

Barbaric old GOLD

The Glory And The Gore Behind The Cursed Golden Touch Binding The World

S. Mysha Urooj, XI H & Vasudha Sharma, XI I, AIS Noida

“India’s gold consumption dips” “Gold trades at two-year low” “Smuggling of gold on the rise” – and that’s just a fraction of the recent headlines captured by the precious yellow metal, not to miss the “Gold price today”. And why not, given the immense wealth it loads? Gold has always shone with glorious tales and so a shining tale on the same checks out.

On a historical stamp

If the flying pages of history have borne witness to the glitter of gold, it has also seen its share of tragedies signed in its name. In fact, the most significant gold in warfare was an indirect party, the one given by Inca Peru to Spanish adventurer Hernando Cortes when Cortes claimed to be ‘suffering from a disease of the heart that could only be cured by gold’. This gold, then, went on to finance the war in Europe and beckon in the modern world. Not to mention how the Native Indian Jivaro tribe once killed their governor by pouring molten gold down his throat – a protest for unscrupulous tax for their gold trade. Not to mention the tale of King Midas, the man with a golden touch (literally) and how this golden touch was the very thing that killed him. From the American Civil War, where the gold ports played a huge role as a leverage, to South African War fought over the largest gold-mining complex in the world at the time, gold has

blinded all of the world at some point.

On a hinterland adventure

With its grand stature, it is obvious that the impact of gold on economy ends up being an entire book on its own, be it for better or for worse. Mali, too, pendulum-ed between the same idea – from having multiple gold mines that once promised a bright future to losing 28 million USD on just one mine after exempting companies from paying taxes for the first five years. But there’s still no questioning the power of this precious metal, for economists still do not fail to mention how gold-backed currencies have proven to be ahead of printed notes. According to Ferdinand Lips for International Finance & Security lecture series, an economy not run on gold denomination is “destined to face crisis and military conflicts throughout the world”. The world currently faces a bag full of issues – political dilemmas, wars, economic emergencies, terrorism etc., and all of them have been loosely tied to the

abandonment of the gold standard at the beginning of WWI. An example of it comes in the form of old gold currencies being stable for decades – French franc for 100 years (1814-1914), Dutch guilder for 98 years (1816-1914), Pound sterling for 93 years (1821-1914) and so on. Not to mention Byzantium where the solidus served for over 800 years.

On a humanitarian ground

Not much can be claimed to be in its favour when the gold ends up ruining the lives of the ones just trying to get by. The people of Democratic Republic of the Congo know it the best, as the world’s most ubiquitous symbol of wealth has been used by militias to fuel the decades-long political conflict in the country. More than 600 million USD in gold is estimated to leave Congo annually. The misendeavours of this metal include – used in the black market, smuggled, exchanged, and even murdered for. The famous Gold Bars Triple Murders in 1971, where a businessman along with his two employees was murdered for 120 gold bars, is just one of the examples of gold craze. And of course, who can forget the battered death of India’s ‘gold man’, Datta Phuge, who shot to limelight after buying the world’s most expensive shirt (250,000 USD) made with more than 3 kg of gold. The world is filled with examples of the *chamak* of gold eclipsing sound judgement.

Some claim that the gold stands to promote freedom, like US Fed chairman Alan Greenspan, yet some claim it to have taken everything away from them, like the people in a lot of gold-rich exploited African countries. Such is the long bittersweet tale of gold; the gold giveth and the gold taketh away!

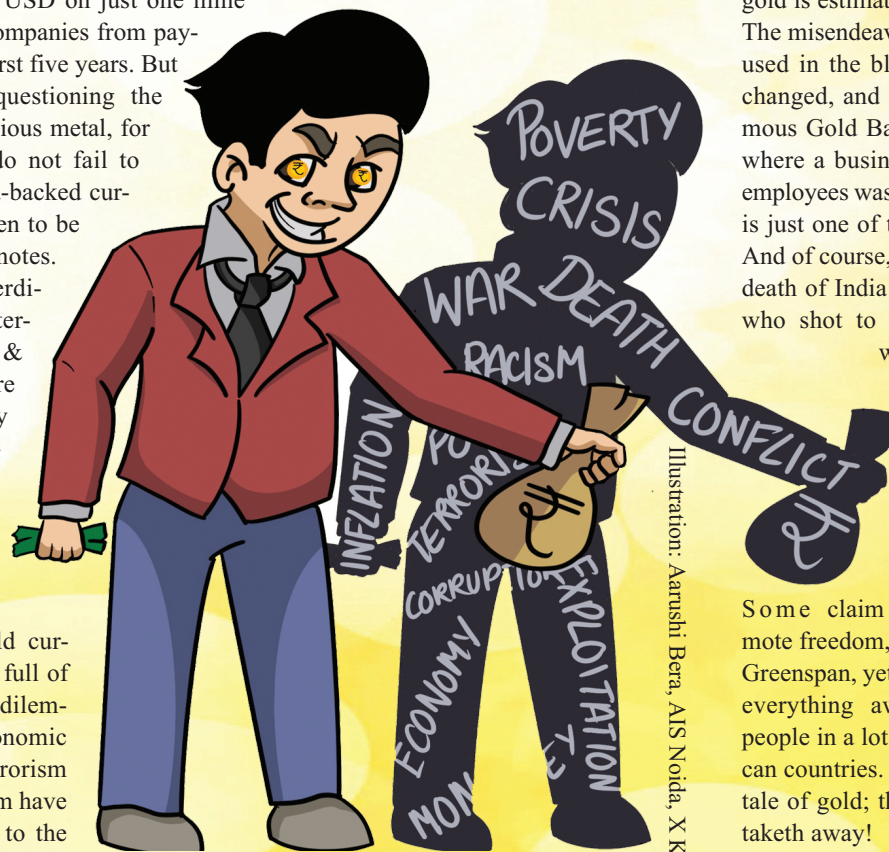


Illustration: Aarushi Bera, AIS Noida, X K

Page editors: Samiksha Dubey, XII J; Aayushi Bawa, XII F; Vasudha Sharma, XI I & S. Mysha Urooj, XI H, AIS Noida

AMITEpoll

Do you think it is offensive to ask reputed people with verified profiles on Twitter to pay 8 USD per month to maintain their blue tick?
a) Yes
b) No
c) Can't say

To vote, log on to www.theglobaltimes.in

Coming next

Contest Edition (AIS Gur 46)



This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, Noida as a part of the ‘GT Making A Newspaper Contest’. Each page of this unique edition carries a special story handcrafted by the school’s editorial team as a part of the competition. The inter-Amity newspaper making competition witnesses different branches of Amity schools across India churn out their own ‘Contest Edition’ which are

pitted against one another at the end of the year, culminating with GT Awards. So, here’s presenting the first edition of ‘GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2022-23’.

What's inside

Perfection at play, P3

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An op-ed(?), P6

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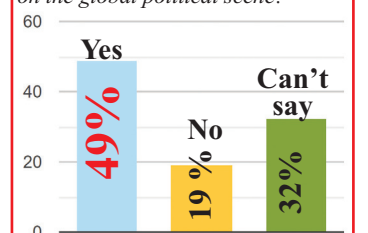
The twitter tussle, P9

Trash to Wi-Fi, P10

POLL RESULT

for GT Edition October 31, 2022

Will election of Rishi Sunak as the UK PM open doors for better recognition of Indian origin leaders on the global political scene?



Results as on November 5, 2022

Around The WORLD

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

ISRAEL

Netanyahu back as Prime Minister

With the nation's acting PM conceding defeat, former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is all set to return to the position. He will be the head of Israel's most right-wing government ever as results showcased a great majority for him and his Likud Party. The move promises to take the country out of the political gridlock that has paralysed it for the past three and a half years. Netanyahu previously served as the prime minister of Israel from 1996-1999 and again from 2009-2021.



RUSSIA

Joining Ukraine grain export deal again

According to updates by Turkey, Russia's defence minister has openly agreed to rejoin the UN-backed grain agreement and allowed the export of grain from Ukraine through a safe Black Sea corridor. The decision came after Russia's Black Sea fleet was attacked. Shipments are expected to be resumed this week as Russia has gotten guarantee from Kyiv that it would not use the corridor for any sort of military operations against the nation.

USA

World's largest volcano Mauna Loa shakes

The legendary volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii, Mauna Loa has been noted to be in a heightened state of unrest. As a result, at least 13 small-magnitude earthquakes have been detected in the area, and residents on the islands have been asked to evacuate and be prepared.



PAKISTAN

Assassination attempt on Imran Khan

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan survived an assassination attempt on November 3, 2022, when an armed man opened fire during a party rally near the Allah Ho Chowk in Wazirabad. He sustained bullet injuries on his leg, and had to undergo surgery, but is out of danger. The cricketer-turned-politician was leading the anti-government march his party launched on October 28.



INDIA

Delhi's poor air quality wreaks havoc

With grey taking over the sky, the air pollution in Delhi-NCR has worsened amidst slower wind speed and rising farm fire incidents. With the quality reaching 'severe plus', the Air Quality Index was noted at 563 in Delhi, 562 in Noida, and 539 in Gurugram. Due to such dangerous levels, primary schools in Delhi-NCR have been asked to stay shut till November 8.



SOUTH KOREA

Itaewon stampede ends up killing 150

Around 150 people were killed and another 151 were noted to be injured after a crowd surge occurred in Itaewon, Seoul for Halloween celebrations. As many as 100,000 people had showed up in the clogged narrow streets of the area, causing one of the deadliest peacetime accidents in the country's recent history. Police has been blamed for the incident for not effectively handling the emergency calls about the disaster.



JAPAN

Issues warnings for missile attacks from North Korea

Evacuation warnings were triggered and a train was halted in Japan after North Korea test-fired three missiles – one long-range missile, and two short-range ballistic missiles, from the Kaechon area of South Pyongan province. The first missile triggered an evacuation warning in northern Miyagi, Yamagata, and Niigata prefectures of Japan, following fear that the missiles would fly over the region.

News Flash

► **China:** Lockdown extended amidst worsening COVID-19 outbreaks ► **UK:** PM Sunak to now attend UN climate conference
 ► **Saudi Arabia:** Crown prince Mohammed bin Salman launches first Saudi electric vehicle brand, Ceer

Perfection at play

Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa All Geared Up To Checkmate The World Of Chess



Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, chess grandmaster

Nirvanika Singh
AIS Noida, XI J

Winning the World Youth Chess Championship at the age of 7, earning the title of international master at the age of 10 (being the youngest to do so), and bagging the grandmaster title at 12 (being the second youngest to do so) – all of these sound like impossible quests, yet Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa has achieved them all. As if this wasn't enough, at the age of 16, he became the youngest player ever in

the world to defeat Magnus Carlsen. Here, presenting the legend, the grandmaster!

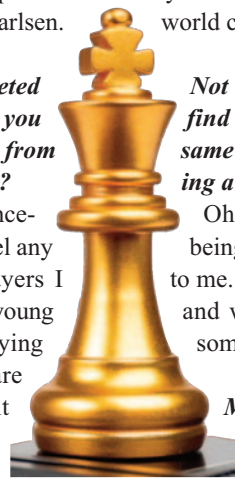
How do you prepare yourself for a game of chess?

I usually start off with chess preparation, which means that I check what my plays are. I also check who I am playing against and what weaknesses other players have so that I can exploit them well in the game. Although winning against top players definitely boosts my confidence, but pressure also gets to me sometimes, like it did near

the end of the last competition I played with Magnus Carlsen.

You have competed against big names. Do you feel any different from them, experience-wise?

Age-wise and experience-wise, I do not really feel any different from the players I am up against. From a young age, I have been playing against people who are older than me, so it doesn't really affect me. However, playing



INTERVIEW

against top players is somewhat different than normal tournaments. Even playing opposite to Magnus Carlsen was fun and very challenging, because all I wanted to do in that game was to play the best that I could. It is always a great experience to compete at a higher level and against reputed players.

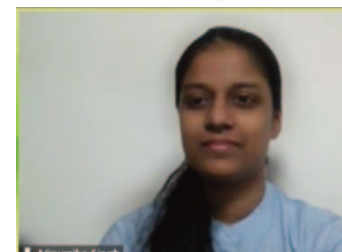
You are a role model for many, but who is your role model?

Every game I play and watch ends up teaching me something, so I learn from every experience, especially the match which involves elite players. But when I first started playing chess, Sir Viswanathan Anand was definitely one of my role models. He was also the world champion back then.

Not everyday does the world find siblings who enjoy the same sport. What is it like having a Grandmaster sister?

Oh, it is really nice. Her being involved is very helpful to me. We always discuss chess and we both end up learning something from it.

Many people find individual sports monotonous, but not you.



GT reporters interview
R. Praggnanandhaa



What are your thoughts on that?

Chess is a great game and I love playing it. In fact, the game has gained a lot of popularity. I have observed that many people are taking interest in learning it.

Apart from chess, what other areas spike your interests?

I like watching comedies and even enjoy playing different sports as well. My school has always aided my holistic growth and helped me in balancing my education, giving me adequate breaks for training.

What are your future goals?

I want to improve my chess strength, and also wish to increase my rating in the game. **GT**

India This Week

Priyanka Bhatia, GT Network

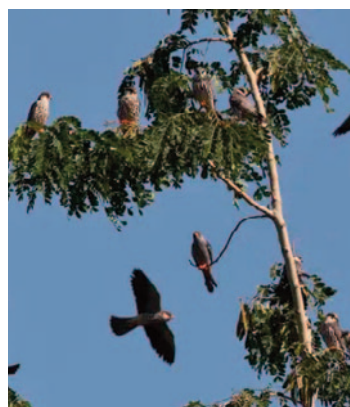
While we sit on our couch just breathing, a lot of things happen around us, and sometimes in our very own country. We bring you the ones worth mentioning.

Safeguarding Amur Falcons

News: Government officials in the north-eastern states have prohibited the use of guns, catapults and nets as a measure to safeguard Amur falcons. The birds reach India every year in the month of October and then fly non-stop for 10,000 km to South Africa in the

end of November. During their brief stay, the birds feast on insects and help in crop production.

Views: It is estimated that every year nearly 12,000 Amur falcons are killed during the peak migration in the north-eastern states of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. So, in my opinion, such precautions become necessary to



stop the aggressive hunting of these small raptors because they play an important role in pest control as well as in the production of paddy and other crops in the mentioned states.

Uday Saini, AIS Gur 43, IX B

Citizenship for migrants

News: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has announced that it will allow the districts of Gujarat (Mehsana and Anand) to grant citizenship certificates to the members of Hindu, Sikh, Parsi, Christian, Buddhist, and Jain communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh. The announcement intends to benefit legal migrants who have already applied for citizenship under Section 5 and Section 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Views: This is not the first time the districts have been delegated such powers. Similar orders were issued in the past, empowering district magistrates in several districts to grant citizenship certificates to mi-



grants. However, the decision to speed up the process of citizenship might give a relief to these legal migrants who've been trying to get citizenship from a very long time.

Devdath S, AIS Vas 1, XII C

Love knows no (atomic) size

A Tale Of How All The Sweetest And Strongest Bonds Are Made

Sara Maheshwari, AIS Noida, XI F

Love and hatred, friendship and animosity, envy and empathy have always co-existed since the epochs of time. One look at the element park, and all these polarising emotions immediately came to view. On one hand, there were the Hydro and Chlори sisters – holding hands and walking together while humming their favourite song. And on the other hand, cousin brothers Argo and Carbo could be heard arguing at the far end of the park.

And this time the bone of contention between Argo and Carbo was the last piece of a delicious electro bar. Argo was extremely stable and belonged to the ‘Noble Gases Family’ that will not form ionic or covalent bonds, whereas ‘Carbo’ belonged to the ‘Carbon Family,’ which had four electrons in its outermost energy level. Both being from distant branches of ‘Non-Metal’ lineage did not bond well. After a heated argument, Argo considered giving up the last electron bar but being the naughty brat that he was, he threw it away because he didn’t want Carbo to get a single piece.

In stark contrast, Chlори had neatly saved the last piece of her electro bar for her

The science of it

Covalent bond is a kind of bond between two atoms that involves sharing of electrons. Hydrogen has one electron while chlorine has seven. Hydrogen and Chlorine share one electron, forming a covalent bond that is unbreakable, and create Hydrogen Chloride. Argon and Carbon, on the other hand, are unable to bond together every time.

younger sister Hydro. Chlори was a kind sister, and always saved her lunch for Hydro. However, Hydro didn’t want to have the entire bar all by herself.

“We will share it,” said Hydro gladly. “I’ve already eaten seven pieces, but you’ve only had one,” responded Chlори. “Sister, you need eight pieces to fulfil your electron energy requirements and I need only two electrons. Like you told me, happiness grows when shared.”

Seeing this, Argo and Carbo burned with complete jealousy. They weaved a plan to break Hydro and Chlори’s coveted bond. On one hand, they poisoned Hydro by saying that Chlори was least interested in sharing.

Meanwhile, they approached Chlори and convinced her that Hydro always competed with her in every aspect.

With all the backbiting, they were sure about the split of their ‘unbreakable’ bond. But when they saw Hydro and Chlори hand in hand, their anger was unshakeable. Only if all the bonds shared by human beings

were just as strong as

Hydro and Chlори’s covalent bond. “No” replied my inner self after some thought. Because, establishing trust and also the willingness to share is something that we humans have faltered to maintain. In fact, if amazing bonds like these exist then life becomes joyful and worth living.



Illustration: Nisha Ramesh, AIS Noida, XII B

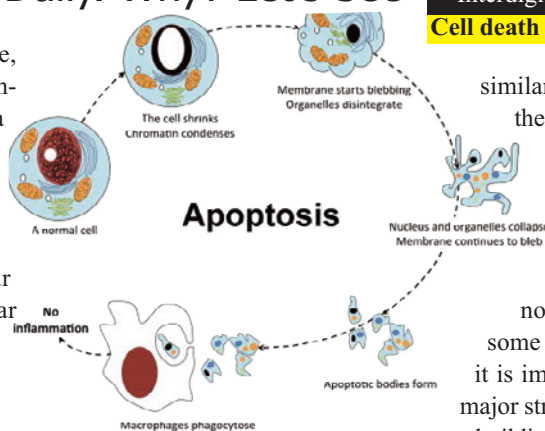
The implosion within

Billions Of Cells Implode In Our Body Daily. Why? Let's See

Stuti Kalra, GT Network

The act of ‘demolition’ usually comes accompanied with frenzied media coverage. And so was the case with the recent demolition of the Supertech Twin Towers in Noida, when people watched with bated breath the tearing down of these buildings. Each such ‘implosion’ is the result of months of meticulous research, tedious calculations, and perfect measurements. For the uninitiated, implosion is an instance of something collapsing inwards violently under the force of gravity. In case of building demolitions, the implosion is a controlled one, and carried out with the help of explosives and detonators to prevent the debris from flying out and causing harm to people and buildings nearby.

If you think this is impressive, wait. What is even more awe-inspiring is that ‘implosion’ is a constant occurrence within our very own bodies. And where is this super-skilled engineering taking place? Well, in those little things called cells in our body! The cells of a multicellular organism are members of a highly organised community. These cells are tightly regulated- not simply by controlling the rate of cell division, but also by controlling the rate of cell death. If cells are no longer needed, they commit suicide by activating an intracellular death program. This process is therefore called ‘programmed cell death’, although it is more commonly called ‘apoptosis’, a term derived from a Greek word meaning ‘falling off’, as leaves fall from a tree.



(Source: <https://www.onlinebiologynotes.com/apoptosis-programmed-cell-death/>)

In an average human adult, 50-70 billion cells die due to apoptosis on a daily basis. Apoptosis is not only used during early development to eliminate unwanted cells, but also to rid the body of cells that have been damaged beyond repair.

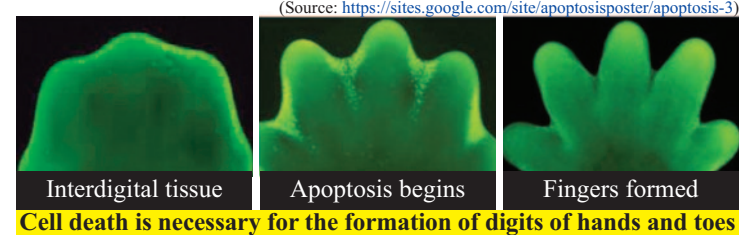
It’s interesting to see how much

similarity there is between these two implosions- one masterminded by humans, the other by nature. In fact, this comparison reiterates for us that life is not possible without some form of death. Just as it is important to weaken the major structural components of a building, such as load-bearing walls, when carrying out its controlled demolition (a task

often achieved through the strategic positioning of small explosive charges at key points along these structures), a similar strategy seems to be in operation during apoptosis. The implosion of a building prevents the debris from flying out and destroying nearby structures, and so does apoptosis. It

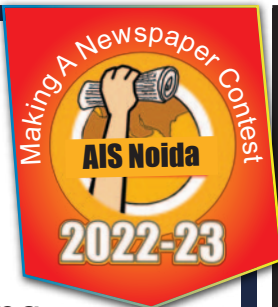
prevents toxic debris of dead cells from harming the nearby healthy cells, thus preventing necrosis, sepsis, cancer, etc. Again, just as implosion of a building needs detonators and explosives, cell apoptosis requires enzymatic explosives like caspases and proteases for it to happen by cleaving key cellular substrates. A strict regulation of these enzymes is critical to the normal development and survival of an organism, just as one has to be mindful of how much detonators and explosives are being used in case of a building.

Apoptosis as such is an essential life force in order for life to continue and flourish. Besides, it is due to apoptosis that fingers and toes are formed and dead leaves fall off from trees. How’s that for saluting mother nature and life? **GT**



(Source: <https://sites.google.com/site/apoptosisposter/apoptosis-3>)

Nath your fancy trend



The Unheard Tale Of The Nose-ring

Ishita Gupta, XI B & Saara Mathur, XI G, AIS Noida

The laptop is slammed shut. There's poise even in anger; after all its royalty, we are talking about

Calling me a 'trend'! You can't be serious. The same thing happened back in July 2022 when Kim Kardashian wore me to the Paris Fashion Week and they said 'she made a trend'. As if I really need a validation from these westerners. Trends come and go, legacy stays. And that's what I am – a legacy, the nose ring. In fact, I was born some 5,000 years ago in the Islamic culture of the Middle East. My name is even mentioned in the Bible (where I was named Shanf in Hebrew). Everyone fancies the beautiful, so it wasn't a surprise that I was popular in the 17th century. I continued to grow with the nomadic Berber and Beja tribes of Africa and the Bedouin tribes in the Middle East. A husband would gift me to his wife on the wedding day as security of the marriage, and my size would be indicative of the family's wealth and stature. Over the years, the love I have received has been overwhelming. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal to Australian Aborigines, Native Americans and many more have embraced me. But the way India has taken me in is rather special. I was brought here in the 16th century by

the Mughals. Desi women started adorning me, and soon my presence was a must at every wedding. I became a universal symbol for newly-married, and was named Nath, deriving from the word Naath, meaning husband. I was made in gold, silver, and various other metals, where the Gold Nath version of me was said to honour two Hindu goddesses – Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Parvati. I travelled through different states of India, spreading my radiance. In North India, I was adorned on the left nostril whereas in South India, it was the right. With new states came new customs, and I altered myself to suit them. In Maharashtra, I was named Nathni, also known as Gucchedar Nath, in the shape of a cashew with pearls and gemstones embedded. In Punjab, I was called the Sikhapuri Nath. In Rajasthan and Gujarat, I am worn as a small ring, called Nathura. In Uttarakhand, I am known as Nathuli and is known as Pullaku in Tamil Nadu. From being adorned with precious rubies and stones to coming in shapes of swans or a lotus; from representing dainty beauty to being a symbol of resilience; from being an ode to tradition to making a fashion statement; I have seen it all. My history, one that is too vast to be encompassed in a half-paged article, is full of growth, love and appreciation. So, dear Hollywood do not brush me off as a mere trend. For, I am history!

Graphic: Adhisha Sahoo, XI M & Aarushi Bera, X K, AIS Noida

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...

With Diwali 2023 being declared as a public-school holiday in New York City, do you think Indian culture is finally being accepted on a global scale?

The prompt BOX

"This recognition for Diwali certainly gives a deeper meaning to the diversity and pluralism in New York City. American Indians can now truly experience, celebrate and enjoy their ethnicity and heritage outside India. However, one act of political generosity should not overshadow the bitter truth that several injustices are still being directed at many ethnicities in the USA. Though Indians are well-integrated in most regions of the US, there is still a long way to go before they can really feel that they 'belong', and that they are actually a part of the American community."

Ishika Agarwal, AIS Vas 6, IX D

"On the heels of the news that Diwali is being declared a holiday in NYC, came the breaking story that Rishi Sunak, a leader of Indian origin, is the new Prime Minister of United Kingdom. Indeed, our country is now an emerging superpower being recognised worldwide. We are a country whose deep and rich culture is being embraced by millions. Diwali, the jewel of Indian festivals, is now a global celebration of our heritage and culture."

Praneel Dev, AIS Noida, XI A

"The declaration of Diwali celebrations 2023 in New York as a holiday is not the first time that Indian culture has been accepted in other countries. For a long time, Indian delicacies have been one of the most popular cuisines in the world. India's influence in literature, art, and music on a global scale is known to all. Hindi is an extremely popular language used worldwide. In the USA, it is the 12th most used language with nearly a million people speaking it daily. Global inclusion of Indian culture will definitely have an impact and make the world a much more enjoyable place to live in."

Uday Saini, AIS Gur 43, IX B

"Indians have always celebrated countless festivals belonging to other countries, like Christmas, St Patrick's Day, Halloween etc. so it was high time that Diwali got the same love abroad. Also, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been trying to promote Indian culture on a global scale. Holi is already celebrated by more than one billion people worldwide. The Ministry of Culture and tourism is successfully promoting Indian culture by organising the Global Engagement Scheme which provides Indian artists an opportunity to perform and showcase their art abroad. Keeping this in mind, one can say that Indian culture is finally being accepted on a global scale."

Divyansh Choudhary, AIS Vas 1, VIII B

"Diwali being declared a holiday in New York City is a massive step for the cultural acceptance of Indian Americans. This decision will help raise a generation of Indo-American children who will be able to celebrate their rich heritage and culture without any hurdles. At the same time, children of other ethnicities in the US will get exposure to a new cultural practice, and this will make them more accepting of other people's beliefs. I'm also filled with utmost respect for District 38 representative Jennifer Rajkumar and all the other members of New York state office who made this incredible feat possible."

Yashaswi, XII I, AIS Mayur Vihar



Ecosystem of excellence



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

The mood for celebration continues undiminished at Amity, as my students have given me reason to rejoice. At the national level finale of the Smart India Hackathon Junior 2022, five teams from three Amity schools - AIS Noida, AIS Gur 46 and AIS Saket – have brought home top prizes. The event is an initiative of the Ministry of Education which seeks to promote innovation in young minds. And once again, our students have proven that they are the best

when it comes to presenting ground-breaking ideas and cutting-edge inventions.

One such winning project was 'Ecolution' - a bio-degradable, non-toxic cup made from natural ingredients. Equally fascinating was the project on a natural mosquito repellent made out of waste marigold flowers. It's not just the innovation but also the values of social responsibility and compassion that our children exhibit every time they participate in such highly competitive events that makes me so proud. In fact, I am amazed at their versatility as I look at the other victorious projects, including Phoenix Mind, an app on mental health, the eco-friendly Solar Dish, and last but not the least, the project that aims at preventing accidents by using neural networks and monocular camera. My belief that Amity is truly an ecosystem of excellence has been validated by these young achievers. With each such victory that Amitians bring home on a regular basis, I feel even more confident that they are going to contribute in a big way to the incredible journey that India is now on - towards becoming a global superpower. 🇮🇳

We're back!



Renu Singh
Director Principal

Overcoming all the challenges that the pandemic threw at us, it is a pleasure to finally see life getting back to normal. However, learning continued unhampered at Amity schools and for that we can't thank our Chairperson, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, enough, and the entire team of The Global Times, who ensured the unhindered flow of quality and thought-provoking e-editions even during the pandemic. Yet, there is something so heart-warming and rewarding

about holding a printed hard copy of the newspaper in your hands. And finally, it is here. In fact, what makes it even more special is its appearance in the form of 'contest edition', an edition that reflects the creativity and the hard work put in by the young journos throughout the year.

Having said that, I am quite amazed to see how Amity Noida's contest edition is an impressive assemblage of articles, stories, ground reporting, artwork, poetry, interviews, and perspective write-ups. Through it, the young journalists have furthered the notion that Amity is home to exceptional wordsmiths. The enthusiastic write-ups of the remarkably gifted and talented team are surely going to hold the interest and adulation of the readers, proving why the editorial team of AIS Noida is among the best. My best wishes to the team for churning out a splendid edition. I hope the readers will enjoy each and every story and not refrain from pouring in their good wishes to witness another contest edition next year. 🇮🇳

An op-ed(?)

United We Dwell On The Duet Of Dissonance

S. Mysha Urooj, XI H &
Yashi Sharma, X B, AIS Noida

Illustration: Adhisha Sahoo, AIS Noida, XI M

Discordant with the popular perception, the contemporary world, sadly, isn't marked by open expression but sensitivity, rendering pluralism an antiquated concept. This modern inordinate focus on sentiments has caused the society we live in to often feel like a place where every syllable that gets uttered needs to undergo a standard scrutiny to steer clear of crossing the thin line between insolence and jocularity; where, instead of facts, feelings determine if words or actions are acceptable. Are we thus traversing the right path? Let's see.

The ancestor's way

Sensitivity is the unspoken mark of human will that appears as recurrent motifs in our daily lives. Since humans from the beginning of time tend to fall and falter when faced with hostility, our ancestors developed social psyches and ingrained them inside their genomes, making our social civilisation a living reality. As a direct consequence of which, we are always taught to not speak harsh words and know our limits. In today's digitised world, this awareness of boundaries in jest and critique is vital for a healthy environment online.

The path we took

The trouble arises when the coin flips. One person's harmless jest is someone's dreaded mortification. With the rise of the digital media-scape, hostility is armed with the 'right to speech'. Although this excuse often forgets the clause 'right to speech as long as it does not infringe other's fundamental rights' quite conveniently. The consequences of violating someone's boundaries can be fatal for the targeted individual. Taking the case of Justine Sacco as an example, the whole Twitter community ravenously watched as a poorly phrased

tweet threatened her career.

The lost descendants?

Each meme and vine is accompanied by individuals who didn't find it funny. The problem arises when they target and attack a group of people just to be in the 'right'. And it doesn't end there. Another gang of 'right' arises. They're here to call the former team 'party poopers' and 'joy kills'. The question arises, are any of them actually right? In

the era where the right to speech is at its fullest potential, a true 'right' might not ever emerge. With eight billion people in the

world, there are eight billion possible views on each topic. So, does this mean the human population will never be able to agree on anything ever again?

...Maybe not so lost

With acceptance and empathy appreciated in every person, we learn to accept other people and respect their opinions even if we disagree. Every person draws a boundary between joking and not, and as not everyone sits in the same circle, it is okay for everyone to hold and reinforce their own boundaries, but maybe that is just my opinion.



The world of words

*To survive, write you must
To write, feel you must
To feel, a loving heart is must
It all comes easily to Amitians
Who are incredibly the best!*

After what seems like an eternity, the second edition of The Global Times in tangible form, the contest edition for AIS Noida, has arrived, and what an amazing comeback it is! The entire team of AIS Noida is so grateful to the GT team for reviving the excitement in our lives. The aspiring journalists have put their all into this contest edition. Feeding off each other's en-



Priti Khullar
GT Coordinator

thusiasm and energy for various ideas and thoughts, 3 AM group discussions, the frantic planning, reading and re-reading the drafts – they have left no stone unturned to churn out the best edition. I've

heard them discussing the stories, watched them heartbroken on rejections, and felt proud to see forging them together again. Writing for GT provided a catharsis of sorts to them, and I am immensely proud of this talented bunch of students. I wish them all the best for their journey ahead!



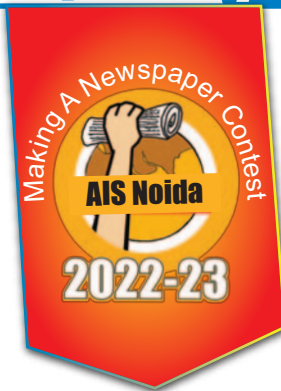
Dear Amity,

We had a great experience at AIMUN 2022. The three-day international conference gave young delegates like us an opportunity to deliberate upon pressing issues in the field of ecology, economy, politics, etc. Besides, the platform gave us hands-on experience about framing drafts and resolutions to solve the problems. We really hope to become a part of AIMUN next year as well. 🇮🇳

**Marusya Volova &
Elina Gulevich, Students,
Rabindranath Tagore School,
Russia**

The spirit of the entrepreneur

Entrepreneurs are often dubbed as people who reimagine the entire value of the economy to bring about businesses that help close the sundry gaps it is cankered with. As creators thus, momentous accounts of them leading organisations across the globe to great heights aren't unknown. Read on as **Yana Tewari, XII F & Diti Sharma, XI F, AIS Noida** bring you their side of the tale...



Sunil Cherian

A social entrepreneur, Sunil Cherian is the founder of a transportation mobility service company, PYKUPZ, which helps taxi drivers create a personal profile to connect with potential customers and by virtue of that, battle out the monopoly exercised by ride-hailing giants like Uber and Ola. By promoting ridesharing and carpooling, his start-up also encourages the reduction of pollution as well as traffic.

Venturing out: Before I started my own business, I had at least 15 years of experience in technology and consultancy, along with an MBA degree. All I wanted to do with it was to find solutions for the sundry issues faced

by humanity, one of them being traffic congestion.

Human capital required: There are no set prerequisites to becoming a professional social entrepreneur; the drive to do something utilitarian for the greater good is just enough. Skills like critical thinking, creativity, risk-taking, leadership, etc., would all act as cherry on the top.

Educational capital needed: An MBA will help you open a startup, irrespective of the field you opt for.

The daily grind: An entrepreneur isn't really and shouldn't be bound by time. On average, I work for 17 hours daily, and some days an hour or two more. The process of transforming a vision into a product and a working

business takes time as it should.

Trials and tribulations: Sometimes the Minimum Viable Product (MVP) isn't market fit, making it tough for an entrepreneur to develop it further using the meagre funds and basic skillset at his disposal.

Perks and pay-offs: You get to bring your vision to life and see the end users use it. Getting my first real user to do a trip using PYKUPZ is still one of my greatest achievements.

Avenues offered: Since the principal objective of a social entrepreneur is to work for the betterment of the society at large, the scope is as wide as it gets. One can operate in many fields such as health, sanitation, education, or others which demand development.



Seema Gupta

An educational entrepreneur, Seema Gupta is the founder and CEO of The Edulighthouse, a digital media company that acts as a platform of networking, mutual learning and interactions in the education space, by making use of events and magazines, in order to make learning a better experience for all the stakeholders involved.

Venturing out: Having worked in the media industry for 10 years, I realised that there was a dearth of meaningful conversations between the right stakeholders in the market. Though filled with plenty of media products, it wasn't catering to the specific requirements of the clients, which prompted me to start The Edulighthouse media.

Human capital required: Every education

entrepreneur needs to know the fundamentals of the education sector, their own narrative arc, as well as essential business and engagement skills to help drive their educational products forward.

Educational capital needed: Accelerators, startup labs, venture studios, and other kinds of collectives often provide a curriculum for aspiring educational entrepreneurs to learn and connect with other entrepreneurs and potential investors.

The daily grind: The working hours can be as long as 60 hours per week. Your year will be full of social interactions and fruitful conversations with educators and learners from different institutes.

Trials and tribulations: It's undeniable that a critical objective of education is to prepare learners to live, work and thrive in a future world. Successful education ventures as such need to clearly address the needs of the future workforce and at the same time, adapt their products at the speed and quality that contemporary challenges require.

Perks and pay-offs: To be able to gain the trust of big clients and get to work for them exclusively is the most rewarding part as it makes you more confident about your business model and helps you understand that hard work never fails.

Avenues offered: Becoming a part of an ed-startups provides a great platform for exploration, with an average annual salary of around 3.1 lakhs to 7.8 lakhs INR initially!

Atech entrepreneur, Richa Bajpai is the co-founder and director of NextGen PMS Pvt. Ltd., a cleantech company, that has developed a cloud and mobile-based corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainability management platform, "p3", to help companies track, monitor, evaluate and report on their CSR and sustainability performance. For the same, Bajpai and her co-founder, Humbad, were listed in the Forbes India 30-under-30 List in 2014 and were recently among the 25 Cool Indians of Vogue India in the Tech Crew category.

Venturing out: I have always been a firm believer in tech and the way it can empower women entrepreneurs to succeed, since one can not only develop tech but also sell it for good.

Human capital required: Getting ready for a business career in tech requires one to be data driven, be ready to engage in experimentation, have a high tolerance for ambiguity, and work cross functionally with colleagues. You also need to have the know-how of sales, marketing, administration, designing, user experience, project and account management, copywriting, PR, SEO, and social media skills.

Educational capital needed: A college degree such as B-tech, Information Technology, Web Development or Computer Science is preferred over all else, as it



Richa Bajpai

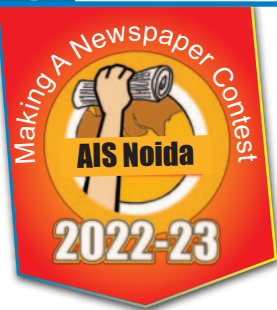
gives you an overview of the industry you are attaching yourself to.

The daily grind: For me, the conventional 9-5 does not exist; but since I like doing the work in a systematic manner, my work hours generally range from 12-16.

Trials and tribulations: Having your business reach a stable position is probably the toughest as you must keep up with the changes in the business environment, along with competing with competitors.

Perks and pay-offs: When you see people show interest in your product, it boosts your confidence a great deal!

Avenues offered: Any idea related to computers, engineering, robotics and innovation can be pursued through this field, with the salary ranging between 18 lakhs to 50 lakhs INR annually.



An abrupt landing

While the outer design of the bag was identical to his luggage, the contents weren't his. Confused, he sat there analysing the whole situation.

Riya Jain, AIS Noida, XI K

AUTHOR'S NOTE: It's 12:04 AM. My sleep is out there playing hide and seek, so here I am, in front of my laptop, all set to take off!

"A foamy cappuccino in a hushed airport lounge; what a bliss!" exclaimed Pranit. His flight had been delayed by an hour. He eventually dozed off while his bag roleplayed as the pillow. Hurriedly waking up at the last warning to board, he rashly grabbed his stuff, and was greeted by dirty looks from all passengers for being late. Soon after, Pranit settled down in his new temporary abode.

An hour in, his impatient mind longed for some thrill. With a slight smile on his face, he shoved his hand in his bag to trace his favorite book, The Da Vinci Code, but to his surprise, got hit by a roadblock. The novel he had in his



Pic: Aditri Jha, AIS Noida, XI B

hand was The Lost Symbol, another masterpiece by the same author, although not belonging to Pranit. While the outer design of the bag was identical to his luggage, the contents weren't his. Confused, he sat there analysing the whole situation. It was uncanny how the bag's owner had

such a similar interest in novels. How he wished to look through the other items the bag sheltered! "But, wait, won't that be a breach of privacy?" screamed his mind. His curiosity kept tempting him to perform the unethical deed, and finally, he succumbed to it. The first item he picked out was a

black and white striped shirt with a crisp collar. He could see himself wearing that piece of clothing after a year or two. The next item was a fountain pen, which somehow seemed oddly familiar. Lastly, he came across a Sudoku magazine and some piano sheets stuffed in between the pages, something,

which he believed, only the most sophisticated people owned.

The remaining journey went by swiftly as the plane landed. Pranit left the bag at the lost and found counter, mentioned all the details about his misplaced luggage and left. More so than losing his luggage, he deeply regretted the fact that he never got to meet the owner of that bag.

An hour later, a man approached the airport faculty. "Pardon me, may I take a look at that bag?" The man was overjoyed upon seeing his missing luggage. While going through his music sheets, he was surprised to find a note on one of them that read – 'Intriguing, just like the novel!'. Just then, his assistant asked, "Shall we leave Mr Brown? We have another flight to catch in five minutes."

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Oh shoot! The word limit! Thank you for choosing AirAuthors. I apologise for the inconvenience caused by the abrupt landing.

Read Play and Win

Reading GT can be fun as it can fetch you a prize too. Participate in this interesting contest simply by clicking on the link mentioned below in the online edition/taking a picture of the sheet and mailing us your responses at editor@theglobaltimes.in. So, get set, go!



Q.1 The power and curse of which metal has been discussed at length in the cover story?	Q.2 Name the guest interviewed on page 3.	Q.3 Mention the bond that involves the sharing of electrons between two atoms.
Q.4 Who made the illustration for 'Nath your fancy trend' article on page 5?	Q.5 How many times has the term 'abysmal' been used in the article 'Spelling wh(y)?' on page 12?	Q.6 What is the title of the poem written by Vrinda Rastogi, AIS Noida, XII E?
Q.7 Which school celebrated 'Rashtriya Poshan Maah'?	Q.8 Name the social entrepreneur featured on page 7.	Q.9 On which page can you find the article 'The implosion within'?

Name:.....Class:.....School:.....

Results of Read Play & Win-4: Roshni Debaja, AIS Noida, XI E; Maira Shadab, AIS Vasundhara 6, VIII D; Anvi Tarang Sharma, AIS Gurugram 43, VII C

[Click here to participate](http://theglobaltimes.in/readplaywin/)

or log on to <http://theglobaltimes.in/readplaywin/>

Renaissance

Poem

Vrinda Rastogi, AIS Noida, XII E

Can your faint heart hear me?
I've been trying to speak to you
To tell you to not let go of me

I am relinquishing the person
I used to be, metamorphosing
Finally into a way better me

I'm trying to hold on to you
Pull you closer so you don't leave
But I feel you slipping away

I shed my insecurities and chains
I aim to forgive and truly forget
All that have caused me pain

Please, you must not slip away
Without you, I stand to be nothing
My sense and meaning is all gone

I have made anew, ready to embrace
This life of mine, like a phoenix
Birthing out of ashes, I am divine.



Graphic: Adhisha Sahoo, AIS Noida, XI M

CAMERA CAPERS

Dakshesh Bharal, AIS PV, Alumnus

Send in your entries to cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in

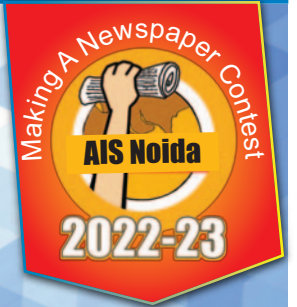


The spark and the sparkle



The sand and the sea

The Twitter tussle



Scaling The Labyrinthine Takeover Stairway, One Tweet At A Time!

Yashasvini Verma
AIS Noida, XI J

opments in the world of one of the most popular social media platforms today. If the string of pop-ups (read: tweets) has left you confused, here's a timeline that will help you decode the Twitter maze better.

A little birdie has been chirping a little more than usual off late, tweeting about the series of devel-



@twitter November 29, 2021
Jack Dorsey, co-founder and then-CEO of Twitter announced his resignation and welcomed the new CEO, Parag Agrawal. An alumnus of IIT Bombay and having a Ph.D. in computer science from Stanford, Agrawal joined Twitter, Inc. as a software engineer and finally became the CEO.

@twitter April 4, 2022
The CEO of Tesla and Space X, Elon Musk purchased a huge amount of shares of Twitter, making him the largest outsider shareholder in the company. Keeping the price of the shares masked, it was disclosed that he owns 9.2% of passive stakes, which makes 73,486,938 shares of Twitter.

@twitter April 5, 2022
"Through conversations with Elon in recent weeks, it became clear to us that he would bring great value to our Board," Parag Agrawal tweeted, appointing Musk to the company's board while also limiting his allowance to buy no more than 15% of the company's shares.

@twitter April 14, 2022
Musk's unsolicited bid to buy the company at about 44 billion USD was revealed. Initially, the company initiated a 'poison pill' strategy, ensuring Musk couldn't forcefully buy it to negotiate a price for the rest of the shares.

@twitter April 25, 2022
The board of directors accepted Musk's offer of 44 billion USD, who suggested stringent changes in the company after it was made private—adding an edit feature, an open-source algorithm, less moderation, and combating spambot accounts upfront.

@twitter May 12, 2022
Agrawal dismissed top executives including Kayvon Beykpour, Twitter general manager, and Bruce Falck, Revenue product lead, to prepare for the change, claiming that he wanted to "take the team in a different direction."

@twitter May 13, 2022
Musk tweeted about putting the deal of buying Twitter on hold in order to investigate the number of spam and fake accounts, which was followed by another tweet stating his commitment to the acquisition. Concerning the deal, the company's market value, too, fell 9 billion USD beneath the price offered.

@twitter July 8, 2022
Musk publicly announced his intention to terminate the acquisition proposal after the company was unable to provide the information regarding the number of fake accounts.

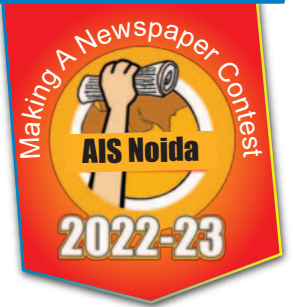
@twitter July 12, 2022
Twitter filed a lawsuit against Elon Musk for allegedly violating his deal to buy the site. Delaware court was asked to issue an order for Musk to complete the agreement by buying Twitter at the agreed 54.20 USD per share.

@twitter August 29, 2022
Musk sent another termination letter to break the deal while Twitter continued to stand firm on its approach to make Musk complete the agreement.

@twitter October 3, 2022
Musk's legal team informed the company that he had changed his mind and would move forward with the acquisition, dropping the three-month-long legal fight with Twitter.

@twitter October 27, 2022
Elon Musk, the new owner of Twitter, opens his leadership by firing Parag Agrawal, CEO; Ned Segal, CFO; Vijaya Gadde, policy head, and Sean Edgett, general counsel of Twitter, with each receiving large sums of money as compensation. Adding to this was the announcement of another new feature where logged-out users were to be directed to the explore page in place of the sign-up form. He ordered that the paid subscription feature, Super follows, was to be renamed as Subscriptions in the mobile app.

Some other developments are also in the pipeline, for better or for worse: the process to gain the verified tag, or the great 'blue tick', is being revamped, and according to speculations, it could become a paid feature. Musk might also bring back the popular short-video platform Vine! Ultimately, there's also a possibility that user feedback might be taken into consideration to moderate tweets. Reports of 50% of employees at Twitter being laid off are doing the rounds, and reports suggest that more than one million users have left the site since Musk took over. Keeping all this aside, there's certainly more to come as users are yet to discover what more Musk has to bring to the table.



Trash to Wi-Fi

The Innovative Way To Get Free Internet By Throwing Out Digital Trash

GROUND REPORTING
Yashasvini Verma & Nirvanika Singh, AIS Noida, XI J

They say, “Waste is not waste until we waste it”. Raj Desai, co-founder and CEO of the School Of Accelerated Learning, is here to corroborate the maxim with his Wi-Fi trashcan, a dumpster that incentivises cleanliness by providing free internet access every time you fling some trash into it.

Going quid pro quo

Desai and his team modelled the Wi-Fi bin on the lines of behavioural economic incentives. “As humans, we get drawn in by a good deal; almost everything we do is done to get something in return. The environment cannot wait, as the human world generates 2.01 billion tonnes of solid waste annually.

That’s when we thought of merging environmental awareness with what is akin to a lifeline for today’s youth: the internet.” A later version of the trashcan comes equipped with auto-segregation technology.

Building the Wi-Fi trashcan

Getting the required technology and raw material right for the first-of-its-kind bin was an onerous task. “A lot of hardware wiring, connecting things and getting it all on the same platform through coding, was tricky. Fabrication was another major roadblock. The final product uses trackers to sense when someone throws trash in it. Having done so, the networking at the back end generates an internet code and ensures that the code is valid for only 15 minutes or half an hour,” he elaborated when enquired about the functioning of the trashcan.

Watching the can in action

The first time the team utilised the



The trashcan in action

bin was at the NH7 Weekender, a music festival in Kolkata. “We set up the trash bin and made a fancy booth. Since it was an event with little to no network connectivity, people were already struggling to capture photographs/videos for their social media handles. In this regard, we didn’t really have to do much to gain their attention. As improbable as it may sound, there was a queue for the trashcan. Another thing that amazed us was that people were now collecting other

people’s trash, only to get to use the W-Fi trashcan once more,” he surmised. Now, wasn’t that a better love story than twilight?

Bringing incentives up to code

However, “since the internet is now extremely prevalent, the incentive for the Wi-Fi bin and the love that people showed for it at the outset is not as robust as it was a few years ago,” he divulged, while affirming, “we still offer the services though.” The trashcan can still be well-uti-

lised with new incentives. We even thought of setting them up in villages. Imagine the villagers getting a video of the Prime Minister thanking them personally every time they put trash in the bin! That’s incentive enough, but it would definitely require some governmental support. Because the one-time setup of the bin itself costs somewhere around 80,000 INR, and a minimal fee of 5000 INR gets added for the device’s monthly maintenance, along with whatever the internet costs.” *phone rings* Talking to and trying to convince PM Modi as we speak!

Such ingenious inventions are what the world genuinely needs right now. “So, go ahead and build meaningful things. That’s what your life, as young changemakers, should solely be about,” Raj Desai underscored and signed off. 🇮🇳



For art, the Illustrator



For readers, the Page editor



For lens, the Photographer



To infinity and beyond, the Noida EB

For Thesaurus, the Sub-editor



For visuals, the Designer



Pics: Suhani Goel, AIS Noida, X B

For more pictures, log on to www.facebook.com/theglobaltimesnewspaper or www.instagram.com/the_global_times

Innovatively smart

Amitians Win Big At Smart India Hackathon



Aarav Juneja

Aarush Arora

Aditya Rastogi

Pratul Gupta

Saachi Singh



Tuvijeet Sharma

Akshita Singh

Stuti Priya

Harshita Prasad

ACSF

Five teams from three Amity schools, namely AIS Noida, AIS Gurugram 46 and AIS Saket, emerged winners at the national grand finale of the junior edition of Smart India Hackathon 2022, organised by Ministry of Education (MOE) from August 12-26, 2022. The winners also got a chance to interact virtually with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 25, 2022, and were felicitated at Noida Institute Of Engineering & Technology, Greater Noida. The unique opportunity extended by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chau-

han, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, was facilitated by ACSF (Amity Children's Science Foundation).

From AIS Noida, Stuti Priya (IX) received an award for her project on Mosquito repellent and larvicide from waste marigold flowers; Harshita Prasad (X) won for her project on Phoenix Mind, an app on mental health; and Class X students, Tuvijeet Sharma, Akshita Singh and Saachi Singh received award for their project Ecolution, the biodegradable, non-toxic cups made from natural materials. From AIS Gurugram 46, a team of Class VIII students, Aarav Juneja, Aa-

rush Arora and Aditya Rastogi, emerged as the winner for the project Green Advocates, an eco friendly solar dish. From AIS Saket, Pratul Gupta (XI) received award for his project Ignite that made use of neural networks and monocular cameras for preventing accidents.

All the winners were awarded certificates. Jointly organised by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Persistent Systems and Doordarshan, the event saw participation from 15,000 school students from over 2,900 schools in India. [G I](#)



Young students present a dance performance

History in theatre

AIS Vasundhara 1

The school organised 'Historionic', an inter-school historical monologue competition for pre-primary classes on October 11, 2022. Based on the theme 'Indian History', the competition saw students from 47

schools of Delhi/NCR participate and recreate historical events of India. They enacted legends like Rani Lakshmi Bai, Chanakya, Bhagat Singh, etc. Shinaya Misra from Class KG of AIS Noida bagged the second prize. The event culminated with prize distribution ceremony. [G I](#)

Art for the festivities!

AIS Gwalior

Students of Class III-IV unfolded their creative abilities at the inter-house bandhanwar making competition held on October 19, 2022. As part of the competition, they made traditional torans with colourful origami sheets and decorated them with stars, studs and other items. The first position was won by Alaknanda house including Tripti Rajoria, Ansh Gurjar, Udit Singh Bhadouria, Prachi Baghel and Sanav Singh Rajawat. And team members from Mandakini house namely Shrashti Gurjar, Harshmaan Singh Kushwah, Sonaya



Colourful torans made by the students



Tiny tots take pledge to stay fit and happy

Nutrition matters

AIS Vasundhara 6

To observe Rashtriya Poshan Maah, the school celebrated nutrition month from September 1-30, 2022. A flagship programme of the government of India, it aims to focus on the discourse of nutrition and promote good health among the students. A series of activities were conducted which gave the students an opportunity to disseminate knowledge and information about the importance of nutrition in everyday life.

As a part of *Mahila aur Swasthya* and *Baccha aur Shiksha* initiatives, students took a 'Poshan Pledge' and participated in making brochures, digital posters and bookmarks on issues ranging from malnutrition amongst young children and women, food safety and measures to ensure health and nutrition for everyone including

home remedies and cure.

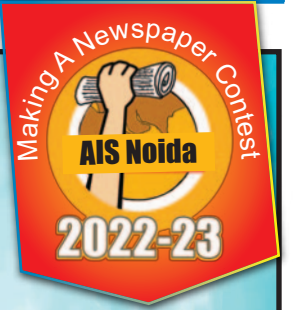
Talk sessions were organised by school's health counsellors, nutritionists and doctors to create awareness about nutrition and its relationship with physical and mental health and well-being. A special assembly was also conducted, wherein students discussed malnutrition, its impact on society, and the value of a healthy and balanced diet.

An e-quiz brought in the fun element to this very important theme which gauged the participants' knowledge about nutrition and deficiency diseases in a fun and interactive way, while also sparking their curiosity.

A community drive was launched to create awareness among people about anemia, deficiency of red blood cells and hemoglobin in the body. Students also rendered songs and poems on the International Year of Millets. [G I](#)

Chauhan, Avneet Kaur and Aryan Singh Bhadouriya secured the second position. While the third position was bagged by Pawani house

team, comprising Yug Singh Rajawat, Nishkarsh Shiromani, Rithvik Yadav, Divyansh Manhas and Amandeep Kaur. [G I](#)



Spelling wh(Y)?

The Terribly Not-So-Tiny Tale Of A Student Stuck In The World Of Spelling Bees

Vasudha Sharma
AIS Noida, XI I

Another downhearted kid stepped off the stage after an abysmal attempt at spelling the word ‘abysmal’. Apparently, it is spelled A-B-I-Z-M-A-L if we were all to believe him. We’re learning new things today. I would have laughed at him if I didn’t think I was capable enough of making the same mistake. My sweaty palms clutched the vocabulary sheet which had been given to us a week ago. ‘Abysmal’ was at the top, and part of the reason why I know its spelling is my mispronunciation. I didn’t know the ‘Y’ was silent. For those of you wondering about the unfortunate twists of fate that got me here, let me tell you that it was the preliminary round of intra-school Spelling Bee. Sadly, it was compulsory for all Class XI students to participate. Somehow, I had passed the first round and here I was again, in a room where I’ll step on the stage and spell unnecessarily long words. If this goes badly, I’m going back home crying with a new-found fear of dictionaries, public places, and hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia, a phobia of long words. Oh irony, you fickle queen!

As I sat there hoping for a miracle where they accidentally speak my name, I can’t help but wonder - why exactly are spelling bees relevant? Honestly, there’s not much to buzz about. In the generation of LOL, TTYL, BRB, and a bajillion more acronyms, I feel like there should be an abbreviation bee instead. I want to see my

parents give an LOL (lots of love, obviously!) to *Sharma-ji-ka-ladka* who topped his exams. Plus, it’ll be fun to see them on the hot seat.

It’s not as if they’re going to ask me to spell ‘curriculum vitae’ when I sit down for an interview. The closest spelling words can

get to a real-time job is if I apply to a construction company and rip a dictionary in

half to demonstrate my strength. That would be um - wait let me check my sheet - stupendous, the word I believe I was looking for. I need to get a hold of myself and pay attention to the inner debate I am having with myself. Anyway, it is not as if English people themselves know the correct spelling of their own words. Is it ‘colour’ or ‘color’, ‘centre’ or ‘center’, ‘realise’ or ‘realize’? Spelling correction on Microsoft Word is like chasing clouds. I cannot even write ‘manoeuvre’ without it autocorrecting the term to ‘maneuver’. I also cannot write titles like ‘Vasudha: The Amazingly Hilarious Writer’ without getting a red underline.

Why, then, have spelling bees where 6-year-olds try to memorise spellings ranging from ‘manoeuvre’ to ‘hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia’?

It might be ignorant of me, but if I know how to pronounce a word, I care little for the spelling. I may add four Cs and three Ss in the spelling of ‘necessary’, but I can pronounce it well enough to pass as a proficient speaker.

Thus, I conclude that these competitions are simply unending entertainment for any willing spectator. Maybe, the ancient ways of a spelling bee included setting a bee chasing after a student who got a spelling wrong, but now it’s just a sad event.

“Vasudha, you’re up.”
With a heavy heart I head up to the stage. “Please spell the word ‘abysmal’ for us.”
“Yes, yes. It goes A-B-I, no-no, Y. There’s a Y in there.” Within five seconds, I had messed up, wrecking my confidence but still not my chances of winning. Rather stupendously, might I add.



Illustration: Aarushi Bera, AIS Noida, X K

Pics: Suhani Goel, AIS Noida, X B



In Spotlight

Editors-in-chief on the job (L-R): Aayushi Bawa, XII F, S Mysha Urooj, XI H, Vasudha Sharma, XI I & Samiksha Dubey, XII J, AIS Noida