimed, "No one can deny that no matter how much a woman may try, she can never match up to a man's strength in physically demanding areas." He saw the expression on Tony's face turn cold. Thus, to salvage himself, he said, "Don't get me wrong! I respect women, but let's face it, they can't possibly surpass men in terms of brut strength!" Tony silently seethed

in anger, telling himself to deal with this patiently. In a neutral voice, Tony asked Harry, "You actually believe what you just said? You're telling me you've never heard of any incidents where women surpassed men in physical strength?" An amused Harry silently nodded no. Tony's anger had subsided, "You really took the phrase 'ignorance is bliss' seriously, didn't you? Do you know that some 46 years ago a woman defeated a man, on this very day, in this very city of Houston?" "Interesting!" exclaimed Harry half-heartedly, thinking that he'd landed himself another lecture. Ignoring his co-worker's expression, Tony continued, "There

was a man called Bobby Riggs. He was a great tennis player, who retired from the game a little early than expected. But much to everyone's surprise, he made a comeback a decade later. Countless theories ran abuzz about the real reason for his return, something the world found out eventually.

It was around this time that women had started appearing in tennis, and most men felt threatened. In an attempt to put all women down, not only was he willing to play the best of female players, he also kept prize money for the women. He first challenged Billie Jean King who declined his offer. Margaret Court stepped in then. She was the world's number 1 female tennis

Finally, the big day arrived; America was tense, for this match was a lot more than about just two players.

player at the time. But even she couldn't defeat him, losing to him to a score of 6-2, 6-1. After that, Billie Jean King decided to accept his challenge, knowing that if she also lost a match to him that would set women all over the world back by another 50 years. Finally, the big day arrived; America was tense, for this match was a lot more than about just two players. To shorten it for you, the odds weren't favourable for the self-proclaimed 'male-chauvinist'. He lost embarrassingly to say the least. The three rounds gave the results '6-4; 6-3; 6-3' indicating that Riggs had lost. What do you have to say now, Harry?" asked Tony after a long pause. "I say, I was wrong! I will know better next time. I will stop believing that women can't do anything, and you stop giving me half-hour lectures because we've been standing here since 20 minutes! Deal?" "Sure thing!" And hence, on the 20th of September that year, Harry took Tony's leave with a deal and a little insight. 🇺🇸



Whole wheat pizza

Nitya Malhotra, AIS Gurugram 43, X

Ingredients

Eggs.....	3
Pizza sauce.....	2 tsp
Onion (chopped).....	1
Capsicum (chopped).....	1
Bell pepper (chopped).....	1
Mozzarella cheese (grated).....	1 bowl
Half cooked chapati.....	1
Italian seasoning.....	1 tsp
Black pepper.....	as per taste
Salt.....	as per taste

Procedure

- Break the eggs in a bowl. Add some salt and pepper in it. Whisk well.
- Now, grease a skillet with oil and keep it on medium flame.
- Pour the whisked eggs in it, spread evenly and let the mix sit for a minute.
- Using a heatproof spatula, gently lift the egg mix from the edges to see if the base is firm. If yes, place a chapatti on the upper uncooked side and press it gently.
- Now, flip it to the other side and cook till done.
- Slide it onto a plate and apply the pizza sauce on it evenly.
- Now, evenly spread the cheese over it and place the toppings, i.e., chopped capsicum, onion, and bell pepper.
- Set a skillet on low heat and place the chapatti pizza on it.
- Cover it with a lid and cook until the cheese melts and the chapatti becomes crisp.
- Season it to taste with Italian herbs and chili flakes.
- Your whole wheat thin crust pizza is ready. Slice it up and serve hot!

WORDS VERSE



A woman's heart

Gargi Jhunjhunwala
AIS Vasundhara 6, X

When we were maidens
Thought our future homes
With their high domes
Would be our heaven

Little did we realise
With tears in our eyes
Heaven is only for saints
And not for the faints

When we were just new
We committed faults a few
When you did extend help
The guilt was always felt

Why did you lose trust?
When we spoke for unjust
Why were we silenced?
And subjected to violence

You always found faults
And termed them defaults

We always prayed for all
But everyone made us bawl

Not as eminent as you are
For we began this hour
Yes, we may be insane
But no one can detain

We birthed generations
Termed as God's creations
You had expectations
And we got allegations

All were encouraged
We were discouraged
We never give you clues
Of struggles we braved

Men's work is all daring
It is not worth comparing
But why don't you see ours?
We relentlessly toil for hours

Well, now it's about time
That we begin to think, find
What we left behind
To rise beyond the binds

Live life, you should
Respect us, you should
And with 'his' blessings
We'll shine undaunted. 🇺🇸

The sacred womb

Ashish Magoo
AIS Saket, Alumnus

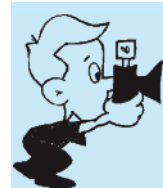
Like the redolent fragrance of jasmine
On the tranquil, gentle spring breeze
Like a thoughtful and caressing kin
Vociferously embracing with ease

Like the mellow montage of the moon
Reflecting splendour on sand and seas
Like the ensconced caterpillar's cocoon
Protecting, nourishing with elbow grease

Like the sui generis strings of a sitar
Emitting the euphony of yin with expertise
Like the sine qua non for many avatars
Bestowing abundant bounties by degrees



Oh woman, you are the Feminine Divine!
Beyond every single identity you call mine
A repertoire of dimensions, subtle and fine
You are the sacred womb in cosmic design.



CAMERA CAPERS

Rohan Nagpal, AIS Pushp Vihar, XII

Send in your entries to
cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in



Where the land and the sky merge



The wind is directing towards heaven



The true sapphire blue of nature



Ecosia, also known as the tree planting search engine, has around 0.10% market share and takes about 45 searches to plant a tree.

A disaster journey

Yuvaan Goel, AGS Noida, V

I woke up in a deserted island. "Where am I?" I asked myself. I slowly stood up and dusted the sand off my body. I was confused and sad. "Hello! Anybody there?" I screamed at the top of my lungs, expecting to hear a reply. But all I heard were birds chirping and leaves rustling. When I tried to look for my ship, all I could see were small pieces of wood, which broke into tinier shards when I lightly stepped on them. "Ahhhh!" I screamed again. I wanted to convince myself that someone definitely would be there on the island but could not hear me yet. I began to walk deeper into the forest, in the hope of finding someone. "Anybody there?" I asked. No response. "It is okay, Alex. They are somewhere else," I told myself. I shouted again. No response. This went on and on till I reached the end of the forest, as well as the island. By now, I had lost all hope. I went back to the place where I was sitting earlier and rested against a coconut tree, slowly drifting into sleep.

I woke up, with only one sad thought. "This is it; this is the end of my story." But then, out of the blue, I remembered that my father, who was also a sailor, had taught me how to make a boat out of wood from the trees. He had also taught me a whole



Short Story | Part II

lot of other things, like how to cut fruits using only hands, how to catch fish and how to chop hard wood.

It took me weeks to make a good enough boat for me to get home. My hands were bruised and swollen, and so was my body. I looked like the male version of the fairy tale princess Rapunzel, with hair and beard as long as hers. But I believed that hard

work would pay off. I drank the last few sips of my coconut juice, and got ready to set off on my new vessel. As soon as I put my foot into the boat that I had been working on for weeks, it suddenly broke into a million pieces. I wept as loudly as I could, because now I knew I was going to spend the rest of my life on this island. I cried myself to sleep. When I woke up, I glanced at the

When I woke up, I glanced at the sea, without any hope or energy in my heart to change my fate.

sea, without any hope or energy in my heart to change my fate. But lo and behold! I saw a ship heading right towards me, with my best friend John on it. I thought I must be hallucinating, but as it drew closer, I knew I had been given another chance at life. John jumped out of the ship and hollered. "Come right in. Everyone is so worried about you!" he said. "I can't, I'm too weak. But how did you find me here?" I asked.

"Well, we heard that there was a huge thunderstorm, and we figured that you would have come this way as this is your favourite place. Come now, I'll pick you up!" he replied. I took his hand and he carried me to his ship. When we finally reached home after a few days, there was the whole village once again, cheering for us. I ran straight to my family and hugged them tightly. The evening finally ended on a high note with a huge feast. 🇮🇳

So, what did you learn today?

A new word: **Hallucinating**
Meaning: To see something that's not actually present



Bookish love!

Yamini Bhatt, AIS VYC Lucknow, VIII



You will need...

- Cardboard
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Tape
- Coloured paper or fabric
- Empty shoebox
- Chart paper
- Hot glue

You need to do...

■ On a cardboard, write down the letters B, O, O, and K according to your preferred size.

■ Make sure the letters are bold and big enough.

■ Using scissors, cut out these letters as neatly as you can.

■ Take another piece of cardboard and trace these same four letters on them and cut them out as well. Now you will have two pieces of each letter - one for the front side and one for the back.

■ Cut out four strips from a cardboard piece of dimension 10 cm x 2 cm each.

■ Next, take one letter cardboard piece and with the help of a hot glue gun, paste the strip vertically along the edges of the letter.

■ Once done, again use hot glue on the open side of the strip and paste the second identical letter on the top of it. With this, your 3D letter is complete.

■ Repeat the same with rest of

the letters.

■ Decorate your final letters with coloured or patterned paper or even fabric. You can even use both to make your letters stand out.

■ Take a shoebox and cut out the flaps from the top and front side so only an open, hollow box remains.

■ Cover the box with a chart paper or printed paper as per your preference.

■ Using hot glue, paste the final B on top of O, and on other hand, paste an O on top of K. This way you will have a vertical BO and OK (Refer to the picture).

■ Paste BO on the left side of the shoes box and OK on the right side with hot glue. Make sure enough glue is used so that everything is secure in place.

■ Let it dry overnight or for a few hours, and your personalised bookcase is ready to store the magic of literature!

POEM

Underwater

Ishika Agarwal

AIS Vasundhara 6, VIII

Dreams held hostage, stuck underwater
Crushed under rubble, all caged raiders
No one to turn to, enforced isolation
Titanic betrayal, sinking realisation

Truth has been spoken, illusion broken
I ascend from the vast and furious ocean
Through shafts of wondrous sunlight

My mind dabbles in rebellion with delight

Scuba diving with the fish in the sea
Hundreds of colours underneath me
A whole new feeling, a whole new world
As I watch the majestic seahorse unfurl

My feet hit the waves as I enter the shore
With deep breaths, my eyes start to explore
Thus, as I have one epiphany after another
I learn it isn't aviary, but freedom rather. 🇮🇳



It's Me

Know me

My name: Shauryaveer Chaudhary

My Class: I

My school: AIS Noida

Born on: October 22

My favourites

Teacher: Audrey ma'am

Subject: Maths

Friend: Mahira and Kabir

Game: Football

Cartoon: ViR: The Robot Boy

Food: Momos

Mall: DLF Mall of India, Noida

Book: The very hungry caterpillar

My dreams and goals

Hobby: Playing with my cars

I like: Dancing

I dislike: Junk food

My role model: Soldiers

I want to become: A pilot

I want to feature in GT because: I would like to know more people and others to know me well.



Jokey Pokey

Arhsia Vishnoi

AIS Vasundhara 6, V

What would one plate say to the other plate?

Dinner is on me!



What is brown, hairy and wears sunglasses?

A coconut on vacation



Why do you think was the baby strawberry crying?

Because her parents were in a jam



Where would you find a full-grown elephant?

The same place you lost it



How do we know that the ocean is friendly?

It waves!



PAINTING CORNER

Avishi Aggarwal

AIS Vas 1, VII



Is COVID-19 that bad?



The Other Side Of The Virus We Fail To Notice

Arhaan Gupta
AIS Noida, XII

It has been more than one year since the COVID-19 pandemic showed its true colours to the world and filled us with terrors never known before. Even after spending so much time fighting and trying to escape it, the virus still remains relatively new and foreign to us, especially considering how all of us thought it would be over in weeks or a few months, but we still are suffering from its aftermath that doesn't seem to be ending. All of us now sit in our homes, our parents watching news and monitoring the chaos that this virus is spreading with their morning tea, and we get to know all about the Amityverse through our e-copy of The Global Times. Attending online classes are our daily routine and somewhere in between, we squeeze in time

to relax with Netflix or our cooking experiments and of course, online scrolling. Hoarding masks, sanitisers, piles of food is a common measure now as we all wait for the day when the world will no longer be dealing with this mammoth, lethal disease. But even as we live in constant fear, a part of us cannot help but wonder- is this pandemic really all bad or does every grey cloud have a silver lining?

As all the hustle bustle of humanity was put on hold when Coronavirus struck us, the outside world, finally, was available for other species. A lot of animal species that were on the verge of endangerment recovered amidst the pandemic including elephant shrew. The same sky that once used to be covered in smoke from all the man-made pollution finally saw a world beyond that dark haze. We might have been caged in our homes, but the pandemic proved itself to be

a healer to our mother earth as pollution levels not only in India but all over the world scaled down. The pandemic also provided people extra time on their hands and allowed them to explore creativity and artistic abilities beyond their homework and office work, and taught everyone the importance of being hygienic and knowing basic life skills such as cooking.

Yes, the COVID-19 pandemic is a tragedy befallen on us, but it will be ignorant to overlook the few good things it has given us. This unexpected occurrence has left us all thinking about how we conduct ourselves and our planet, and even though it took an international crisis of such a magnitude for us to finally pay attention to the real things that matter in life, it is better to be late than never. Let's hope that we will continue to act on these lessons learnt even after we have overcome this pandemic! **GT**

WORDS VERSE

The world as I see now

Shreya Choudhary
AIS Gurugram 43, IX

Be it a highway or a tunnel
No matter it was dawn or dusk
There would be traffic all over
All the roads fully covered

Then COVID-19 struck the world
Everything changed, we wondered
Schools and offices saw a shift
And that's how we began to exist

Parks bustling with jolly kids
Became silent for a long while
As anxiety brewed from within

We were hopeful for medicines

In the morning, when we woke up
To the ravishing sun at the horizon
The whole family gathered at home
Wondering what next to resist bore

The only sound that we could hear
Was the cool whispering breeze
Or the birds that sounded so clear
It was the first time we cared to hear

The lockdown is finally lifted
But a silent fear still persists
The time is not really to rejoice
You know well to make the choice! **GT**



It's time to change

Ishita Sood, AIS Gurugram 43, X

Pandemic taught us life
It taught us how to fight
In the most miserable times
It told us not to whine

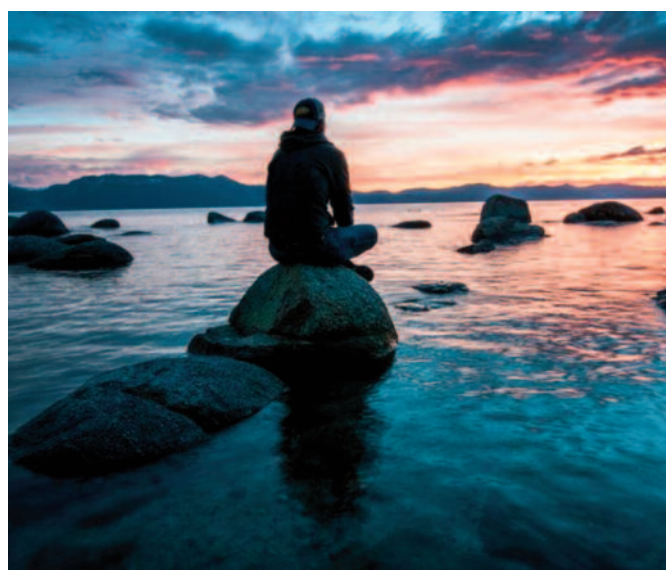
It tested our patience level
And even made us feel pity
For lives with no shelters
For children with no money

It's time to say goodbye
To COVID-19 and the cries
It's time to grab the vaccine
And gulp some tacos and fries

It's time to work hard
Harder than ever before
To help our striving nation
Recover its economic growth

Let's not blame anyone
Or any other country
It is time to reunite
And aim for a better life

Let's just thank the Almighty
For making us diligent
For showing us the path
Of hard work and perseverance **GT**



Strength in solitude

Mansimar Kaur
AIS Gurugram 46, X

I think to myself
Is this solitude any good?
But at least this certainly is
The best as one should

We stay confined at home
To be safe from a deadly virus
This is the only prevention

So, why this unease and unrest?

We need to stay strong
Get closer to our families
Learn, teach and be grateful
And enjoy the fresh breeze

For the sun always rises
After a dark stormy night
We too shall pass this patch
Just stay safe and hold tight! **GT**



PAINTING CORNER

Prisha Sharma, AIS Gurugram 46, VI



Oh! My school

Aishani Arora, AIS Noida, V

Oh! My school, you are my pride
But on my first day with you, I cried

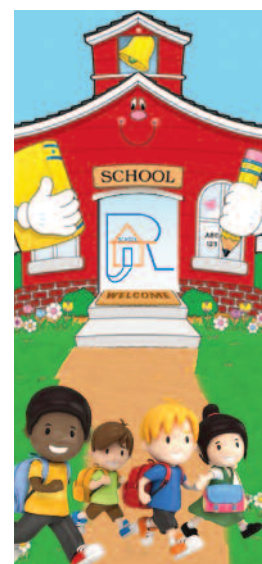
Oh! My school, you have classrooms
Which are better than our bedrooms

Oh! My school, you let us have fun
In your playgrounds as we run

Oh! My school, you are the best place
Teaching us how to ace with grace

Oh! My school, life is now boring
Without your love on us showering

Oh! My school, let Corona end soon
So, we get together again in tune! **GT**





INSEF-2020

Budding Scientists Of Amity Bag A Plethora Of Laurels



The robo champ - Akshat Sharma



The golden innovator- Vrinda Anand



Champs Krish Sharma & Nalin Jayaswal

ACSF

Amitians proved their innovation prowess once again as they bagged several laurels at the national level of INSEF (Indian Science and Engineering Fair) 2020. The annual event held virtually this year on January 4, 2021 was organised by Science Society of India. Vrinda Anand (XI) from AIS Vasundhara 1 bagged the gold medal for her project 'ROBOVID-19: Development of a social distancing system'. She

will now represent India at Global Youth Science and Technology Bowl (GYSTB), Hong Kong and has also qualified for Genius Olympiad (USA). Bronze medals were bagged by Akshat Sharma (XI) from AIS Noida for his project 'AIR (Artificial Intelligence through Robotics) In Healthcare' and Krish Sharma & Nalin Jayaswal (XI) from AIS PV for 'FARM+ - A novel innovative smart pole for promoting efficient agriculture'. It is notable that before the national level, all these winsome

innovators of Amity had also bagged gold medals at INSEF regional fair in which a total of 73 projects were selected from across India. Top 16 winners of INSEF regional fair had made it to nationals wherein they once again competed for the top slots. The opportunity to participate in the unique fair was extended by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, who envisions to nurture critical thinking and compassionate innovators who can build a happy world. The pro-

gram was coordinated by Amity's Children Science Foundation (ACSF). All the winners were felicitated at the virtual valedictory ceremony which was followed by a virtual science fair wherein the students showcased their innovations.

About INSEF

Started in 2013, INSEF is India's most prestigious science fair. Conceptualised by Science Society of India, it provides a platform to students of Class VI-XII to demonstrate their STEM aptitude.

Bonding between generations

Amitians Enjoy Virtual Classes With Their Grandparents



Fun and learning together with grandparents at AIS Saket

AIS Saket

Keeping in tandem with Amity's motto of nurturing sensitive, compassionate and happy human beings, virtual Grandparents Day for Class Nursery - KG was held on February 26, 2021. The event aimed to highlight importance of grandparents in one's life, along with inculcating human values like care, respect and love for elders. It commenced with a vir-

tual welcome of grandparents by school principal Divya Bhatia. They were then engaged in myriad activities and games like Complete the rhyme, Riddle time, Tongue twisters and Identify the TV commercial. Some of these activities made the grandparents nostalgic about their own childhood days. Many of them shared beautiful memories of the cherished moments with their grandchildren. Children too shared anecdotes, recited self-

composed poems, danced and sang songs for their grandparents. The event culminated with a video collage of cherished pictures of all the grandparents with their grandchildren. Apart from being fun and engaging for children, the event also proved to be a precursor for making many grandparents tech savvy.

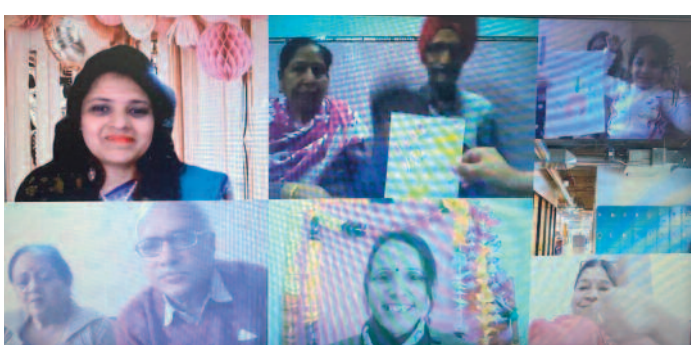
AIS Noida

A virtual Grandparents Day was held for Class Nursery from February 4-6, 2021. The students greeted all the grandparents with beautiful personalised video messages. This was followed by fun-filled virtual games and a quiz. Grandparents shared 'Nani/Dadi ke nuskhe', some of them sang songs and narrated moral stories to the children. The event was aimed at fortifying the bond of love and respect between children and their grandparents and nurturing the core human values of love and respect in young kids. Children enjoyed

virtual learning with their grandparents which made both of them tech-savvy too.

AIS Vasundhara 1

Tiny tots of Class Nursery - KG attended online classes with their grandparents to celebrate Grandparents Day on March 2, 2021 virtually. The event was held to instil in young minds the core human values of love, care and respect towards elders. An array of fun-filled games and activities like *Bhujho to jaane*, *Muhavre pehchane*, *Paryayvachi aur gaano ka sangam* and 'Identify the famous personalities' were organised that saw enthusiastic participation of both the students and their grandparents. Some grandparents shared their happy childhood moments with great nostalgia, while others narrated self-composed poems. Children enjoyed learning with their grandparents who blessed them heartily and also wished them great success in life.



Grandparents at AIS Noida share cherished memories



Children play fun games with grandparents at AIS Vas 1



Children share the value of BHAAG

Mantra for success

AIS Mayur Vihar

Students of Class III held a virtual special assembly on the theme 'Amitians' Success Mantra - BHAAG' on January 30, 2021. The assembly was held to share and inculcate the virtues of BHAAG (Behaviour, Hard work, Attitude, Ambition and God), the success mantra given by Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Universe. It commenced with mellifluous chanting of

shlokas amidst the virtual lamp lighting. Students then shared the relevance of BHAAG especially in present times and also pledged to imbibe them as a way of life. An English play, a song, a poem and a Hindi skit based on BHAAG as a way forward for a successful life were presented virtually. Children also recited *dohas* and gave a dance performance. Parents who attended the special assembly heartily appreciated the insightful performances of students.



Kovidh Agarwal

Priyanshi Agarwal

Mark W Ryder

Anand Sinha

Cheshta Kavilani

Janya Gupta

Aarni Handoo

Agrimma Bisht

Harshita Rawtani

Hindi Olympiad

AIS Noida

Amitians bagged 17 medals (3 gold, 3 silver and 11 bronze) at the International Hindi Olympiad held online for Class IX-X on March 6, 2021. The competition organised by Hindi Vikas Manch saw participation of 76 students. The school also won the award for maximum participation for the second consecutive year. The proud gold medallists are Priyanshi

Agarwal from Class IX, and Mark W. Ryder and Kovidh Agrawal from Class X. Silver medals were bagged by Cheshta Kavilani and Anand Sinha from Class IX, and Janya Gupta from Class X. Bronze medals went to Aarni Handoo, Agrimma Bisht, Harshita Rawtani, Ryan Gupta, Kartik Arora, Divyanshi Chamoli, Bhavya Joshi, Sukhman Singh and Ishaani Tiwari of Class IX and Khushi Bhatia and Aryan Sood of Class X.



Ryan Gupta

Kartik Arora

Divyanshi Chamoli

Bhavya Joshi

Sukhman Singh

Ishaani Tiwari

Khushi Bhatia

Aryan Sood

The honour

Secrets of the shrine

A place of wonder and amazement, India is unparalleled in its culture and topography that has attracted travellers for far too long. One of the most popular travel destinations in the world, our country's history, charm, and traditions welcome everyone with open arms to the majestic temples and shrines that hold the secrets of this culture. As the deep and diverse heritage of our land stands rooted in the enigma and astonishment that lies in these sacred places, let's take a moment to appreciate the marvel these holy places hold! Brought to you by **Nandini Sunil, XII E & Shraddha Pandey, XII A, AIS PV**

Jagannath Temple

Where: Puri, Odisha

Constructed in: 1161 CE

What's the mystery: This temple is one of the ancient India's mind-bending marvels. As science tells us, the morning breeze originates from the sea and moves towards the land. The evening breeze, on the other hand, does exactly the opposite. But, inside this temple, the wind doesn't follow the usual norm, and seems to be moving in the direction opposite to what it is usually supposed to be in. If you enter the temple from the Singha Dhwaja Ghat in the evening, the sound of waves is completely muted. Fascinating, isn't it?



Airavatesvara Temple

Where: Dharasuram, Tamil Nadu

Constructed in: 12th century CE

What's the mystery: At this ancient Shiva temple, every step of the staircase you climb will give you a musical note? Astounding, isn't it? But, wait until you visit the intricately carved and balustraded 'singing steps' found in the temple of Airavatesvara. This temple is said to be built by Rajaraja Chola II and is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Monument. The entrance of the temple has stone steps that produce seven different sounds on being tapped. In fact, one can hear all the seven different swaras (musical notes) at different points!

Kamakhya Devi Temple

Where: Guwahati, Assam

Constructed in: 8th-17th century

What's the mystery: This temple is a testimony to the fact that there was absolutely no stigma attached to menstruation in ancient India. In fact, this beautiful *devi* temple celebrates the essence of womanhood. The sanctorum houses the 'mythical womb' of the Hindu Goddess Shakti. Inexplicably, every year during June, the Brahmaputra river near the temple turns red, adding to the myth and mystery embedded in the Kamakhya folklore.

Stambheshwar Mahadev Temple

Where: Kavi Kamboi, Gujarat

Constructed in: 1870

What's the mystery: Believe it or not, this temple can only be seen at certain times! Hence, the epithet bestowed upon it- 'Vanishing Temple'. The shrine is located between the shores of the Arabian sea and the Bay of Cambay. Lord Shiva resides here and blesses those who 'dare' to venture into it. During the times of high tide, the water swallows the temple completely and submerges it underwater. When the low tides come back, the temple reappears and is reopened to visitors. And, this happens on a daily basis!



Thirunarayur Nambi Temple

Where: Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu

Constructed in: Late 3rd century AD

What's the mystery: Sitting in the sub-urban region of the business city of Kumbakonam, it is a temple dedicated to the Hindu God Vishnu and his wife Lakshmi. During the holy rituals inside this temple, it is a regular practice to bring out the Stone Eagle Statue - the Kal Garuda. The mystery lies in the fact that the weight of the statue gradually increases, requiring 4, 8, 16, 32, 64 and finally 128 people to carry it, when the statue comes out of various gates from the sanctum to the main entrance of the temple.

