

This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, VKC, Lucknow, 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 tenth and the last edition of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2020-21'.

**Do you think a global taxation regime would help combat the growing cases of tax evasion and rising inequality world over?**

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

To vote, log on to [www.theglobaltimes.in](http://www.theglobaltimes.in)

**POLL RESULT**  
for GT issue November 15, 2021

**With Germany seeing a record 50,000 cases, do you think that the pandemic maybe returning?**

| Response  | Percentage |
|-----------|------------|
| Yes       | 36%        |
| No        | 31%        |
| Can't say | 33%        |

Results as on November 20, 2021

**Coming Next**

Meet YP Teams

# Gearing up to go green

Decoding The Electric Vehicle Roadmap In India One Path At A Time

Gouri Srivastava & Varada Kachroo, IX B  
AIS VKC Lko

As a means to fast track a switch to zero emission electric vehicles and subsequently rein in on humanity's ecological footprint, the European Union, in July 2021, proposed an effective ban on the sale of fossil-fuel driven vehicles as of 2035. As its ripple effect, the Indian motor industry, already keen to espouse a 360-degree approach to transmute India into an EV nation, envisaged to make nearly two-third of new vehicles (including 70% two-wheelers, 30% cars, and 15% lorries) on the country's roads electric by the end of 2030 (COP26 climate summit, Glasgow). Though highly recommendable, the efficaciousness of this breakneck green automotive transition in India is, howbeit, subject to debate. So, ride along as we tap into the potential of this broadly untapped domain...

## Mapping the path undertaken

For the uninitiated, electric vehicles operate on traction motors or electric motors that use rechargeable batteries for propulsion, instead of an internal combustion engine that uses fuels like

petrol or diesel. These can be powered by solar panels, on-board battery packs (BEVs), or by a mix of batteries and internal combustion (PHEVs and HEVs). Hyundai Kona Electric, Mahindra e2o, Tata Tigor EV 2019, Porsche Taycan, Tesla, etc., are some of the recent four-wheeled contributions made by the automotive sector worldwide. Besides, as per the International Energy Agency, there were about 11 million such registered electric vehicles on the road at the end of 2020, the numbers for which are set to soar to somewhere between 145-230 million by the end of the decade, depending on how bold our global emission reduction targets are. But this revolution in the mobility sector is not something novel; these vehicles first came into being in 1880 when William Morrison, a chemist from Iowa, US, helped construct

a six-seater electric car. By 1990 as such, one-third of the total vehicles sold in the US were electricity-based. The launch of the reasonably priced, gasoline powered automobile a few years later, however, halted this progress and ushered us into the world of fossil-fuel dependent vehicles we now live in.

## Analysing the amenities offered

In the Indian context, electric vehicles can be a promising prospect for sundry reasons...

**To stave off climate change:** India has the "distinction" of being home to 22 of the world's 30 most polluted cities, with vehicular fumes as a significant contributing factor. An estimated 74,000 deaths in the country in 2015 were solely attributable to air pollution from exhaust emissions (International Council of Clean Transportation). Besides, as

per the environmental think tank Germanwatch, our nation is the 7th worst-hit terrain in the Global Climate Risk Index 2021. Thus, in order to meet its goal of reducing GHG emissions intensity by 33-35% from 2005 levels, and to further become carbon neutral by 2070, a shift to EV is mandatory.

**To reduce energy dependency:** About 80% of India's transport fuel is imported from countries abroad. And so, according to the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), the nation can save crude oil imports worth an estimated 1 trillion INR if EVs managed to procure even 30% share of its new vehicle sales by 2030.

**To improve job opportunities:** Though a switch to EVs would significantly reduce jobs in both the oil sector and the ICE vehicle manufacturing sector, it would increase the market share of powertrain, public chargers, and battery to

about 2 trillion INR, creating an additional 120,000 new jobs in the sector. Job opportunities in associated areas such as telematics, battery, recycling, etc., would surge too.

**To lower running costs:** With the price of petrol hitting 100 INR per litre in almost all the Indian cities today, the cost of running a petrol/diesel-based vehicle amounts to about 8-9 INR per kilometre. Conversely, the fuel cost of an EV is only 80 paise per kilometre and that of charging one with an average battery is approximately 75 INR per day. With about 75-80% fewer moving components than fuel cars, their maintenance bill is negligible too.

**To provide better performance:** With a cutting-edge battery technology, EVs are lighter than the traditional cars, so their acceleration capacity is tremendous. For instance, Tesla Model S is one of the fastest accelerating cars in the market, going 0 to 60mph in just 2.5 seconds. To compound this, owing to a lack of large engines, these are more spacious - a perfect fit for the Indian joint families.

Continued on page 6...

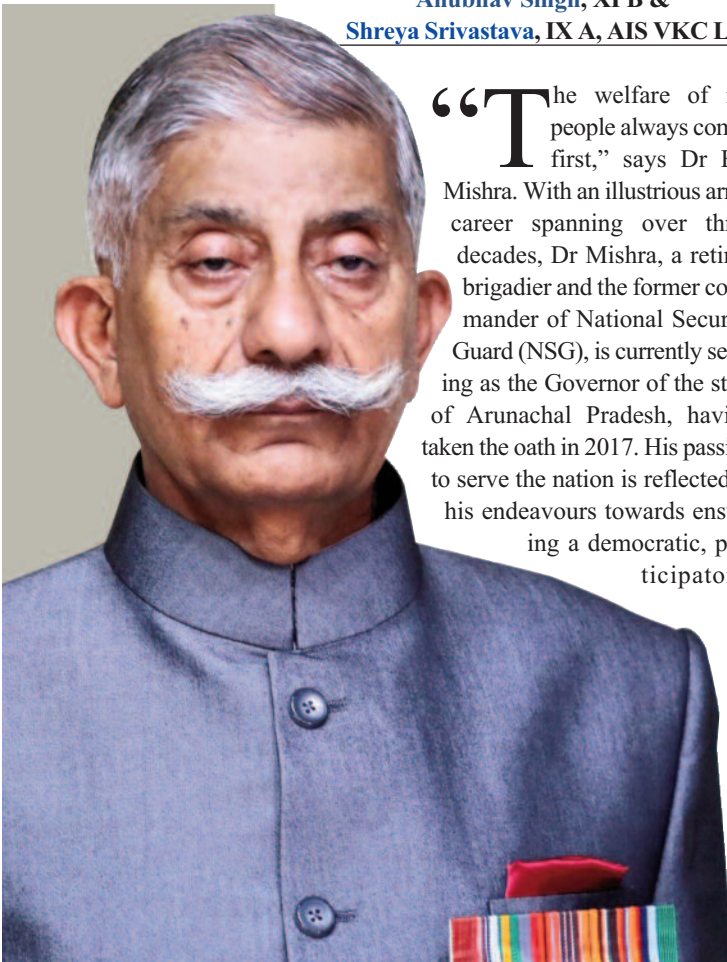


Illustration: Mitul Singh Rawat, AIS VKC Lko, XI B

# Nation first, always first

An Ex-Soldier's Journey From Fighting On The Border To Serving People Within

Anubhav Singh, XI B & Shreya Srivastava, IX A, AIS VKC Lko



Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Brig. (Dr) BD Mishra

## INTERVIEW

and all-inclusive form of governance in his state. In his conversation with the GT reporters, he shares his riveting journey from being a soldier to finally becoming a statesman. We provide you excerpts of the same.

### As an Indian army personnel

As an integral part of one of the most disciplined armed forces in the world, serving in the Indian Army was an earthshaking experience for me. I set off as a cadet in Kohima team and was then commissioned in Infantry, the Madras Regiment, in 1961; thenceforth, I fought for the defence of the nation in the 1962 Indo-China war, the 1965 liberation war, and the 1971 Indo-Pak war, before finally becoming a Brigadier. Post my retirement in 1995, having served in the army for almost 33 years, I volunteered in the 1999 Kargil War as well. For I am a soldier and I need to protect my country and my people till my last breath.

### As the NSG Force Commando

The 1993 Indian Airlines Flight 427 Hijack is one event that marks my career as the commander of NSG. The hijack was executed by a member of the terrorist organi-



GT reporters in conversation with Brig. (Dr) BD Mishra

sation Hijbul Mujahideen. And I still remember how the then Prime Minister was, quite understandably, worried about the safety of the civilians onboard, and how I had to assure him of the mission's success to get a clearance. Having carefully examined the airfield post that, we stormed the aircraft and executed the hijacker without any civilian casualty, rescuing all the 126 passengers, 9 infants, and 6 crew members safely at the Raja Sansi Airfield, Amritsar.

### As the governor of AR

Arunachal Pradesh is the Nippon of India. The state comprises about 26 major tribes and 100 minor ones, each with its distinct cultural identity, tradition, and ethos. It is a mosaic of people, serving as an example of

perfect harmony in diversity for the rest of the nation. But in spite of being so culturally rich, the state never fully received the attention and developments it sought. However, owing to the dedicated efforts of PM Narendra Modi, and our CM Pema Khandu, things are really catching up. With necessary technological and infrastructural advancements, including rural electrification, better roads, appropriate water supply, and other border area development projects, etc., to name a few, our state government is leaving no stone unturned to make Arunachal Pradesh one of the best states of North Eastern India. And I think sooner or later, we'll achieve that goal for sure.

Continued on page 5...





And to get it for you, the perceptive observer reaps.  
**Varada Kachroo & Mariam Fatma, AIS VKC Lko, IX B**  
 Page Editors



# NO MORE SCARRED

## Sheroes Café – Where Acid Attack Survivors Get A Whole New Lease Of Life

**Mariam Fatma & Varada Kachroo**  
 AIS VKC Lko, IX B

**Trigger Warning:** Violence  
 \*splash\*

As seconds passed, agonised screams of a woman engulfed the streets as she struggled to pacify the blazing fire on her face. She scratched, scraped, and screeched as hard as she could, but the end to her suffering was nowhere in sight. A few months later, she found herself in the emergency ward, with her aggrieved parents by her side. “Our life’s over,” they said. Baffled, she questioned “Why?” till she saw, with what was left of her eyesight, her disfigured face in the mirror nearby. It wasn’t her face; it wasn’t the body she remembered, yet it was her life that ended! But did it really? Alok Dixit, co-founder of the Sheroes Hangout Café, says no! For “there is nothing stronger than a broken woman who rebuilds herself,” he tacked on.

### The idea

Nestled amongst a row of busy shopfronts in Lucknow is a café named Sheroes, housed and run by women who have survived acid attacks and are now on a course to redefine their lives. “Many women survivors led solitary lives prior to working at the café. They were ostracised and left to struggle with feelings of shame and trauma. Hence, it became necessary to wipe out those scars from their subconsciousness. Sheroes does exactly that by aiding them at the earliest,



**GROUND REPORTING**

The beautiful bravehearts of Sheroes

and by treating them as fighters rather than victims,” asserted Alok.

### The inception

“Being appalled by the staggering figures of acid attacks in India coupled with a complete lack of awareness about the issue, I started the campaign #StopAcidAttacks way back in 2013. But somewhere along the road, I realised that the survivors of these brutal attacks required more immediate attention. For most of them faced unemployment and were forced to rely on their families that were already exhausted by the burden of their medical expenses. This is when I resolved to turn my campaign into something more concrete,” summarised Alok.

In 2014 thus, he inaugurated an organisation, namely the Chhanv Foundation, for the rehabilitation of these women. Upon further realising that many of them lacked the necessary professional skills, he laid the foundation stone for Sheroes, where both skilled and unskilled women work and earn together. Its first branch, entirely based on crowd funding, was set up in Agra in 2016. This was followed by a second café in Lucknow.

### The execution

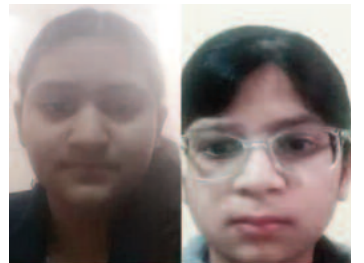
With stories of the survivors’ horrific ordeal inscribed on its walls, Sheroes not only works towards the empowerment of women, but also materialises it in the form of an eatery, an information hub, an

activism workshop, a one-point centre, and a help desk for the victims of violence. “Guests can avail these facilities, all while learning about acid attacks and meeting the strong, resilient women who endured them. One would find Farah at the counter; she was attacked by her husband in 2019. Shanti, who was attacked by a distant relative over some familial dispute, can be found serving the orders, and Rani, who was 17 when she was attacked by a random suitor, managing the helpdesk,” detailed Alok.

### The reception

Sheroes was honoured with the Nari Shakti Puruskaar in 2016 by the then President of India, Late Pranab Mukher-

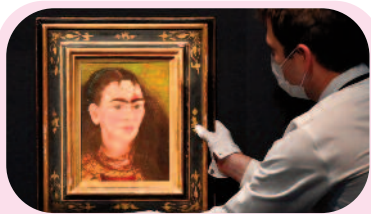
jee. It has also been acknowledged by numerous global organisations such as the German Best of Business Awards, as its reach extends far beyond the country’s borders. However, the journey to empowerment wasn’t always smooth or as Alok puts it, “In 2018, we received a notice from UP Mahila Kalyan Nigam to vacate the café, citing its inability to fulfil its ‘purpose’ as one of the reasons”. However, the general public extended their support to the café, and protests were held to express solidarity with the survivors. As the matter reached the Allahabad court thus, orders were issued to revoke the notice. This is how a café championed the cause of women, of survivors, not once but twice! 🇮🇳



GT reporters with Alok Dixit

## Around The WORLD

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



### USA

#### Diego y Yo sets a record

Diego y Yo, the self-portrait of the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, featuring her husband Diego Rivera, was sold at an auction at Sotheby’s in New York for 34.9 million USD, setting the record for the highest price ever paid for a painting by a Latin American artist. Bought by an unidentified buyer, Diego y Yo (Diego and I) was completed in 1949, and is one of Frida’s most revered paintings, depicting a teary-eyed Kahlo with Rivera on her brow, who has a third eye embedded on his forehead.

### CANADA

#### State of emergency declared

A state of emergency has been declared in the Canadian province of British Columbia, as torrential rains continue to pour in the region, with floods and landslides blocking roads and railways, leaving thousands stranded and several mountain towns isolated. With one death and 3 missing reports filed so far, and evacuation attempts well underway, some 18,000 people have been reportedly displaced in what is termed as a ‘one-in-500-year event’.



### AZERBAIJAN

#### Cease-fire after border clash

Fresh skirmishes between Armenia and Azerbaijan broke out on Nov 16, killing 7 Azerbaijani service members and wounding another 10. Armenia has also reported 1 casualty, with 13 soldiers captured and 24 missing in action. After the violent exchange of hostilities, both sides are currently under a Russian-brokered ceasefire with the additional deployment of 2,000 peacekeepers into the hostile region. The clashes marked the worst fighting between the two nations since the six-week long war last year.



### AUSTRALIA

#### Quantum Science essential

Having identified Quantum science as “vital for national interests”, PM Scott Morrison, on Nov 17, 2021, laid proposals to invest over 73 million USD in the field to develop quantum technology in the country. As part of its economic plan to further revolutionise industries such as AI, healthcare, and finance amongst others, the government would also fund and support nine other fields of technology including advanced cyber security, communications, mineral extraction, autonomous vehicles, novel antibiotics, etc., in the upcoming years.

### INDIA

#### Defence equipment for army

As a major push towards the agenda of ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’, PM Modi, on Nov 19, handed over indigenously designed and built equipment of defence to the three chiefs of armed forces in UP. These included equipment like light combat aircrafts, built by HAL, for the Air Force Chief; drones and UAVs, built by Indian startups, for the Army Chief; and advanced electronic warfare suites, built by local sources, for the Navy.



### BRAZIL

#### Elon to provide SpaceX aid

To help the government keep a check on illegal deforestation in the Amazon rainforest, Elon Musk has offered to provide satellite technology in the region. In the meeting with the Communications Minister, he also highlighted how advanced tech like Starlink and SpaceX can monitor Amazon, the world’s largest reserve of flora and fauna that has already lost 8% of its forest area in the past 18 years.







# Be a writer

From the news writer/editor working for a media house to the self-employed screenwriter seeking a break in the showbiz, writing is a heterogenous professional field. And though it offers a variety of ways to set foot into the industry, it guarantees success to only those who possess the power of the pen. Read on as **Aashna Bhalla & Vanshika Singh**, AIS VKC Lko, IX A, expound what it takes to build a career in the field of writing and the opportunities it entails.



Know the Expert

## Ashima Syal, poet

A poet by profession, Ashima Syal published her first poetry book titled *Canopy* in 2019 and has co-authored over ten anthologies including *Seashore*, *Snowdust*, etc. Her anthology 'Bachpan Sunheri Yaadon ka Pitaara' has been recently selected for International Book of Records. One of her poems on the Himalayan Abode was also featured in the 2020 Kumaon Literary Festival.

### The path

I had a keen interest in writing since I was in 8th grade. The idea to pen down your thoughts and weave them together in verse has always intrigued me. Thus, to turn my passion into a career opportunity, I pursued a creative writing course from Xavier's Institute of Mass Communication, Mumbai. A few years later in 2019, I finally published my first book of poems by the name *Canopy*.

### The essentials

For a poet like me, creativity and originality of thought are the two most important details. Then comes the need to be observant enough. For in a very Pablo Nerudian sense, poets are capable of turning the ordinary into something extraordinary and beautiful. Apart from that, a good command over English certainly is a plus point, but you don't

have to stress over it much; poetic license saves the day for most of us.

### The qualifications

A high school degree or equivalent is the minimum educational requirement to qualify for any kind of writing job. To add on to your skills, you can also pursue a graduate/post-graduate degree in creative writing. There's an abundance of institutes out there providing the same. Other than that, I would highly recommend every aspiring writer to enrol for Himali Kothari's Creative Writing Course at the Xavier's Institute of Mass Communication, Mumbai. I took this very course under her and to be fairly honest with you all, it helped me enhance my writing skills a great deal. You can all look up for such creative writing courses in your respective states.

### The ups and downs

The most interesting aspects of writing fiction or poems are flexible schedules and the pleasure that one gets out of seeing one's name published on a book. The greatest dread of a creative poet, on the other hand, is writer's block which when occurs, slows down the whole creative process and leaves one out of ideas.

### The growth

As far as the field of poetry writing is concerned, the avenues are endless. A good poet can work as a freelancer, can get their work published in literary magazines or can write a poetry book of their own. They can also work as songwriters if they ever get the chance to. The remuneration, however, depends on the reach, engagement, and the skill set of the poet, but they can earn anywhere between 5-9.5 lakh INR annually.



Know the Expert

## Ramendra Vashisht, script writer

Having worked as a copywriter for brands like Colgate, Maruti, etc., and also as an Associate Creative Director for the likes of Zee and NDTV, Ramendra Vashisht today is a well-known script writer with credits in films like *Mary Kom* to his name. He also has his own production house, ZIVsadi Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., with several hit shows to his credit.

### The path

I began my career as an advertising copywriter and crafted 30-second stories for several brands. This is where my interest in the showbiz stemmed. Having worked on several TV shows for a long time post that, I finally got my first break with *Mary Kom*. Recently, I have written dialogues for an OTT series titled 'The Final Call' that stars Arjun Rampal.

### The essentials

To write well, you need to read, observe your surroundings, and most importantly, live. For experience, as opposed to formal education, takes centre-stage in the imaginative process of writing screenplays. Additionally, an aspiring script writer must be hungry for stories. To have a keen eye is equally significant. If you are a multilingual at that, nothing can stop you.

### The qualifications

A person does not need any sort of formal education to pursue a career in scriptwriting. Salim Javed, a scriptwriting legend, for instance, hasn't attended any particular course to achieve the skills he has today. He learned writing while being on the set as an assistant. But yes, there are several institutes that offer specialised screenwriting programs and degrees. Besides, a degree in English, journalism or communications would surely be a plus point.

### The ups and downs

The most challenging part of being a scriptwriter is to get the recognition one needs to build a successful career in this field. Once recognised, coming up with something new in your script every time poses as another stumbling block. Because you are bound to run out of ideas every once

in a while. Conversely, the most rewarding thing is the satisfaction you feel once a script is ready. That feeling is just out of this world.

### The growth

As far as the scope of script writing goes, there lies an unimaginable space for the writers to create anything and let the world see it. Somebody said "Rasode mein kaun tha" and the whole world knows it today. The growth in the viewership of the numerous OTT platforms is further giving a voice to the budding writers in ways previously unthought of. In this regard, most of these platforms are shelling out big bucks for quality writers, so the scope is huge. One can easily make 1-10 lakh INR per annum from a decent screenwriting job. And when it comes to the film industry, people can earn over 2-3 crore INR per film. Imagine!



Know the Expert

## Divisha Manghnani, blog writer

A commerce and marketing student from Lucknow, Divisha Manghnani is a blog writer based in Dubai. Currently working as a digital marketer and freelancer, she is equipped with a considerable amount of experience in copywriting, content creation and editing.

### The path

Back in 2017, I was going through a really tough time and I struggled a lot with my identity, as to who I really was. All I knew then was that I had a knack for creating and sharing things for people to watch and read. And so, I

started out as a blogger in Lucknow. It was later when I moved to Dubai, UAE, that I became a full-time professional blogger.

### The essentials

Know that you don't have to be an expert in order to do well, you

just have to be smart. The most successful of businesses aren't always the best with what they do; the best-selling books aren't always the best written, the best often just means being best marketed. So, focus on being smart. In addition to that, learn to make and sustain connections with the right people. I know it might sound obvious but a lot of people miss out on potential opportunities due to a lack of it.

### The qualifications

Blogging is all about experience. I had the required digital knowledge and was lucky enough to be given a chance based on it. It wasn't really my degree that played that role for me. Also, let's not forget that the social/digital world moves pretty quick. So, you can definitely access short term courses online, watch videos, and self-learn.

### The ups and downs

Time management and keeping

up with the deadlines can be a real tricky hurdle here. For there were days when I would feel burnt out, but at the end of the day the most gratifying experience would definitely be when you are able to deliver well.

### The growth

In 2020 and 2021, as the world has been hit by a pandemic, people who never even thought about having a digital presence are now tapping into it creatively. From small businesses to even therapy services, everything is becoming digital. As a result, people have started to trust influencers/bloggers before they make an investment on any kind of product or service, making it evident that blog writing as a career is here to stay and slay. And when we look at the pay scale, a professional blogger can easily earn somewhere between 3-10+ lakh INR per annum, depending on their reach and overall engagement with their followers.





Stop trying to make everyone you meet happy. After all, you aren't a classic read and they aren't avid readers.

Advika Singh, AIS VKC Lko, IX A  
Page Editor



# A floating fiasco

## To Fathom The Mechanism Behind The Principle Of Buoyancy

Yousuf Adnan Siddiqui  
AIS VKC Lucknow, VI B

Plod went the Tennis Ball; thud went the Cricket Ball, as a pack of kids indulged in both the sports in a town called Bedford Falls. As both the balls thus flew high up in the air, nearing the close by the lake, a conversation ensued thus. More like a challenge, they dared each other for a duel in an effort to test and see who could float for a longer period of time.

"You know who's going to win. Give up already!" exclaimed Cricket Ball, while the other one sufficed with a "Well, we'll see!" in as mockful a tone as there could ever be. As they squabbled thus, Miss H<sub>2</sub>O could hear it all. She couldn't help but laugh at their stupidity, for she already

knew the outcome. So as both hit the water and dived in next, to their surprise, Tennis Ball kept floating on the surface, while Cricket Ball was completely engulfed by the water body, as if lost in its depths forever, to be never found. Laughing it off at first, Tennis Ball realised the seriousness of the situation as time passed, for there was no sign of Cricket Ball now.

"Where are you, Cricket Ball? Stop scaring me. Come out this instant," yelled Tennis Ball at the top of its voice.

"It cannot come out," responded a voice, unknown and unheard of before this instance.

"Who's this?" asked Tennis Ball, scared out of its wits.

"I am Miss H<sub>2</sub>O. Does it ring any bell? Ha ha ha!"

"But I am out so, why can't Cricket Ball come out?" asked Tennis Ball angrily.

"Well, because I could easily push you up. Buoyancy? My up-

ward force?" replied Miss H<sub>2</sub>O. "Wh-what now? Never mind! Just please use that force and try and push Cricket Ball up and out, too. Please help us!" requested Tennis Ball.

"Well, there's only so much I can do. I cannot push up someone or something that displaces only a small amount of me and weighs more than what's displaced. You weighed less than the amount of me you displaced so my upward force worked on you. Simple!"

"But you can keep large ships afloat. What's a Cricket Ball to you?" added Tennis Ball.

"That's because a ship has the capacity to displace a large amount of me, an amount either equal to its weight or much more than it. It makes it easier for me to push it up. Because the more I get displaced, the more actively I apply my upward force. Cricket Ball and you cannot displace me much so,

your weight makes all the difference in this situation."

"Ugh! I knew this day would come. This couch potato needed all those exercising sessions it skipped!" exclaimed Tennis Ball out of sheer innocence.

*\*Distress call from Cricket Ball\**

"But what should I do now?" hollered Tennis Ball nervously.

"Go and ask someone to dive in and take Cricket Ball out. Hurry up!" answered Miss H<sub>2</sub>O, sensing Tennis Ball's cluelessness. And so it did. As the kids came running, Tennis Ball asked them to dive in and take out Cricket Ball. And that is exactly what they did. As Cricket Ball was rescued, Tennis Ball shed a tear, happy to have his friend back and happy about the

lessons it learnt today, lessons that were learnt the hard way, but valuable nonetheless!

### The science of it

Buoyancy is an upward force exerted on an object that is partly or wholly submerged in a fluid and causes objects to float.



SCIENCE  
BEDTIME STORIES

Illustration: Sohini Srivastava, IX A & Gouri Srivastava, IX B, AIS VYC Lucknow

# Berry-licious

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



Karan Kapoor, AIS MV, VII D

Hey! My name is: Raspberry  
I am also known as: Rubus idaeus

### About me

- I belong to the Rosaceae family and was first cultivated in 1600s in England and France.
- I have perennial root structure, and canes that are woody and shrub-like.
- I am known to produce beautiful white and pink flowers, with five petals that are surrounded by green sepals.
- After pollination, each of the flowers produce many tiny bead-like fruits called 'drupelets' clustered around a core. Each drupelet contains one seed and in total I have around hundred to one hundred and twenty seeds.
- Interestingly, in Philippines, people hang me outside their homes to keep evil spirits away.
- I am consumed as a fresh fruit and can also be processed into various other products like puree, frozen candy, jam, canned berry, juice, herbal tea, and sometimes even wine.

### What I offer

About 100 grams of my consumption will provide you:

- Calories: 52 kcal
- Carbohydrates: 11.94 grams
- Protein: 1.2 grams
- Fat: 0.65 grams
- Sugar: 4.42 grams
- Fiber: 6.5 grams
- Water content: 85%
- Vitamin C, K, B, & E
- Other minerals like iron, manganese, copper and calcium

### I can help you with

- Lowering blood pressure
- Fighting inflammation
- Preventing heart disease
- Improving eyesight
- Regulating blood sugar
- Weight loss
- Improving skin with my anti-ageing properties
- Promoting feminine health

### Where you can find me

I am a commercial crop and can be grown in a wide range of climate conditions. However, I thrive best in



### My different avatars

- Amber
- Akhain
- Latham
- Heritage
- Indian summer
- Bristol
- Allen
- Clyde

### Why I fear climate change

I am as vulnerable to the erratic climate changes as any other fruit. I cannot survive extreme weather temperatures; at the most, I can tolerate mild winters and cool summers. Acid rain, resulting from global warming, is a major problem for me and to solve that, regular soil tests need to be conducted along with usage of rich manure. The pH of acidic soil can also be corrected by adding lime juice. Other than that, I require adequate rainfall or irrigation for you to enjoy my luscious taste! So, help me before it's too late.

colder regions with ample sun light. Rich soil, sandy loams and silts with good water drainage, having pH maintained between 6.0 to 7.0, is ideal for my best yield quality. In the year 2018, more than 822,493 tonnes of my varieties were produced worldwide. Russia is my biggest cultivator and supplies 21% of the world's total supply, followed by Mexico, Serbia and USA.





# THE TWIN TOWERS.....

## The Tale Of The Collapsing Towers That Once Adorned The American Sky

**Srishti Verma**, AIS VKC Lko, XI E

To touch the sky and crumble down to the very ground soon after, that's our tale! Hear out as we, the Twin towers, recollect how it all began and what ultimately befell...

### Flashback: April 4, 1973 (Inauguration Day)

"Triumph of human inventiveness, that's how they are expounding our execution, yours and mine!"  
"High Five! Besides, for Governor Rockefeller, we are "a dream come true". Imagine, twinnie!"  
"Twinnie? We ain't no twins. You are a duplicate, 2 WTC. The men behind our inception, Winthrop W. Aldrich and Mr David Rockefeller, never intended for us to be two. The original 1959 plan was to build a single 7 storey office, and before you start wondering, that's me!"  
"But that proposal was soon scrapped, 1 WTC. We are both 110-storey-high with 4,300,000 sq ft of floor area each, as per our architect Minoru Yamasaki's design draft. Talk about being equal!"  
"What about being a year late? Though our construction began in February 1967, they effectuated me in 1972, while you started accommodating tenants way after in 1973."  
"Pfft! There's no winning you! But just so you know, a little modesty goes a long way."  
"Stop with the lecture, will you? I mean just look at us! Two giant tubes composed of more than 200,000 pieces of steel from across the country, 425,000 cubic yards of concrete, 40,000 doors, 43,600 windows, and 6 acres of marble – all of that coupled with the labour of over 10,000 workers, making us the world's tallest structures. We are the dream!"  
"Tallest? What about the probability of some air-liner bumping into us someday, as Lawrence Wein claimed back in 1968?"  
"Na! He is just jealous because we surpassed his 1,250-foot-high Empire State Building. Plus, criticism comes to those who stand out. So, relax!"  
"I wonder if you really are my biological twin!"  
"Because I am not. Surprise! Surprise!"

### That phase between birth and death we call life

While our title of being the tallest in the world didn't last long (not even a year), for Chicago's Sears Tower overshadowed us with its 1450-foot-high frame in 1973, but we were functioning just fine, with a revenue of over 204 mln USD by 1983. We had our own fair share of challenges though. The sudden bombing of 1 WTC on Feb 26, 1993, the attack that claimed 6 lives with damages amounting to over 600 mln USD, was spine-chilling. We had to go through several bouts of renovations to overcome it. In other developments, we were leased to a private developer, Larry Silverstein, in July 2001, just 2 months before the unthinkable occurred...

### Flashback: September 11, 2001 (The D-Day)

**8:46 am**  
"2 WTC, why do I see an air-liner coming straight at..."  
\*screams\*  
(An American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into 1 WTC, ripping a hole from its 93rd to 99th floor.)  
"No! What just happened? Help! Somebody help my brother."  
**9:03 am**  
"I guess it's my turn now..."  
(A hijacked United Airlines Flight 175 slammed into 2 WTC, igniting a fireball and gashing it from 77th to 85th floor.)  
**9:59 am**  
"I quit, 1 WT..."  
(Fire weakened the steel trusses of 2 WTC; it collapsed, having burnt for about 56 minutes.)  
**10:28 am**  
"I am coming, twin!"  
(1 WTC collapsed, too.)

The fall of the most prized icon of American ingenuity thus claimed a total of 2,753 lives in what is considered to be the deadliest terrorist attack in human history; the abutting buildings too succumbed to the fire and falling debris. It took over 8 months of rigorous clean-up for the site to be recovered. However, more than 20,000 people were rescued, thanks to the city's emergency department personnel. In 2006, construction for the new World Trade Complex began afresh, only this time it wasn't the original Twin Towers but one skyscraper, namely 1 WTC, that made a comeback (in 2014); the project also included the

establishment of the National September 11 Memorial Museum for those fallen, but certainly not forgotten. Amen!



Illustration: Sohini Srivastava, AIS VKC Lko, IX A

# A day in the wild

## As Animals Of The Jungle Revel In Their Flaws And Those Of Others

**Aarushi Aggrwal**, AIS MV, XII

The grass stood tall and lush in all its green glory. The stream roared, as it galloped forward. The sun was over mast and snores could be heard from the far end. In short, it was a regular day in the jungle. Just then, a loud thud disrupted the afternoon siesta. It was Elle, the elephant, again. She had managed to fall into a pit, again. Poor Elle! But being the only animal in the jungle who could not jump, it was hard to find sympathy votes for her. Elle was still grimacing when she heard a giggle. It was Slimey, the slug. He used his four noses to the optimum, always smelling misery and rushing to the spot. "Be animal enough. You'd understand if you had tusks that would grow 7 inches a year," she wailed quite dramatically. "Oh come on! One must enjoy the perks of the wilderness like these, unlike them," he retorted as he pointed towards Drowsy. Drowsy, oblivious, like he was to everything else, continued to sleep. Everyone thought he'd achieve the three-year sleep-

ing benchmark, the maximum for any snail. Elle grimaced only to find sudden comfort in an unexpected presence. And why not? It was her best friend after all. He growled enough to scare Slimey away. "I will crush

you if you don't stop bothering her," said Orin. Slimey, now fearful for his life slid away, after all, nobody wants to mess with an angry orangutan. "With those fractured bones, I doubt." The witty repartee was followed by a loud

cackle, forcing everyone to look up in the air where the sound come from. Had to be pier, the Blue jay. He was always the troublemaker, scaring away his peers by imitating the sounds of a hawk. Orin wanted to counter but then it was true that half of his fellows were always fracturing their bones by falling off trees. Dodo, envious of his friend who could fly, found in this the perfect opportunity. "Some people are so ruthless. If they could think before speaking," he said. "You of all people talking of 'thinking', the one who's eye is larger than his brain," Pier retorted. Now, this wasn't the first time Dodo had felt bad for belonging to the ostrich clan. But then, he was at least better than the shrimps who had their heart in their head. Gaffy, the giraffe seeing all this commotion shook his head. He wanted to chime in, but then lack of vocal cords, you see. He stomped his feet to make a point, when the snoring stopped. Tiggy was up! Knowing which, everyone quickly fled the spot only for hakuna matata to be resonated in the background.

Continued from Page 1

### As the one being inspired

Prime Minister Modi inspires me every day. His dedication towards the nation and the foresight with which he takes every decision is just commendable. Today, if India has achieved global success, it is all due to his unwavering determination and remarkable leadership skills. Moreover, it is for the first time in the history of independent India that Arunachal Pradesh or the entire North Eastern region for that matter is being given the limelight it deserves. And for that, I am nothing but grateful. I hope we will continue getting his support and encouragement for years to come.

### As the message-bearer for youth

The younger generation should be cognisant of their fundamental duties as the responsible, law-abiding citizens of India. I have seen many people exercise their fundamental rights, but only a few acknowledge and carry out their fundamental duties with the same ardour. The participation of youth in promoting this spirit of patriotism and to further uphold the unity of this nation is thus necessary to ensure a better future. .



The idea of getting your idea approved is what makes life interesting.

Gauri Srivastava, AIS VKC Lko, XI E  
Page Editor



Contest Edition

Illustration: Akriti Kumar, AIS VKC Lko, XI E

# Just the beginning



Dr Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

As I pore over the last Making A Newspaper contest edition of The Global Times for the year 2020-21, I am reminded of the phrase which eloquently states that 'from every ending comes a new beginning'. Indeed, this edition

is significant not only because it marks the end of a series of superbly written and designed contest editions, but also because it is the first contest edition of AIS VKC Lucknow. I am convinced that contributions from these young, new voices, in the future, will instill a fresh perspective into our student newspaper.

Having said that, GT is not merely a newspaper, it is a platform that reveals the very identity of every Amitian. It is a reflection of what lies deep within their hearts and minds, it is a safe harbour for their ideas to find expression and validation. Perhaps, this is the reason why, with each passing year, the content in all the contest editions is becoming more and more creative and original. There have been a plethora of articles in these editions, ranging from subjects like pertinent current affairs and insightful interviews with global dignitaries to dramatic fiction and soulful poetry. We have also had several pieces on complicated social issues that usually go unacknowledged, proving that Amitians have their heart in the right place!

Certainly, GT has taught our young reporters not only the skills of writing and editing, but also imbued them with the qualities of empathy, discipline and responsibility. I am proud that we have been able to fulfil the vision with which GT was launched – to provide the much-needed stepping stone for our budding journalists. As you read this edition, remember that every new step you take, in this journey of creativity, is just the beginning – of a beautiful life. [GT](#)

## Exploring untrodden paths



Rachna Mishra  
Principal  
AIS VKC Lko

The past year has been all about extraordinary vision, stupendous efforts, and exceptional achievements. Thus, we are extremely fortunate that we are being groomed and nurtured under the guidance of our honourable Founder President, Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, and

our Chairperson Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan. Their relentless efforts have helped Amitians become globally competitive, empathetic individuals moving ahead with a sense of purpose and optimism for the future.

Life had thrown a formidable challenge for all of us but patience and resilience helped us turn it into a new opportunity to grow; where our teachers impressed us with their innate capacity to bounce back from setbacks, our students put in their best and with their infectious enthusiasm, prodded us to thrive and learn. Now as we stand on the threshold of a new beginning, we eagerly look forward to seeing the faces of our students brimming with energy, the classrooms buzzing with excitement, corridors reverberating with the sounds of footsteps, and the school ground teeming with the energetic young sports enthusiasts.

Thus, having realised that persistence and resilience only come from walking through unfamiliar paths, I would like to congratulate our dedicated team for rising to the occasion and producing a spectacular assemblage of creativity and innovation. With great pride, we present before you the first contest edition of AIS VKC! [GT](#)

# Insuring nature...

## ...To Conserve It And Further Ensure Climate Resilience

Shreya Dwivedi

AIS VKC Lko, XI E

Blanketing less than 1% of the earth's surface yet insulating and catering for over 4000 species of marine life, and providing livelihood to about 840 million humans, coral reefs are presently faced with the menace of extirpation. Going by the recent reports, a draconian 30-50% decline has been recorded in the coral reef coverage worldwide since 1980s. Why and wherefore? Natural storms coupled with human actions numbering marine pollution, habitat destruction, overfishing, climate change, and the consequent bleaching, acidification, disease upsurge, and recrudescence.

Subsequently enervated, the global coral reef crisis stipulates swift attention and action. It should be acknowledged that nowhere does this distress call suggest that the coral reefs are incapable of withstanding the storms on their own, for they have been at the coalface since

millions of years. Additionally, a healthy coral reef alone has the capacity to truncate a comber's energy by a staggering 97% before it wallops the shore, diminishing both the storm and the erosion that accompanies. However, the additional strain of human opportunism renders its efforts futile. And paradoxically, it is human mediation that it quests for. So, here's looking at the efforts made in this respect...

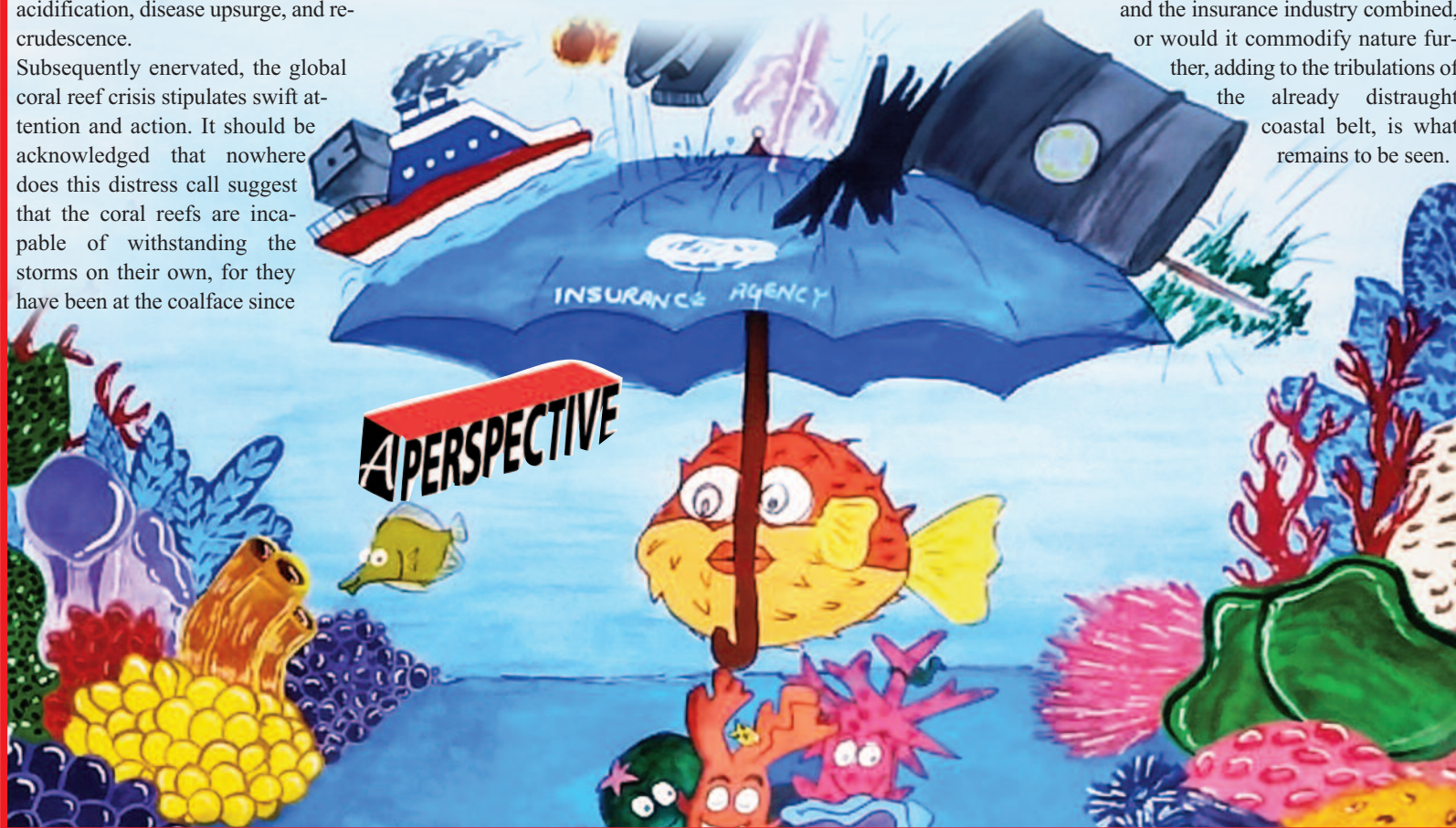
**Stratagem I:** An initiative of the Mexican Quintana Roo government in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and The National Parks Commission, Reef Brigades - a response team of trained people to repair the reefs post a storm - were formed

in 2018. When, following a storm, the broken corals roll around and get buried in the sand, these human brigades, with timely intervention, protect the corals by fastening them back onto the reef. Predominantly impacting the Yucatan Peninsula, the 2020 hurricane season with its record 27 storms, however, proved to be catastrophic, leaving the corals devastated every time before they could be fully recovered. Notwithstanding which, continuous toiling by the said brigades helped in stabilising and replanting numerous coral colonies.

**Stratagem II:** Coastal Zone Management Trust, set up by the Quintana Roo government, purchased the

first ever coral reef insurance policy in 2019. The policy assures adequate funding for the repair work of these ecosystems post a Category 3 storm, one with a wind speed of 100 knots or greater. The insurance was soon en-cashed when Hurricane Delta slammed the coast in October 2020, providing around 800,000 USD for restoration purposes. Howbeit, its potential could not be properly realised then owing to the pandemic-induced constraints.

The essential question, therefore, boils down to the effectiveness of such measures. Would the early response and funding system prove to be a win for all, the coastal community, nature, and the insurance industry combined, or would it commodify nature further, adding to the tribulations of the already distraught coastal belt, is what remains to be seen.



Continued from page 1...

### Understanding the challenges

With 236,802 units sold in the first half of 2021 alone, the demand for EVs in India is increasing. However, the infrastructural requirements for the same fall short for reasons aplenty...

**Lack of charging stations:** Though well-equipped in the manufacturing of ICE vehicles, with as many as 70,000 fuel stations across the country, India currently has only 427 public charging stations for EVs; this while the batteries need to be charged every 200-250 kms. Additionally, as per the recent estimates, over 80% of the charging takes place at the owner's residence or workplace, which in itself is a great fallout if done through electricity generated from thermal plants run on coal. Besides, private light-duty chargers are slow and require upto 8-12 hours for a full charge, forcing feasibility out.

**Lack of production capacity:** India lags behind in the production of several gears such as batteries, controllers, semiconductors, etc., necessary for the manufacturing of EVs in the nation. Since reserves of lithium, cobalt, and nickel are concentrated in a few countries like China, Congo, etc., India has to import lithium-ion cells and batteries in large quantities to satisfy its energy needs. If projections are anything to go by, the domestic EV market would require a minimum of 10 GW of Li-ion cells by 2022, about 60 GW by 2025, and over 120 GW by 2030 to meet its

set goal; where the nation barely manages to add about 20 GW every year to its grid for all its energy needs combined. Thus, to provide such large outputs of energy for EVs alone is tough.

**Lack of recycling facilities:** India manages to recycle only 5% of the spent Li-ion batteries, a lacuna in the nation's technical skills to achieve the same if we may. Plus, dumping them is not an effective solution either, for they contain toxic, flammable materials that cannot be left untreated. But since EV batteries would account for over 80% market share in the Li-ion battery market by 2030, the government needs to come up with a well-defined policy for their eco-friendly end-of-life handling.

**Lack of battery life:** The battery life of an EV ranges from 6-8 years, requiring replacement when its capacity falls below 80%. These frequent replacements are to be borne by the users, and since the cost of battery amounts to about 50% of the vehicle's purchase price, it becomes a financial burden.

**Lack of a skilled workforce:** Though our mobility sector is filled with talented people, these lack the niche skills required to work in the EV sector, and so do more than a third of our nation's engineering students. Besides, as projected, India would need 15,000 engineers a year for designing and servicing EVs from 2022 onwards, so changes in the curriculum are imperative.

### Entering the legislative domain

For even with increased demand, oper-

ationalising mass transition to EVs in a nation of over 1.3 billion people is by no means an easy feat to attain. However, in a bid to phase out all the ambiguity surrounding this vehicle of the future and to further drive its manufacturing and adoption in the country, the Government of India has been gunning hard year on year. Along with the introduction of initiatives such as the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2013, and FAME India 2015, it has also proffered several financial incentives, including a 1.5 lakh INR tax exemption on loans to purchase EVs, fixating GST on EVs at 5% versus 28% for ICEs, customs duty exemption on their specific parts such as the electric drive assembly, onboard charger, e-compressor, etc., amongst others to cut down costs. At the state level, many fiscal and non-fiscal incentives are being made available for the production of chargers and charging stations. In one such instance, the government of Telangana amended their building by-laws to accommodate around 600 charging stations across the state. However, all this will come to naught if enhanced industry cooperation, both public and private, fails to accompany it; a higher consumer awareness would be equally welcomed!

*Agar chalti ka naam gaadi, toh phir kaun pakka khiladi?* Internal Combustion Engine vehicles or Electric vehicles, the choice is yours, but remember it would affect one and all!

## To new beginnings

Incorporating unique experiences and unbridled enthusiasm, every edition of The Global



Nidhi Barthwal  
GT Coordinator  
AIS VKC Lko

Times brings with it a vision for the future, blending different forms of art and media with shining sparks of novelty and a splash of creativity. It is thus an honour to participate in the GT Making A Newspaper Contest for the first time. Leaving all apprehensions behind, the freshly appointed editorial team donned the coveted role with great élan, overwhelming us with their unceasing fervor. Walking on an uncharted territory while putting forth their unique perspectives, the team envisioned, analysed, designed, drafted, edited, and finally created this spectacular amalgamation of their sincere efforts. Our sincere thanks to The Global Times team for demystifying the whole creative process by providing us with their toolkit of techniques and strategies. Hope you savour the distinct expression of talent encapsulated in this CE by AIS VKC. Happy Reading!





First draft is allowed to be a blunder, even the second one, but it is the re-editing that infuses the magic.

Ananya Pandey, AIS VKC Lko, XI E  
Page Editor



# The debtly trap

Ananya Pandey, AIS VKC Lko, XI E

“There are two ways to conquer and enslave a country - one is by the sword; the other is by debt,” said John Adams, an American statesman. Given how things are panning across the globe, with China in the lead, his words hold more water in the present times. The news – China is using its Belt and Road initiative as a debt trap diplomacy technique, at least that is what media and trade analysts across the world have to say. Here's treading over conjecture, facts, and analysis to find the truth that lies somewhere in the grey.

## What's this about?

■ Debt-trap diplomacy is a situation where an economically powerful country lends money to a borrowing country, which increases the lender's power and leverage over the borrower.

■ Through debt-trap diplomacy, the creditor country aims to increase the loan on the debtor country, putting them in a vulnerable position, and extracting political, economical, or any other kinds of favours in return when the debtor country is unable to pay the amount back.

■ Today China is known as the world's biggest official creditor

as its international loan has surpassed more than 5% of the entire world's GDP. It has even left behind other international staple lenders like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and all the nations under Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

■ The countries most in debt to China are Pakistan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia etc. China has been lending money under its Belt and Road Initiative.

## Wait, wait...what is this Belt and Road Initiative?

■ The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), also known as One Belt One Road, is a global infrastructure development programme that was started by the People's Republic of China in 2013.

■ The plan for the programme was that the Chinese government will invest in nearly 70 countries and other international organisations for their infrastructural growth, and will create investments like ports, skyscrapers, railroads, roads, airports, dams, coal-

fired power stations, and railroad tunnels in the debtor countries.

■ The initiative aims to help China to “assume a greater leadership role for global affairs in accordance with its rising power and status”. It was incorporated into the Constitution of China in 2017 and has been assigned a target completion date of 2049.

■ In a study conducted by CEBR, a global economic consultant company, it was forecasted that BRI will likely boost the world's GDP by 7.1 trillion USD per annum by 2040.

## If it will help the world's GDP, why is everyone calling China a loan shark?

■ AidData, a research lab, tracked over 13,000 BRI projects worth 843 billion USD across 165 countries and found out that these projects actually have 385 billion USD in “hidden” debt, which means that these debtor countries actually owe more money to China than they think.

■ The loans have been structured in a way that some parts of it are hidden from the World Bank, because rather than lending them to government institutions, a part of the amount has been given to private firms. By influencing these private firms, China can influence market dynamics in these countries.

■ This has caused the debt exposure of at least 44 countries to exceed 10% of their GDP, and there is only so much the rest of the world can do to help as the World Bank's Debtor Reporting System only tracks obligations made in the name of the public sector where the government holds 50% or more shares. If it is not by the government, the World Bank and other international organisations aren't involved in the equation, letting the creditor be free to exercise their

leverage without any upper check. This ends up creating what we call a debt-trap diplomacy.

■ Several analysts claim that China is using the loan to challenge the state's sovereignty and imposes multiple unfair trade and financial deals with poor countries that are in need of the money.

■ BRI, which was supposed to deliver infrastructure to countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe, is now being considered as a massive debt trap, given that only 3% of it is pure aid and rest comprise financial loans.

## How China is taking advantage of this?

mal body of donor countries that intervenes if a country has trouble paying debts. This ensures that China gets its due in the way it wants.

■ A lot of these contracts give Chinese state banks priority, and have clauses that will give China “great leeway to accelerate repayment.” They also mention that any severance of the diplomatic relationship can be classified as a breach of contract, requiring the debtor government to repay China the loan immediately.

■ 30% of these BRI contracts require debtor countries to deposit collateral in special escrow accounts which are often held by Chinese banks, which can be seized in the event of bankruptcy.

■ In many contracts, future exports of raw material is being used as collateral in the event of the inability to repay.

■ Many of these clauses give the lender, in this case China, the ability to cancel loans or reschedule payment at will, increasing their control.

■ As per IFFRAS, the contracts stress on keeping the terms of credit secret from the World Bank, other international agencies, and even citizens of both the countries involved.

■ These clauses and terms of repayment will curtail the crisis management and renegotiation options for debtors. All of this put together points to a detailed strategy on China's part.

## But all of this is on paper. Has any country actually suffered?

■ The biggest shining example of repercussions of BRI contracts and confidentiality clauses that come with it is Sri Lanka. The country had to cough up the Hambantota Port and 15,000 acres of surrounding land for 99 years as payment when it failed to repay a loan in 2018. The government stated that the intelligence and strategic opportunities of the port were also a part of the deal. This implies a direct security implication for India.

■ Another example is that of Tonga, who sought a loan from China, and failed to repay it in 2013-14, and the loans ended up claiming 44% of Tonga's GDP.

■ The Maldives, too, stands at risk as 1.4 billion USD, approximately 78% of the country's external debt, is only owed to China.

■ As per the same report by IFFRAS, the Chinese BRI contract with Montenegro entails clauses where the inability

to repay the money will give the Chinese government the right to access Montenegrin land as collateral. Also, the contract states that any legal dispute would be placed under an arbitration court in China. Currently, Montenegrin debt stands at 65.9% of its entire GDP, China being 25% of it.

■ India will also need to be on their toes as most of its neighbours have fallen prey, including Pakistan.

## So, what will happen now?

■ A large number of the BRI loans have the period for repayment starting from 2021 onwards, meaning that the coming years will see China capitalising on other countries' fiscal mismanagement.

■ A lot of negotiations can be assessed to be on equity swaps rather than on alleviating debt and helping other countries, meaning more and more power for China.

■ A ray of hope is that the

pace of lending on BRI has slowed down in the past two years. Several countries on the Chinese credit list are witnessing more pushback against the BRI.

■ The USA has also led a G7 effort to counter Beijing's dominance in international development finance in collaboration with other countries like France, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, and UK. Termed as the Build

Back Better World (B3W) initiative, it aims at offering 40 trillion USD in investment in developing countries.

■ Australia has also backed out of its BRI contracts, with many other countries following suit. This has weakened BRI's further reach. In addition, the country has also introduced its 2 billion USD Australian Infrastructure Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) as a counter to BRI.







# Room number 13

Illustration: Aishwarya Miho B, AIS VKC Lko, VI A



## Storywala

Yusra Zahra

AIS VKC Lko, VII B

Thirteen. The old rickety staircase groaned under his weight as he cautiously made his way down the stairs. After what seemed like ages, he found himself in the ever-familiar dark passage. Pacing faster, he finally reached the rooms at the edge of the passage, when his eyes fell on the gold-embossed numerals on each door. Upon reaching room number seven, he slowed down his pace. “Just a few more to go,” he assured himself...

Jayden woke up. Beads of cold perspiration trickled down his forehead. Gasping for air, he sat up, mentally preparing for a new day. But there wasn't anything

new about this day. Life at school was dull, for being exceptionally quiet had its own drawbacks.

But what could be done, to whom could he complain? Jayden had no family, and the people at the orphanage couldn't care any less. But this wasn't the end of his troubles. For Jayden had trouble sleeping; the recurring dream about the doors would wake him up every night.

“Time flies,” he thought as he recalled how, a fortnight ago, the entire History Club was elated at the announcement of their trip to the ruins near the Macaulay Mansion. As dusk fell, the bus came to a halt and all disembarked. The dilapidated, yet majestic mansion echoed with the sounds of footsteps and bags being unloaded as everyone made their way into the



hall. But with every step Jayden took, feelings of homecoming engulfed him, feelings that were unknown to him. And as he glanced at the rooms at the edge of the passage, he was transfixed.

A strong impulse to rush towards the edge gripped him. Finally succumbing to it, he made his way towards the rooms. Room number five, six, seven, eight, on one side, and nine, ten, eleven and twelve, on the other. But then he realised something and his heart dropped. There was a void between room number twelve and room number fourteen. “W-wait! How?” he said to himself. “Hey! Lost soul! Our rooms are on the first floor,” the teacher's voice snapped him out of his trance. As she grabbed

Gasping for air, he sat up, mentally preparing for a new day. But there wasn't anything new about this day.

his arm and led him away, he kept wondering whether he had been there before.

He couldn't sleep that night, for his brain was filled with questions. At last, he managed to close his eyelids. But, alas! His rest was short lived. He was soon ensnared by the nightmare, once again traversing the oft-trodden staircase. But a sharp, piercing screech of an owl in close vicinity interrupted the nightmare this time and woke him up. With that, Jayden got up from the bed, got dressed and left his room as if he knew precisely what to do.

As he walked outside, the street lights flickered and then went off. The creaking of his footsteps on every step of the staircase now echoed in the pitch-black night. But slowly, he made his way down the passage, walking on the same path he had walked for so long, the path he always wanted to walk on. Upon reaching the edge of the hallway, he saw what made his heart leap with joy, and his dry lips curve into a smile- a hungry smile. He saw his fate. He saw what he had been waiting for all his life. He reached out his hand to it. Finally, it was there - room number thirteen.  



## Jeans organiser

Tannya Pasricha, AIS Gur 43, XI

### Material required

- Old jeans pockets-6
- Old jeans (for back frame)-1
- Sewing machine
- Needle (suitable for denim)
- Scissors
- Thread
- Cloth hanger
- Decorative material

### Method

■ Take scissors and cut out the back pockets from your old pair of jeans. Cut out a total of 6 pockets as such.

■ Take these cut-out pockets and arrange them over another jeans (the one kept for the back frame) in any pattern of preference and style.

■ Use the sewing machine to

sew the pockets in each row as per the arrangement.

■ Now, join the waist part of the jeans to the cloth hanger using colourful ribbons.

■ Lastly, decorate the organiser with beads, pearls, artificial flowers and buttons, and enjoy your first step into an organised lifestyle!

## WORDS VERSE

# The Soldier

Ravina Rastogi

AIS Saket, X

I was 12  
When I decided to join Army  
I wished to serve the nation  
That I proudly called mine  
To salute my country's flag  
That stood tall and proud  
To wear the august uniform  
And let it shine under sunlight

I was 19  
When my dream came true  
I recall my mother crying  
As she watched me leave  
My dad had a confident smile  
With unshed tears in his eyes  
I recall my sister shouting how

She would take my room now



I was 23  
When I became the Lieutenant  
The ceremony was sumptuous  
I could see my family  
Sitting in the front row proud  
The light gave that metal  
To the world it did show  
A prepossessing dauntless glow

I was 25  
When I became the Captain  
I saw tears streaming down  
The rosy cheeks of my wife  
The clean-cut diamond ring  
Adorned her thin ring finger  
She threw her arms around me  
Crying tears of sheer happiness

I am 29  
And am finally a Major now  
Fighting in a ceaseless war  
Oh, I've waited for this day  
I don't know when or if  
I'll get to go home again  
So, to my companions I say  
To splash some colour onto grey

Nay, I must not  
But if I die, promise me  
You'll put me in a coffin  
And take me back home  
Back to where my heart belongs  
Tell my mother not to cry  
She should hold her head high  
Tell my father to know pride

Say, you must say  
He has been my hero  
And he's always going to be  
Tell my sister to be merry  
Tell her that I'm sorry  
Sorry for not being there  
Even when she needed me  
Lastly, tell my wife, my love

Pray, we must pray  
For us this one lifetime  
It could never be enough  
Ours was a match for heavens  
Tell my country not to mourn  
Not to weep if I die  
I have seized immortality  
So, please don't ever cry.  



## CAMERA CAPERS

Vanshita Bhandari, AIS Vasundhara 1, XII

Send in your entries to  
cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in



A race to conquer the waters



A tide to wash away all your fears



A flight to the majestic heights of heaven





# The braveheart

## Wisdom Tale



**Anwita Agarwal**

AIS Gurugram 46, VII

Once upon a time in a village called Dholakpur, lived a man named Raju. As one belonging to the underprivileged lot, he used to sell pens at railway station to make a living. He worked tirelessly day in, day out, to sustain himself. But to his utter dismay, all his efforts seemed to go down the drain, for all he received in return was the contempt on the faces of the passing passengers who would often shun him for bothering them. So, one day, as he set off to try his luck at selling pens yet again, being fully aware of the consequences, he saw cops patrolling inside the trains. Little did he know that destiny had

something different in store for him that day. As he inquired, one of his friends told him that security in the area has been tightened after repeated incidents of train theft came to light. “Raju, you know their prime suspects are local sellers and hawkers like us,” added his friend, worried. Indifferent at first, as he had nothing to do with the robbery cases, Raju turned pale when the cops approached him next. When the police inquired and inspected him, everyone at the station gazed at him warily, making him conscious. Offended by their judgmental looks which were all but due to his lowly origins, Raju, post the inspection, continued to look for customers, having no time to curse his sad fate.

He kept on roaming from one compartment to another for a long time when finally, he earned his first coin for the day. But as he brought his hand forth to collect the money, the coin tipped over to a few seats ahead. Upon reaching the specific berth, he bent down to pick up the coin, and as he did, he came across a box filled with chips packets. In an attempt to reach the coin behind the box, he tried to move it a little. However, the box that was supposed to be extremely light was quite heavy and it made him suspicious. Curious to find out what was inside it, he tried opening it. To his surprise, beneath a layer of packets were stacks of 500 INR notes. Suspecting them to be stolen, he was tempted to inform the police

But as he brought his hand forth to collect the money, the coin tipped over to a few seats ahead.

immediately, but waited to catch the thief red-handed. So, as the train stopped at the next platform and someone came to pick up the box, Raju cautiously followed the man.

After walking some distance in an effort to catch the thief, Raju saw him meet his accomplices. Without wasting a second thus, he rushed to the nearest PCO and used the one and only coin that he had earned that day to call the police. Within fifteen minutes, the police arrived and arrested the criminals. They thanked and rewarded Raju for his sheer bravery. “You have no idea that you have helped us bust a dangerous gang who had been robbing train passengers for the past few months,” tacked on the superintendent. Raju accepted the reward with a huge smile on his face. All the folks nearby, who glared at him with disrespect until then, were now applauding Raju for his courage and fearlessness. 🇮🇳

**So, what did you learn today?**  
 We should not look down on anyone.



**Aaliya Gupta**

## Cupcakes

**Aaliya Gupta**, AIS Vasundhara 6, VI

### Ingredients required

|                   |         |                       |         |
|-------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| Milk .....        | 2/3 cup | Baking powder .....   | 1 tbsp  |
| Oil .....         | 1/2 cup | Butter .....          | 250 g   |
| Sugar .....       | 1 cup   | Salt .....            | 1 pinch |
| Flour .....       | 2/3 cup | Vanilla essence ..... | 1 tbsp  |
| Baking soda ..... | 1 tbsp  |                       |         |

### Procedure

- Start by preheating the oven to 190 degrees Celsius, and lining the muffin tray with cupcake cases.
- Now whisk butter and sugar together in a bowl using a wooden spoon or electric whisk. Beat until soft and fluffy.
- Then add flour, eggs, milk, baking powder and baking soda in it, and whisk it until the mixture is smooth.
- Once done, add vanilla extract and a pinch of salt for taste, and mix it thoroughly.
- Using a traditional-style ice-cream scoop, or spoon, pour in the mixture in the cupcake cases. Make sure to put an even amount of mixture in each.
- Place the muffin tray in the oven and bake for 15 minutes until the cupcakes are a light golden colour.
- Remove the tray from the oven and leave the cupcakes in it for a few minutes. Then transfer them to a wire rack to cool.
- Once done, decorate them with frosting and sprinkles. Your cupcakes are ready!

# Same fate as Titanic

**Varada Kachroo**

AIS VKC Lucknow, IX B

As the twilight changed its usual hue  
 The iceberg glowed eerie blue  
 In the Atlantic's prodigious ocean  
 It could, well, be very easily viewed  
 Gigantic dawdling, whispering adieu  
 Maybe to a ship, was it a cosmic clue?  
 Was it the Titanic iceberg? It still lasts?  
 Probably busy targeting more ships  
 Will it flick or will it actually toss  
 Will it collapse or God knows what!  
 Oh brother! The energy will be so vast  
 Assuredly, the underwater Stonehenge  
 If any like in Michigan, would not last  
 O lord! One ship Newfoundland passed  
 I spied through binoculars, 50 miles afar  
 Approaching now at a rate of knots  
 The scene I foresaw would be terrific  
 If the ship meets the same fate as Titanic!  
 I stood still, hoping, with a steady stare  
 Gobsmacked, restless with flickered walks  
 Thirty, twenty then ten from miles forty  
 The situation went on tenterhooks  
 The sombre darkness replaced the twilight  
 No distinct vision for helmsman in sight

Ahh! Then I heard the loud ship's sound  
 Extremely near the iceberg I found  
 A chill through my spine went down  
 Will the ship really sink or outlast?  
 May lord be kind and lenient this hour  
 The ship, the iceberg, and the witchy dark  
 Slam! Ended it with a fortissimo wreck  
 The sinless cursed for unmerited death  
 Kins and clans, their chums and pals  
 Heart o' heart, crushed just by the thought  
 Blues of darkness, snivelled out loud  
 Helped it me so, to ameliorate my heart  
 And so, I turned back to my abode  
 Waiting for the incident's bulletin report  
 Hyper waves, gale, drizzles and tumults  
 Such catastrophe, but their tactic silence  
 I shut the door, with an exasperated sigh  
 What of the iceberg above the ocean tile?  
 Heroic it might feel, proud of destruction  
 Huh! My jittery night was somehow spent  
 Bright sunrays made my emotions pent  
 The news! Oh, the spiffing news!  
 Dwindled all sights of the tragic view  
 I didn't see but surely did hear  
 The ship smashing the gigantic iceberg  
 “But what I see”, the journo then says  
 “That's a mystery, so tuned you must stay!”

Graphic: Aarush Agrawal, AIS VKC Lucknow, IX A



## Riddle Fiddle

**Myrah Kumar**

AIS Pushp Vihar, IV

1. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
2. I have a bed but I can never sleep. I can run but never walk. Who am I?
3. I am an odd number. Take away a letter, and I become

- even. Who am I?
4. I have no life but I can die. What am I?
5. I belong to you but your friends use it more. What am I?
6. What needs to be broken before you can use it?
7. What goes up but never comes down?

**Answers:** 1. Footsteps 2. River bed 3. Seven 4. Battery 5. Your name 6. Egg 7. Age

## It's Me

### KNOW ME

**My name:** Arnav Singh  
**My Class:** III  
**My school:** AIS VYC Lucknow  
**Born on:** September 18

### MY FAVOURITES

**Teachers:** Sunita ma'am and Twisha ma'am  
**Subject:** Science  
**Friend:** Krishav  
**Game:** Cricket  
**Cartoon:** Paap O Meter  
**Food:** Beans and pizza

**Mall:** Fun Mall  
**Book:** Universe encyclopaedia

### MY DREAMS AND GOALS

**My role model:** Albert Einstein  
**My hobby:** I like to search and learn new things about universe  
**I like:** To play cricket and watch video related to space  
**I dislike:** Sleeping  
**I want to become:** A scientist  
**I want to feature in GT because:** I want to share my knowledge through this platform.







Life is a popularity contest that everyone is losing but this one we are winning (fingers crossed).

Piyush Gupta & Aman Singh, AIS VKC Lko, XI E  
Page Editors



# 1991 economic crisis

A Timeline Of How India Changed A Moment Of Crisis Into One Of Opportunity

## The crisis (1947-1991)

**1** Having freed itself from British Raj in 1947, India took up the cause of socialism under the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru. For government intervention was seen as a way to upgrade the Indian economy that had been left impoverished by the capitalistic British rule.

**2** As a consequence, License Raj or Permit Raj (1947-1990), a system of regulations and licenses was established. This impeded the establishment and running of businesses, for it required private companies to seek consent from about 80 or above government agencies to begin production, which was regulated further.

**3** This form of centralised planning, along with a draconian set of economic controls on foreign trade, production prices, and capital flows, needless to say, led to economic stagnation. Indian economy, from 1950s to late 1980s, "grew" at an average rate of only 3.6%, with per capita income growth averaging at 1.3%.

**4** Two wars (Indo-Pak war in 1965 and the Sino-Indian war in 1967), and severe droughts further battered the country. India

needed monetary aid to survive, so the Indian government approached the IMF and World bank. In return, India was asked to open up its economy, lower tariffs and devalue the rupee to boost exports. An attempt was made to achieve these, but the internal political backlash forced the government to stick to its original restrictive methods.

**5** It was now clear that India lagged a lot behind its East and Southeast Asian neighbours. As a result, the governments of Indira Gandhi and subsequently Rajiv Gandhi began pursuing economic liberalisation in the 1980s by relaxing trade-related constraints. These reforms lead to a momentary increase in the average GDP growth rate in the 1970s from 2.9% to 5.6%.

**6** Alas, the Indian political scene began to implode in the late 1980s. The Bofors scandal, IPKF misadventure, Shah Bano case, etc., all smeared the image of Rajiv Gandhi's government, hindering all the liberalisation efforts, and distressing the Indian economy further.

**7** India was now faced with the ultimate

storm, the Balance of Payments crisis. The country was importing more than it was exporting, for our primary buyer, the Soviet Union, was now in turmoil and ended up dissolving in 1991. This trade deficit was further exacerbated by the Gulf War (1990-1991) that caused the price of crude oil to skyrocket. As a result, India's foreign exchange reserves depleted (1 billion USD by January 1991) to the point that the country could barely finance two weeks' worth of imports.

**8** Not to mention, the government expenditure was more than the total earnings, owing to which the fiscal deficit peaked, too; it rose from 9% in 1980-81 to 12.7% in 1990-91. The internal debt also rose, from 35% in 1985 to 53% in 1990-91.

**9** India finally had to go to the IMF and the World Bank to ask for assistance, which promptly asked India to pledge 20 tonnes of gold to the Union Bank of Switzerland and around 47 tonnes to the Bank of England and Bank of Japan in return for an emergency loan of about 2.2 billion USD.

## The recovery (1991-Till Now)

**9** As the news about the bailout deal spread, it resulted in a huge public outcry. This led to the fall of the then Chandra Shekhar led government, with PV Narasimha Rao taking over as the new Prime Minister of India and Manmohan Singh as the Finance Minister in June 1991. What followed next was what we call the liberalisation of India.

**8** On July 3, 1991, the RBI devaluated the Indian rupee by 9% and a subsequent 11% with respect to the USD, in an attempt to make exports cheaper and accordingly, stock up the depleted forex reserves once again.

**7** License Raj was abolished, loosening import restrictions and further scrapping production licensing. The industries were now free to decide what to produce and in

what quantity.

**6** Industrial licensing for all major industries except for some 18 industries "related to security and strategic concerns, social reasons, problems related to safety and overriding environmental issues," was completely abolished.

**5** The 1969 Monopolistic and Restrictive Trade Practice (MRTP) Act, wherein firms with assets of 25 crore INR or more (changed to 100 crore INR in 1985) were put under government supervision, was repealed, too.

**4** To attract foreign investments and to further boost the Indian industrial scene, all the investments of up to 51% foreign equity participation were approved in advance. This resulted in an increase in the foreign investment in the country, from 132 million

USD in 1991-1992 to 5.3 billion USD in 1995-1996.

**3** Bank interest rates were liberalised, allowing market forces to dictate them instead of the government. The statutory liquidity ratio and cash reserve ratio were also significantly reduced, from 38.5% and 15% respectively to 25% and 10% respectively.

**2** The government also started selling some of its public sector companies to the private sector, bringing in more cash and also, at the same time, dismantling public monopolies.

**1** Owing to these pathbreaking liberalising reforms and the subsequent adjustments, the GDP of India managed to rise from a meagre 266 billion USD in 1991 to around 3 trillion USD in 2019. Though liberalisation and economic reforms still have a long way to go, one cannot simply overlook the impact they had back then and still continue to have on the Indian economy!

A textbook case of turning challenges of any sort into outstanding opportunities!







And last but not the least, I would like to thank the critics for bringing out the better in me.

**Shreya Dwivedi, XII E & Anubhav Singh, XII B, AIS VKC**  
Page Editors



# Happy Birthday Founder Sir

## A Glimpse Of Founder's Day Celebrations Across Amity Schools



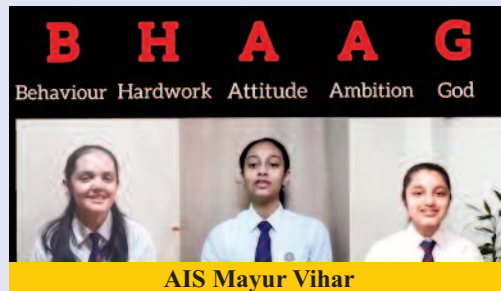
**AIS Pushp Vihar**



**AIS Saket**



**AIS Gurugram 46**



**AIS Mayur Vihar**



**AIS Gurugram 43**



**AIS Noida**

October 24 is an important day in the calendar of every Amitian, for the day marks the birthday of our Founder President Dr Ashok K. Chauhan. A visionary, he has shown countless young minds the path forward with his success mantra of BHAAG (Behaviour, Hard Work, Attitude, Aptitude, and God). His dream to make India a knowledge superpower by 2030 has ignited the spirit of country before self in young children, who are all set to be the future of the nation. Amity Universe expressed its gratitude and best wishes for a happy and healthy life to its Founder President by celebrating Founder's Day. GT brings you a glimpse of the celebrations.

**AIS Belapur:** A special assembly was organised on October 21, 2021 to celebrate Founder's Day. Children shared the virtues of BHAAG and presented a short skit highlighting his accomplishments and vision of making India a knowledge superpower by 2030. Students also engaged in various activities like card making, poster making and collage making, as a part of a week long celebrations. They conveyed their birthday wishes via greeting cards, collages and videos. The celebration concluded with a special song sung by a student and a short poem dedicated to him.

**AIS Gurugram 43:** The school celebrated Founder's Day on October 22, 2021. Children participated in a host of activities like yoga, music, playing table, singing and dancing, making birthday cards, etc. They spoke about his achievements and his vision of making India a superpower. Sports was a major display in all classes where students demonstrated their taekwondo skills along with performing yoga. School principal Dr Anshu Arora in her address wished happiness and health to the Founder President and shared the virtues of BHAAG coined by him, urging students to adopt the mantra as a way of life.

**AIS Gurugram 46:** October 22 brought in cheer and joy as the school celebrated Founder's Day. Students showered their love and appreciation for their beloved Founder President sir with beautiful cards, self-composed poems and songs. They participated in creative writing and conducted special

assemblies, in which they shared the virtues of BHAAG. They also sent a video of their heartfelt birthday wishes to him.

**AIS Gwalior:** Founder's Day celebrations held on October 22, 2021, commenced with lighting of the lamp amidst chanting of the Shloka Gaayan, followed by tree plantation. The celebrations comprised a dance performance on Saraswati Vandana, a song in Sanskrit and a short skit showcasing his life journey. Students showered their love and gratitude with video messages and handmade greetings cards. School principal Manju Singh in her address shared the values propagated by the Founder President.

**AIS Mayur Vihar:** A video based on the virtues of BHAAG was prepared by the cultural western music society Crescendo of the school and sports department collaboratively as a part of Founder's Day celebrations. The video comprised a self-composed song on BHAAG, sung by members of Crescendo, along with a short message wishing happy birthday, health and wellbeing to the Founder President. It was presented during Founder's Day held at AUUP on October 24.

**AIS Noida:** School organised plethora of events on the theme 'Our Founder Sir: A Great Visionary' for all classes from October 11-14, 2021, to celebrate Founder's Day. The celebrations commenced with a virtual hawan for Founder President's well-being and happiness. Primary classes, selected the attributes of BHAAG and presented them through various mediums like card making, poetry, slogans, posters, creative writing, etc. Pre-primary wished with their creative cards. Class VI-VIII created digital art and tag lines, article writing and poetry writing. A dance and singing competition was also organised, wherein the students showcased their choreography renditions on the given theme. Students of senior wing wrote poems and made cards on how Founder sir's ideology of BHAAG resonates with them.

**AIS Pushp Vihar:** School celebrated virtual Founder's Day on Oct 24 wherein students were apprised on the contributions of the Founder Pres-

ident towards society and education and his success mantra of BHAAG. Gratitude and affection marked the Founder's Day as they wished him health and happiness. Students painted their palms and made an impression of a peacock, and also elaborated on how they can incorporate BHAAG, in their lives to achieve their goals.

**AIS Saket:** Saluting the vibrant vision of our Founder President, 'Creative Edge' comprising a myriad activities like poster making, essay writing, poem writing etc was held from Oct 18 to 23, 2021 to celebrate Founder's Day. The competition also entailed 'Expressions' wherein students wrote messages for Founder President. School principal Divya Bhatia, in her address encouraged all to follow the principles of BHAAG.

**AIS Vasundhara 1:** School celebrated Founder's Day on October 22, 2021 with its students engaging in myriad activities. Nursery to Class I made colourful cards using easel, spray-painting technique and impression art. Class II made bouquets with paper flowers. Class III shared the vision and mantra of BHAAG. Children also posted birthday wishes for their beloved Founder President on Padlet wall. Class IV and V hosted a special assembly and conducted a poster making activity. All the children promised to work hard to achieve the vision of Founder President of making India a knowledge superpower by 2030.

**AIS Vasundhara 6:** On October 24, 2021, the school celebrated Founder's Day virtually wherein students delivered speeches elaborating the achievements of Founder President in education, science & technology and humanitarian service. A self-composed poem was recited wishing him a healthy happy life ahead. A special assembly hosted by Class VIII also coincided with the United Nation's Day wherein students took everyone on a virtual tour of the UN, its genesis, importance, functions, branches and changing role in the changing world scenario.

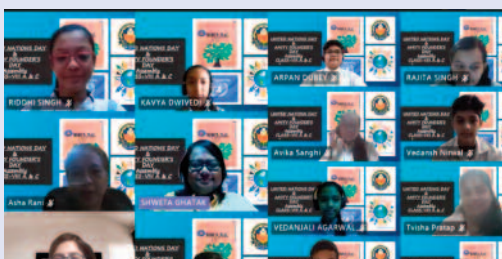
**AIS VKC Lucknow:** School organised a special virtual assembly to celebrate Founder's Day. The assembly commenced with prayer and lighting of

the lamp followed by a Ganesh Vandana accompanied by a graceful dance performance. This was followed by inspirational poem, a birthday song in Sanskrit and wishes through videos that exemplified his vision and achievements in life. School principal Rachna Mishra, expressed her gratitude for his visionary leadership and support.

**AIS VYC Lucknow:** The school celebrated Founder's Day on October 24, 2021. The celebrations commenced with an auspicious havan, followed by the school choir singing a prayer for his health and wellbeing. Students made a special video and e-cards of birthday wishes as well as recited prayers and poems for their beloved Founder President. School principal Sakshi Gautam Mishra in her address spoke about the life of Founder President and his role in fostering the leaders of tomorrow.

**AGS Noida:** The entire school took part in myriad activities held from Oct 20-25 to celebrate Founders Day. The celebrations aimed at giving the students an insight into the essence and objectives of 'BHAAG'. The same was achieved via the medium of manual & digital posters, original poems and songs, role play, video recordings, and many other formats. The celebrations concluded with a special virtual assembly held on October 25, wherein students poured in their birthday wishes with poems, songs and beautiful videos.

**AIS Mohali:** Founder's Day celebrations held from Oct 10- 13, saw students take part in an inter-house DIY competition based on science and a poster making competition on the theme 'The conscientious palate'. The school also organised 'Joy of giving and sharing- Season II' wherein they shared the sparkle of their happiness with those who aren't as fortunate. School principal along with other staff members visited a government school and Chandi Kusht Aashram where they shared some goodies and supplies with the inmates. The festivities reached a crescendo with the school's first Annual Showcase- The Lion King, which aimed at spreading awareness about conserving the endangered species of our planet.



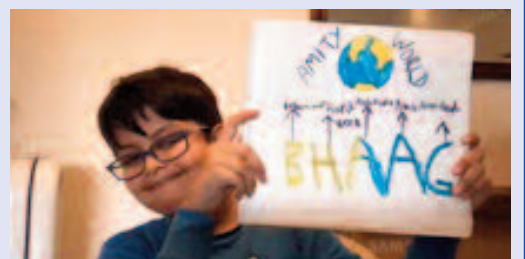
**AIS Vasundhara 6**



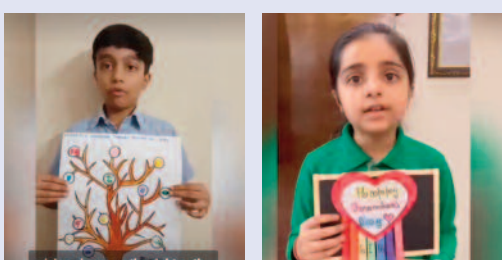
**AIS VKC Lucknow**



**AIS Gwalior**



**AGS Noida**



**AIS Vasundhara 1**



**AIS VYC Lucknow**



**AIS Mohali**



**AIS Belapur**



It was the best of times, and even better experiences.

Ananya Singh, AIS VKC Lko, XI B  
Page Editor



Contest Edition

# Pineapple pizza: blessing or curse?

## You Can Try But Won't Be Able To Find A More Controversial Pizza Topping!



Gouri Srivastava

AIS VKC Lucknow, IX B

You cannot go wrong with some bread, cheese, and marinara, or can you? For those looking to stir the pot and divide the table, a fleeting mention of one simple question would do – “Do you think pineapple belongs on a pizza?” Now, while some would exonerate this canned tropical fruit as an appropriate topping, others (quite a few at that) rabidly denounce this concoction. We, for one, avouch to concur with the former lot! *\*Some hundred thousand death stares, countless eye rolls later\** Here's how its defence played out in the courtroom.

[Disclaimer: Any resemblance to actual persons/foods, living or dead, is (not)

purely coincidental. We aren't looking for more disputes.]

“Milord, this “divisive” fruit, as they term it, once made the cut as Foodler's top ten most popular pizza toppings,” stated the defense attorney as the judge nibbled on the slice of a large 9” pineapple pizza.

“But I just barely squeezed my way onto the list at number 9, just so you know, sir,” tacked on the low-esteemed defendant Mr Pineapple.

“That's still a win, your honour! If not, just forget what he just said,” added the attorney angrily, side-eyeing his innocent yet thickheaded client.

The judge excitedly exclaimed, “One point for Team Gryff...Pineapple, I mean...nom nom!” The prosecution lawyer, quick to sense the judge's shift-

ing loyalties, detailed, “Your honour, the world-renowned chef Gordon Ramsey disapproves of this mix. Let's give some weightage to expert opinion. In fact, President of Iceland, Mr Johanneson, went as far as pitching for it to be “outlawed”. Need I say more?”

The defense attorney fired back. “Justin Trudeau, anyone? ‘I stand behind this delicious Southwestern Ontario creation.’ That's what he said!” “It's a matter of personal choice. Don't make it political, guys!” pleaded Mr Pineapple. As both the attorneys locked horns, Sam Panopoulos, the inventor of the snack, decided to take a few shots of his own. “My lord, I came up with this tangy mix in the 1960s. Nobody dared questioned its legitimacy until a few years back. I say, why now? I mean, if the world can accept avocado toasts, and cake pops, why not this?”

*\*Hoots and hollers echoed on one side of the court as the anti-pineapple cabal*

*gasped and booed on the other side.\** “Objection, my lord! People have de-tested this snack from the get go,” shouted the prosecution lawyer.

“Object as you may,” continued Sam, “but the interplay between savoury and sweet is a thing for quite a long time now. Honey-baked ham, for instance. Paired with the salty strips of ham, pineapple helps lift the overall flavour through its sweetness. Moreover, if tomato, being a fruit, can earn that position, why, I ask, why not pineapple?” Mr Tomato, seated in the audience,

scoffed at the comparison. “Make some rich veggie connections like me, we'll talk then,” he thought out loud.

The defense attorney googled more on this concoction and parroted, “To add on to what Mr Sam said, pineapple is a good alternative, sir. It is jam-packed with vitamin C, potassium, and fiber that help enzymes fight inflammation. Thus, pineapple on pizza means we can enjoy a slice of our fav treat guilt-free.” “After effectively listening to both the sides, this court has reached a conclusion that Mr Pineapple is...”

*\*the clock strikes one\**

“It's lunch time! The court is adjourned until further notice!”

As the jury members and judge exited through the main door, the rallying calls of “Justice for pineapple pizza” echoed through the room. “Oh! Sweet justice”, exclaimed someone in the audience. We wonder who!

Illustration: Sohini Srivastava, AIS VKC Lucknow, IX A



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