

This special edition has been brought to you by AIS Noida as a part of the GT Making A Newspaper Contest. The inter-Amity newspaper making competition entails each branch of Amity across Delhi/NCR churning out its own 'Contest Edition'. The eight special editions are pitted against one another at the end of the year, which decides the winner at GT Awards.

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AMITEpoll

Do you support the ban on Chinese made Diwali crackers and goods?

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

To vote, log on to www.theglobaltimes.in

POLL RESULT

for GT issue October 3, 2016

What does the upcoming festive season mean to you?



Results as on Oct 15, 2016

Coming Next

Competition in full swing.. AIS Gur 46 contest edition



BRINGING DESI BACK

Illustration: Simranh Kakkar
AIS Noida, XI I

A prelude to a special edition by AIS Noida, glorifying the *desiness* we all seem to have lost in a perennial *firang* aura

Sheel Chandra, AIS Noida, XII C

He gets into the taxi on the busy roads of New York City. The taxi smells of incense and there's a miniature statue of Lord Ganesha on the dashboard. The taxi driver asks him, "Toh aap kahan se ho?" He tells him Delhi, and the taxi driver smiles. He's from Kolkata. In the entire ride from Rockefeller Center to Times Square, neither of the strangers from a far away land, felt 7000 miles away from home. No matter how far you travel from India, there'll still be Indian aroma and spirit to never let you feel alone. But can the same be said about what we experience at our own home country?

The omnipresent

Be it an Iyer in California, or a Singh in Toronto, we have built homes and computer chips, all over the globe. New Jersey has a little Mumbai of its own- the Indian Square; home to the largest outdoor Navratri festivities. Punjabi is the second most spoken language in UK. Residues of Indianness reside worldwide; then why must we

search for 'firangi' fragments to be juxtaposed in our own country?

With a strong culture of our own, we don't need to incorporate global elements; but bring back our own 'desiness'.

Heritage diaspora

Buddhism, which originated in India, is estimated to be practiced by 580 million people. The Angkor Vat temple in Cambodia, temples and pagodas in Thailand and Myanmar and several Sanskrit loanwords in Indonesian languages show that remnants of Indian traditions are dispersed across Southeast Asia. Thousands of people are seen taking yoga classes in the US, China, Mexico, etc. Nothing beats Indian heritage. But so much of Indian culture needs to be revived, as Indian arts like kathputli and pottery face extinction.

It's time we empower such diminishing sectors and bring back their desi beauty.

Naam toh suna hi hoga

Fiddle with the buttons for the on-air entertainment in a Malaysian Airlines flight, and you will come across an FM radio playing Tamil tunes. 'Bollywood' is not new to the world. Raj Kapoor is known by every 4th Chinese. A Swiss railway train is named after filmmaker Yash Chopra. And

yet, while movies like 3 Idiots and My Name Is Khan earn more than 25 million dollars overseas, we are more obsessed with Hollywood at home.

Let's start withdrawing from Matthew McConaughey's ruggedness and bring back our homies Ranveer Singh and Nawazudin Siddiqui's swag.

Khana khazana

Shashi Tharoor claimed the number of people employed in Indian curry houses in UK is more than the people employed in the iron-steel, shipbuilding and coal industries combined. Walking on NYC's streets, you might meet a stall selling 'roti-tacos' or 'naanwiches'. While Indian restaurants like the Tamarind in London are Michelin starred, we're still running after Big Chill's blueberry cheesecake.

So relish the swaad of our own cuisine and bring back the chaats and vada sambhar.

As the Indian influence abroad gets stronger, we cannot overlook the diminishing aura of our culture in our own country. In that spirit, this special edition by AIS Noida is an attempt to 'bring desi back'.

It's all about being diligent



To be Communications Advisor to the PMO is no mean feat. Neither is being one of the pioneers in the field of journalism. With over three decades of experience in print and broadcast journalism, Pankaj Pachauri has been associated with media conglomerates including NDTV, BBC, Sunday Observer, among many others. Join Sara Baijnath, AIS Noida, XII as she interviews the man who has proved his mettle in the field of journalism.

On journalism for a govt official

I was appointed the Communications Advisor to the PMO under Dr Manmohan Singh in January 2012. My role was to improve the interface of the PM with the media. The journey was a culmination of hard work, perseverance and toil. And the journey itself was a pretty long one, for I had worked for decades in the media industry before I reached that position. It wasn't easy. And now when I look back, I realise it's all about being diligent and having good work ethics.

On unbiased journalism

A journalist is someone who reports things as they are. An unbiased opinion



Sara Baijnath with Pankaj Pachauri

is what an ideal journalist should strive to report. It is the same objective approach that helped me fulfill my role as an advisor, for I was required to give to the PM, a fair stance on the agendas.

On socially sensitive journalism

The condition of women in the country has always moved me. It is one cause very dear to my heart. I worked for several years to uncover the truth about female infanticide in the villages of Rajasthan. For generations, female infants in the community have been routinely killed before they can see the light of day. I wanted to unearth several facets hidden behind this practice, which is as dramatic as it is tragic. My work was acknowledged as I received 'The Statesman Award for Rural Reporting' for the same.

On health journalism

Health journalism involves an array of subjects; from providing an insight into the public health scenario or complex scientific findings. I got acquainted with the subject when I went to Oxford University for a workshop by UNICEF India on health journalism. The workshop witnessed 3 days of intense discussions and deliberations by university experts and Thomson Reuters Foundation, to help improve health coverage in India. It was after the workshop that I realised the need for a stronger presence of this form of journalism in the country.

On vociferous journalism

Quoting Sir Henry Anatole Grunwald - "Journalism can never be silent. That is its greatest virtue and its greatest fault. It must speak, and speak immediately, while the echoes of wonder, the claims of triumph and the signs of horror are still in the air." A good newspaper, is like a nation talking to itself.

Message for Amitians

It is true that experience is one of life's best teachers. But if you don't study, you will probably never get any experience in the first place. Being a good student throughout school and college is like preparing yourself for a marathon which will begin after you graduate. Focus on your goals and study hard, because the last thing you want is to tire yourself out before the finish line. And for those of you who aspire to be journalists, report everything you witness and make reading a habit. Intelligent reading is the key.

Glazing matkas of change

A dying tradition on one hand. The problem of scarcity of potable water on the other. Project Asbah, an initiative by young students, provides a solution to both, with water filters made of earthen pots

Pics: Chhavi Singh, AIS Noida, XI J

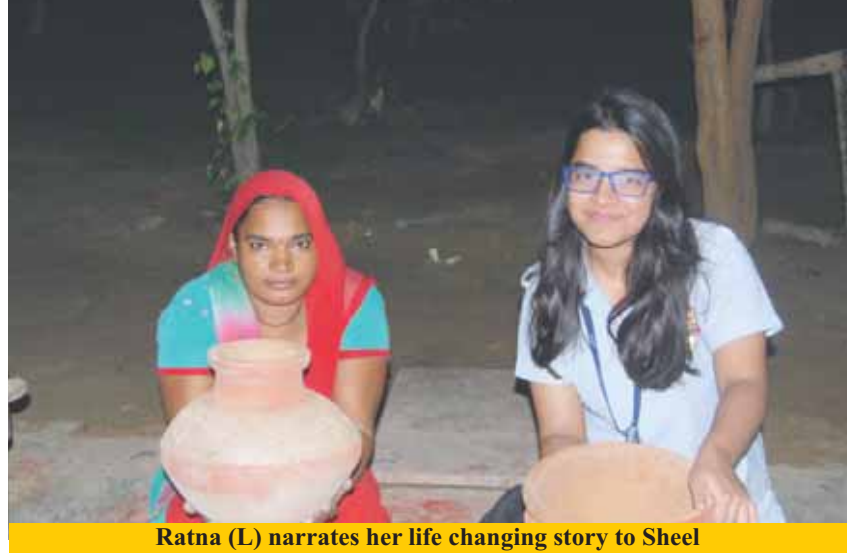
Sheel Chandra, AIS Noida, XII C

In various regions of India, clean drinking water is measured in drops. For years, India has sheltered the deadliest of water borne microbes and parasites. Supply and sanitation of water have been the subject of several governmental schemes and so have been water borne diseases such as malaria, dengue and cholera. Meanwhile, a culturally rich community of India faces near extinction. The art of pottery stands at the edge, visibly losing its glory that sparkled since years. However, some cracks seem to have been filled as a group of students attempt to maneuver the mundane to meaningful, making every lump of clay count for drops of clean drinking water. The Enactus group of Sri Ram College of Commerce has ingeniously devised a method to amalgamate the art of pottery with a water filter system under their social initiative project.

Project Asbah: Every drop a promise
 In a small local community in Uttam Nagar, a woman crouches and gracefully glides her palms over the pottery wheel, glazed with bronze coloured clay. Beside her, a small girl kneads the clay putting all her energy into it. Ratna's family has been making earthen pots for generations. For many years, there was a lull in their business. Local cottage industry contractors withdrew and the demand



Water filters made out of earthen pots



Ratna (L) narrates her life changing story to Sheel



for pots declined. Before Project Asbah adopted her community and another one in the vicinity, Ratna never dreamt that a matka made out of dust and mud could curtail a growing national crisis. The program introduced the community to an inexpensive clay filter, created by the Enactus SRCC group in collaboration with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. The filter, which has a capacity of 15L, comprises of two clay pots placed one atop the other, with two Terafil candles (filters) placed in between.

This certified IS 10500 filter clears the water of sediments, microbes and other contaminants, and at the same time largely reduces turbidity as well as iron concentration.

Bringing back: Desi entrepreneurs
 There's nothing more empowering than owning your own work, provided you know how. The group of students identified a local dealer and educated him with effective marketing strategies. Within one month of the operation, 26 filters were sold. For every filter sold, the local dealer earned Rs 75. In one month, the income per potter increased by Rs 1560; while the expenditure on clean drinking water reduced to less than Re 1 per day.

It is estimated that within the course of a few months, the potters will earn an income of Rs 6,600 per month, marking an 83% increase from their earlier monthly income.

Revived: Matkas, income and respect
 "Kabhi kalpana nahi ki, ki hamare haathon mein badlav laane ka bal hai." Neesh, one of the many recently turned potter-entrepreneurs is pleasantly surprised by his art's revolutionary purpose. That their palms have the power to change the dynamics of a very static health predicament of the country, is a welcomed realisation. Their eyes glitter with pride as their forefathers' resurrected art radiates beauty and better

health. Within one month of action, more than 100 lives have been influenced. 15,600 litres of clean drinking water has been supplied, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases. No longer do these skilled workers find themselves without purpose, as they shut their doors to the grips of malaria and dengue, their hands glazed with mud and clay. This group has not just resurrected a dying art form, but has also made sure that a community deserving accolades for its glorious heritage, receives just that. For Shikha, a member of the group, this project ensures that "hands that once simply moulded hollow vessels now shape drops of purity", welcoming 'desi' back in all its beauty and might. 🇮🇳

News Room Hulchul

Focus It's the final draft!



Paint The edition red



When heads meet EIC and her 'Associate'



A pose in the midst of madness



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बान्ह के इकलोकाल मोनह पोरकलरन तेहः
 लोन्वोर खान, ओ ह इ इपुवइके लोकोपः ओ ते
 बोइ नगोवेक, पङ्कड हवीरः



Kyunki Science bhi sanskari hai

The sparkling bangles ringing in musical tunes, bright red tilak on the forehead, henna painted hands... no this is not the protagonist of an Ekta Kapoor soap, but the muse of scientists

Kriti Sinha, XII G & Kritika Kapoor, XI E, AIS Noida

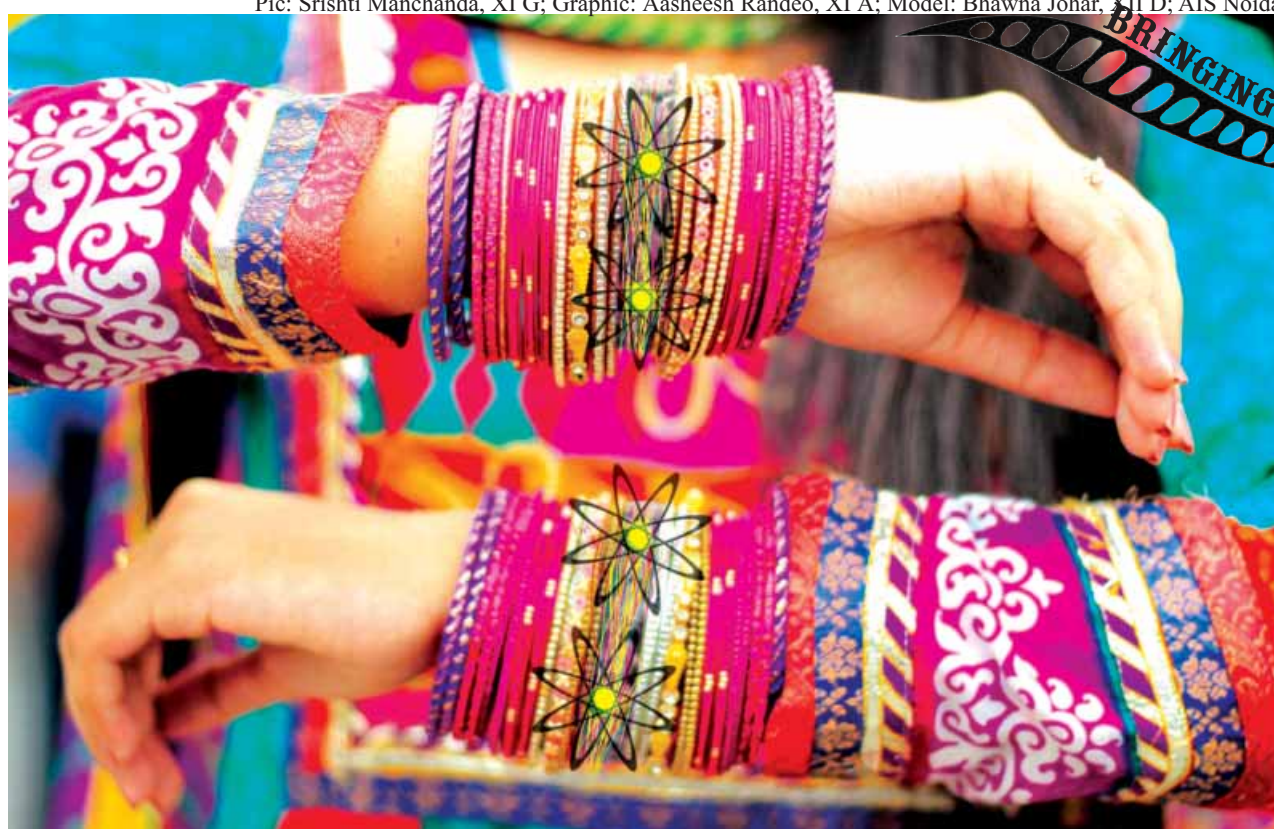
“Jahaan paaon mein payal, haath mein kangan, ho maathe pe bindiya, it happens only in India.” Sure it happens only in India and it happens for a reason, a scientific one at that. As inhabitants of a land where Aryabhata once walked, we ought to understand the science behind popular indigenous traditions.

Tradition: Tilak time

Associated with: Concentration
 For warriors going to the battlefield or students to the board exam centre, a red colour mark in the Indian tradition is considered invincible. The bright red *tilak* is believed to prevent loss of energy and enhance concentration levels. The spot between the two eyebrows is considered a major nerve point and while applying *kumkum*, these points are automatically pressed, facilitating blood supply to the face muscles. So next time you crack a HOTS question, you know it isn't just the stars.

Tradition: Vrat baar baar

Associated with: Detoxification
 An integral part of our Indian tradition, fasting from time to time, is a perfect way to detoxify the body. Fasting not just increases the insulin sensitivity, but



Pic: Srishti Manchanda, XI G; Graphic: Aasheesh Randeo, XI A; Model: Bhawna Johar, XII D; AIS Noida

also helps bring down cholesterol levels. Further on, fasting has also been related to increased lifespan.

Consider giving your mom company the next time she observes a fast. After all the *sanskars* of Alok Nath clubbed with the fitness of Jennifer Aniston isn't a bad deal at all.

Tradition: Mehendi ki rasam

Associated with: Fighting stress
 It might be surprising to know that *mehendi* or *henna* has benefits beyond the 200 likes on your Facebook upload. *Mehendi* is a very powerful medicinal herb recognised for its excellent cooling properties and can prevent excess stress.

Henna also prevents headaches and fever and is thus applied on the hands and feet, which house the nerve endings of the body.

Tradition: Kuch meetha ho jaye

Associated with: Digestive health
 We bet that the number of Indians with a

sweet tooth is higher than the number watching Big Boss. Sweets are the much needed soothing point after a heavy meal because sugar stimulates a reflex which expands the stomach. It also acts as a neutraliser after a spicy meal.

Tradition: Chudiyen khanke

Associated with: Energy generation
 True they help you get the perfect, coy Indian picture. But their 'chhan chhan' rings in more than melody. While performing household chores, bangles create friction with wrists, thereby increasing blood circulation. Besides, as bangles are circular in shape, the energy generated by the skin is reverted to one's own body as it finds no ends to exit; thus preventing loss of energy.

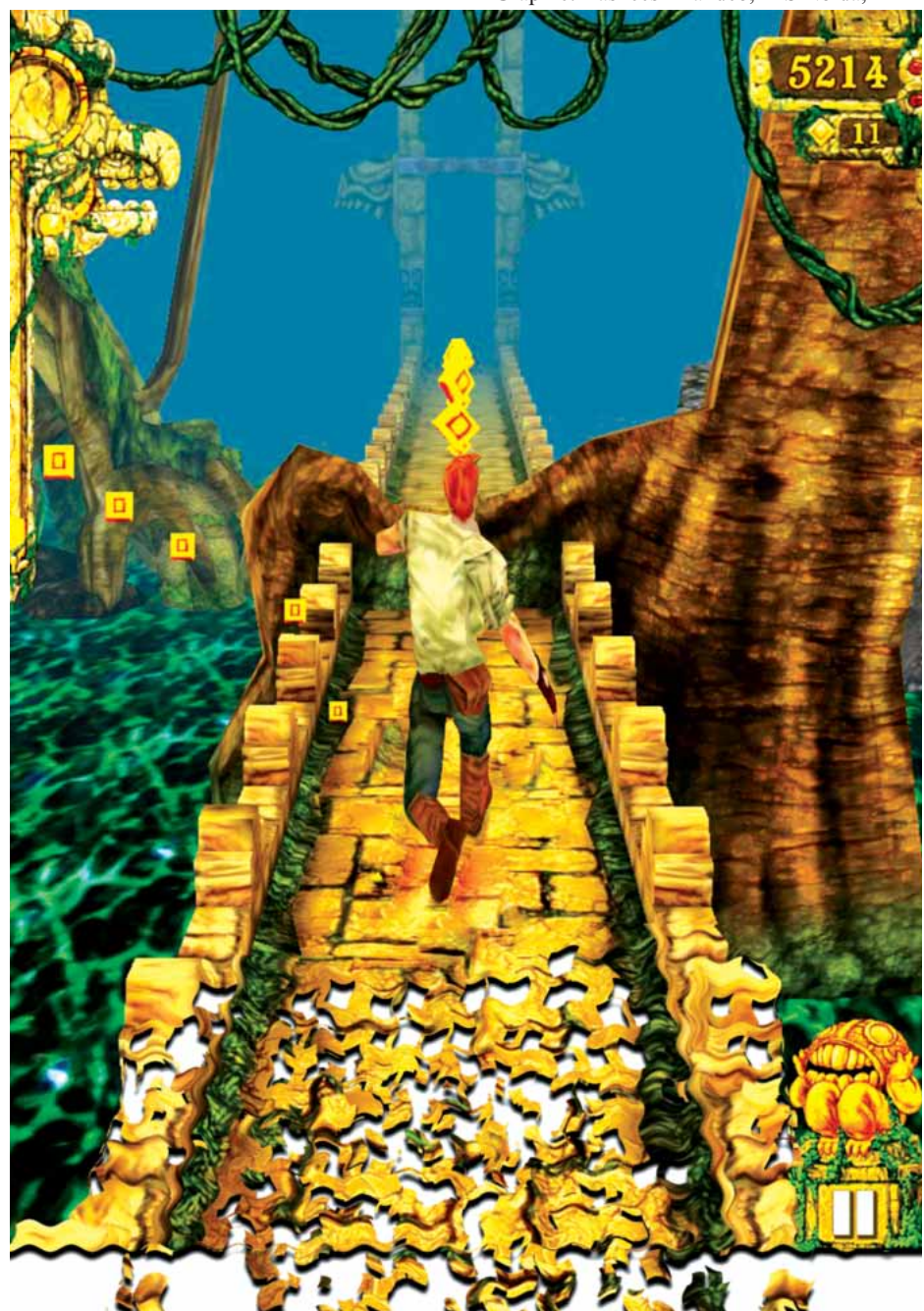
Tradition: Tashreef rakhie

Associated with: Good Health
Neeche baith ke khaana not only improves your posture, but also has several other benefits. Research suggests that the ability to stand up from a seated position on the floor without using your hands has been correlated with a longer life expectancy. It also facilitates weight loss, strengthens the heart by improving circulation and relaxes the mind too.

With inputs from Raksha Gopal, AIS Noida, XII G

Gaming glory: lost edition

Graphic: Aasheesh Randeo, AIS Noida, XI A



In the ever fierce competition of games, some may come and some may go, leaving memories ashore. A look at some games reaching a new level - oblivion!

Ritwik Kar, XI E & Nandika Mogha, X L, AIS Noida

From setting soaring high scores to bashing all levels, we gamers have done it all. But one has to keep up with trends, and in this virtual scramble, it is easy to leave behind many precious pixels. Let's take a look at some of the once addictive online games which are now on the verge of oblivion.

The fading farms of Farmville

Remember Farmville? It was this awesome online game where people fulfilled their desire of being a farmer. From staying up till 2 am in the morning, harvesting crops to spending a virtual 10K to buy a virtual tractor, this game had everyone hooked. It wasn't long before the sudden up-roaring popularity of this game died. Subsequent efforts of the developers to regain the lost fame have gone in vain as the newly launched versions like Farmville 2, Farmville: Harvest Swap, Farmville: Tropic Escape have all failed to catch anyone's attention. The reason is that the users simply got bored of growing and harvesting virtual crops. No novelty means boredom which means, adieu game. Also the incessant requests and notifications put many people off.

In the first quarter of 2016 itself, a total of \$99.6 billion was generated in the global games market with just the mobile gaming industry generating 37% of the revenue.

The lost cravings for Candies

Candy Crush Saga was developed and published by King in 2012. The game was launched for Facebook, Android, iOS and even Windows. The simplicity of rules and the satisfying sound effects when you busted candies in a row, made this game as hot as it was. Popular with both children and adults, it was as if people smashed away their worries at the end of the day and loved earning points and leveling up for it. But where's this little sparkly game now? Have people all but lost their sweet tooth? Or have they become health conscious (read: diabetic) and have put away this game for good? This proves that even simplicity doesn't last forever, especially if not modified to exponential levels.

No temptation for Temple Run

Developed by Raleigh-based Imangi Studios in 2011, Temple Run, the infinite running game with catchy jungle music was in everyone's

smartphones and at every fingertip. With incentives to collect gold coins and the terror of being chased by a shadowy figure, this game became extremely popular but gradually lost all its hype. Many attempts were made to revive it, but players aren't interested anymore. The main reason being that players did not get anything new from the makers that would arouse their interest except for a slight change in the surroundings while running (ya, virtually).

Now arises the million dollar question; will Pikachu meet the same fate? Pokémon Go, which appears to be a sensation now, may not maintain its prominence in the long run. Though it has its positives, with the childhood fantasies of teens being brought to life again and the use of GPS making it more realistic, but it too may become forgotten as the rest of the games. But who knows it may be the first one that prevails the test of time? Till then, keep gaming!



जोहन केरकरोलेट करनो वेर कणु हठठवे, हारवड व कवे-
वेरठ करवे जेगोन हूत हेठठवे.

पाहिनो अगारवाल, श्री ट इ अहारा केकर, श्री ह
बोड नरोवेक, पण्डे हवीठठवे



Hey, I see my Hindustani Bhai!

Paahini Agarwal, AIS Noida, XII C

The best part about Indians is their omnipresence - and how they manage to stand out in a huge, diverse crowd. Their idiosyncrasies are as important as their deep rooted traditions. Here are a few pointers to help you identify your *Bharatiya mitr* across the vast lands and seas.

In an airplane

As soon as this particular lady sits on her seat, she takes out a blue coloured Tupperware box stuffed with *aloo paranthas* and *achaar* and asks her son to start eating. Through the entire course of the journey, the maximum number of 'ting-ding' calls for the air hostess are received from her seat. Overhead lights are switched on-and-off intermittently, while the airplane instruction manual is read on the tray table cautiously. Before the flight even begins to land on the runway, this lady is standing on the aisle with her bags. Without doubt, this lady is full-*desi*.

At a resort

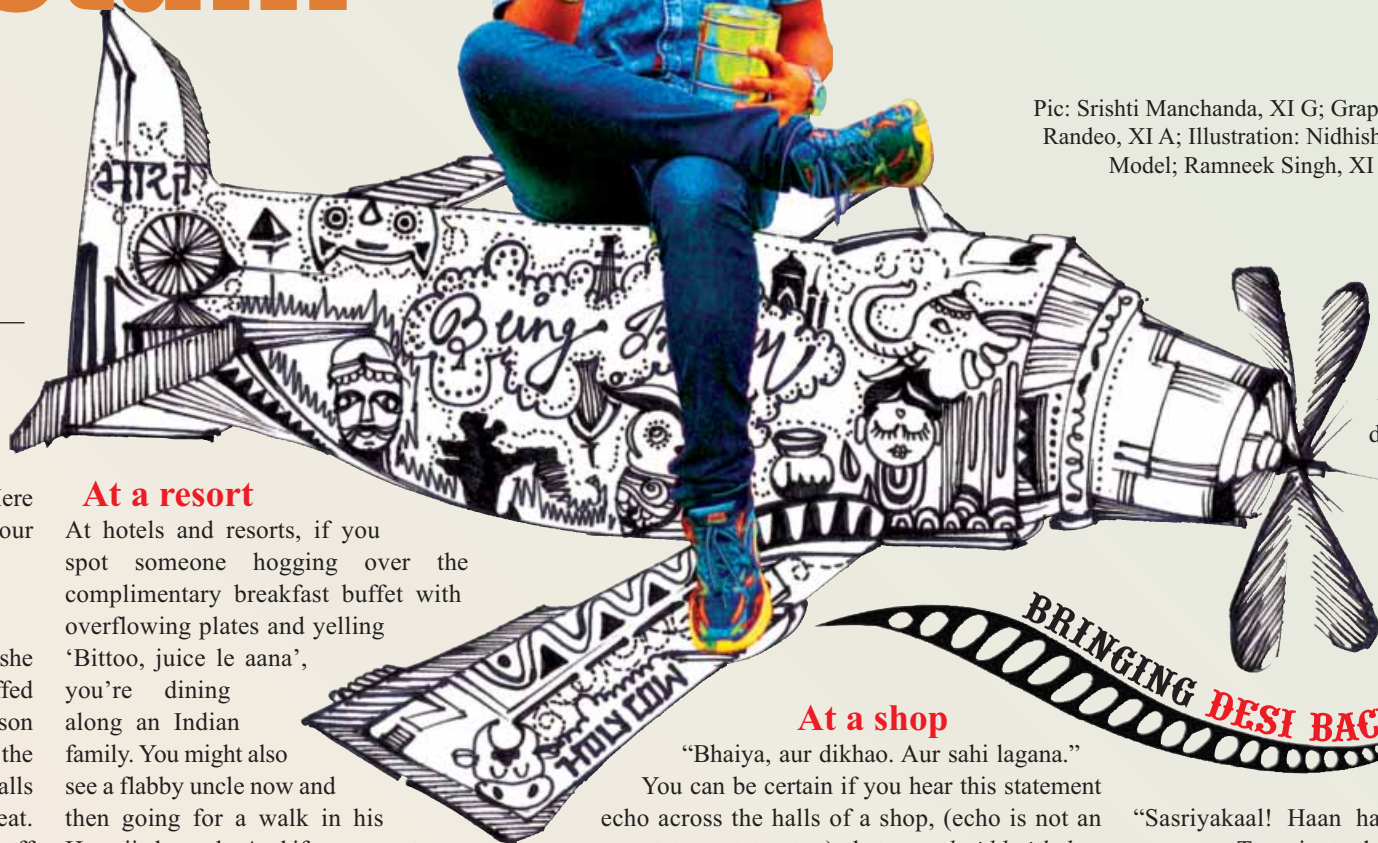
At hotels and resorts, if you spot someone hogging over the complimentary breakfast buffet with overflowing plates and yelling 'Bittoo, juice le aana', you're dining along an Indian family. You might also see a flabby uncle now and then going for a walk in his Hawaii chappals. And if you were to enter a recently emptied room- which is literally empty- bathrooms devoid of shampoos and combs, and desks without notepads and pencils; a *desi* family has recently enjoyed all the amenities the hotel has to offer.

At a shop

"Bhaiya, aur dikhao. Aur sahi lagana."
You can be certain if you hear this statement echo across the halls of a shop, (echo is not an overstatement, trust us), that your *desi bhai-behen* are here. If you spot a person with a separate suitcase stuffed with duty-free shopping bags, he's undoubtedly an Indian. With the need to buy Diwali gifts for all the *Chaachijis*, *Mausijis*, *Buajis*, *Bunty*, *Babli* and all the members of the

In a land far away, when you're feeling homesick, the sudden smell of *aloo ka parantha* hits you and you know for sure, you've found home. You have found a Hindustani!

Pic: Srishti Manchanda, XI G; Graphic: Aasheesh Randeo, XI A; Illustration: Nidhish Dogra, XI F; Model: Ramneek Singh, XI G, AIS Noida



joint family, comes the great need to literally make sure an 'out of stock' label is put up in the shop on their departure.

At a movie theatre

At a movie hall, a 'Dhoom soundtrack' ringtone suddenly blasts through the theatre. The call-after ages- is finally picked up and a roar of "Sasriyakaal! Haan haan, baat kar sakta hu" resonates. Ten minutes later, another person is seen taking out *thepla* from his bag, complete with *achaar* in a foil wrap, munching out loud and hooting. Congratulations. You're the lucky recipient of a movie ticket in a hall with an enthusiastic Indian gentleman.

Got 'em 6 pack (fl)abs?

You're not fat, you're healthy. You're not fat, you're just horizontally challenged. You're not fat, you're just a little swelled up. Believe that you're not fat, you're just beautiful the way you are

Pic: Preeti Panigrahi, AIS Noida, X F



Roop Sawhney, AIS Noida, XII D

She keeps a piece of paper against her waist, a dollar against her wrist, some coins on her collarbone and a phone against her knees, thinking, "Am I thin enough yet?" With ridiculous challenges coming up, new standards of being fit have been set, but how legitimate are these challenges anyway?

Move over size zero, for A4 size waist is here

This trend initiated in China has sparked off widespread participation from all over the world, with girls holding up an A4 size sheet of paper along its breadth against their waists to measure whether their waist is showing from either side. Really though, hold that paper horizontally and voila, you have officially shut those haters down!

Belly button challenge (Read visit to the doctor)

This challenge that earlier began in China is now uncontained with girls posting a million selfies by reaching behind their back and trying to touch their belly buttons to establish standards of being fit (read thin). Why would anyone in this world want to take this challenge, for one, a belly button has gazillions of micro bacteria (ew)? And even if you manage to achieve the feat, it comes at the cost of dislocating your shoulder in the process. Now, so much for stupidity and foolishness.

I don't need dollar bills to have fun tonight

Measuring your wrist by wrapping a dollar around it? Since when is that a norm for checking how much body fat you have? The hilarity of this entire challenge is that - why waste a perfectly good dollar bill when you can use it for some retail therapy or a perfect little cupcake or donut or... there are endless possibilities really. However, it does make for an incredibly chic bracelet.

iPhone shenanigans

Or making a fool of themselves?
Place it on your knee and the next thing you do is take a selfie! Now that is body shaming taken to another level with the iPhone 6 challenge. If you place an iPhone 6 against your knees horizontally it should cover both your knees. If it fits, you're fit, otherwise you need to workout. Why use an iPhone for such things when you can take those cute snapchat filters to another level?

It is evident that these challenges scream stupidity and are plain bizarre. There are about a million challenges out there which will always try to pull you down, make you feel bad and tell you that you're not good enough. But the truth is that nobody is perfect but everyone is beautiful just the way they are. So don't let an A4 size sheet or some dollar bills get you down. In the words of the evergreen Mindy Kaling, "I don't have the time to care about haters, I'm too busy being fabulous!"



Indian ethos

"India is, the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only."

Mark Twain



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

We Indians are a distinct creed, and take pride in our Indianness. What distinguishes us from everyone else, are our unique attributes. Shining in the red dot on our forehead, or glittering in our 'six yard' saree, the fragrance of our Indianness has a unique charm.

Whether we rant 'atithi devo bhava' or touch the feet of elders, our deep rooted customs and traditions give us an extra edge of humility. Our Indianism lies in our simplicity, when we simply fold hands to greet the young and old, family and friends, guests and strangers. This distinctive Indianness of ours finds resonance in 'Bringing Desi Back', the theme of AIS Noida's contest edition.

At the portals of Amity, we ensure that our children imbue this Indianness as an inherent part of the curriculum. With stories authored by renowned Indian writers featuring in our text books, it is an earnest attempt to familiarise the young generation with our rich literature. Through competitions like Subhashika and Heritage Quiz, children are brought closer to our cultural heritage. The infusion of Indian music and dance through recitals by experts, is a humble attempt to keep in tune with the Indian ethos. With the world looking towards India for enhancing their spiritual and mystical quotient, it is only valid that we Indians preserve our Indianness with a greater fervour than ever before.

India all the way



Renu Singh
Principal, AIS N

In a world emblazoned with unprecedented degeneration of human values, mad obsession for power and urge for lethal war reasons, our 'Bharat' is garnering adulation from all over, for its intelligent, competent and morally sound individuals. Amidst all the

erosion, the whole world is perceived looking at us in a positive light. India has taken the lead because of the holistic education system followed by us. Amity Schools, under the constant supervision and guidance of Founder President, Dr Ashok K. Chauhan and Chairperson Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, have set an example, by giving to the world self assured and confident youth with deep rooted ethics. When conferred with the Award of Young Entrepreneur, our Chairperson had rightly stated that India had always been a leader in the field of education for centuries with universities like Nalanda famous all over the world. An effective and value based education system is always the sole reason behind a successful nation. Learning coupled with values prepares the youth for life. We must strengthen our roots to propel our nation to the zenith of excellence.

Through this Contest Edition, the editorial board has, yet again, touched the chord, through a brilliant attempt to reinforce the need to value, retain and celebrate our Indian culture. I loved the cover story reiterating, "Nothing beats Indian heritage." I congratulate my budding journalists for churning out a thought provoking issue!

Laut ke 'fad' ghar aaya

Pic: Ishita Bajaj, XII E | Models: Radhika Methi, XI I & Annetta Schuppisser (Swiss student); AIS Noida

Why does it take a foreign whiff to realise the true essence of India? Why is that we need *videshi* to bring *desi* back?

Roop Sawhney, AIS Noida, XII D

Remember that English woman walking out of the Fabindia store, her athletic built, poised in a red saree? And that blonde teenager at Dilli Haat, who was getting her hands painted with henna? A sense of belonging and realisation hits us when we see them with their saree clad body and henna painted hands. And then it dawns upon us, "That saree mom gifted me, maybe I should wear it to the dinner tonight."

Henna, sarees, yoga and everything Indian has been embraced by the west with open arms. There has been a major switch of roles; Indians are slowly yet surely succumbing to the traditions of the west and Indian culture has already made its mark abroad. Who knew that *dhoti* pants, and phone covers with phrases like 'Sab Moh Maaya Hai' would be the new rage. The Indian culture, or soft power as they call it, has an



incontrovertible appeal to it. For years, we have been living in this cradle surrounded by all the beautiful things that define Indian culture but somehow, we fail to realise its beauty. When the westerners adopted yoga, we got off the treadmills. When they plucked out herbs and added ayurveda in their beauty products, we decided to purchase (over-priced) Forest Essentials products. When the westerners embraced icons like Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone, we finally decided to narrow down the wage gap between them and their male counter-

parts (but just those two, not others of course). Do we really need approval from the west to realise the worth of our heritage?

It is tragic that after blatant shunning of our ethnic roots to adopt the western way of living, we suddenly decide to reclaim them as our own just because the westerners have seemingly marked their territory on Indian traditions and cultures. The western world showed strong inclination to the resonance of the Sanskrit sign Om, so much so that they decided to permanently mark themselves with scriptures and sym-

bols in Devanagari script on their body. This created massive uproar in India on the apparent misuse of the otherwise much neglected monosyllable after it regained its sanctity in the eyes of the now westernised India.

Isn't it tragic that when countries 5000 miles away from us discover our heritage in all its beauty, we suddenly want it back and tag them as the "new cool"? As one of the few countries with a culture of its own rather than borrowed fragments, we should take pride in showcasing our 'Sanskriti' and bringing *desi* back.

Two peas, one pod

With both the angel and the devil on our shoulders, achieving an equilibrium is a feat. There is much more to 'good' and 'bad' than what meets the eye...

Pankhuri

AIS Noida, XII E

Somewhere deep in the mind of humans, come forth glimpses of unicorns and fantasyland. In the midst of our imagination, we find our personalised version of 'The Angel' and 'The Devil'. Both have a lot in common. What sets them apart is their opinion and the stereotypical label of the forever debatable good and bad. Let's try and see, both sides of the coin.

What 'Good' is 'Bad' up to?

We often ponder upon the clear definition of bad. When we were 5, Cinderella's evil stepmother or the witch in Snow White was 'bad'. At eleven, it was Professor Snape. At seventeen, the spawn of Satan is the bulky and dreaded Physics book. Bad can only be defined in one word: perception.

Good without bad

From Gabbar to Mogambo, from Loki to you-know-who, we can loathe these villains but we definitely cannot ignore them. Since the times of lore, eulogies have been written and monuments built for our heroes. Today, we have labouriously made tribute videos for these role models. But we cannot overlook the fact that the very concept of good exists because there is a 'bad' to triumph over. Now let's get real - no physics books = destruction of life.

Illustration: Simranh Kakkar, AIS Noida, XI I



Bad isn't that bad

In a perfect world, with no existence of evil or bad, we would have never evolved or experimented with flaws and hopes. We would have been stuck in a terrifying standstill. With good all around, nothing would have been there to achieve and excess of anything takes an extreme toll on our world. Boredom would have crept in.

Striking a balance

But alas, a perfect world is not real and the real world is not perfect. The good and the bad together create our real world. And somehow all our im-

perfections is what keeps us sane and humane for survival.

In the fast track era of humans, it is balance that keeps us moving. The wheel of balance recognises the importance of the good and the bad. Don't put good on a high pedestal and don't drive bad into extinction. Every story has two outlooks. Every coin has two sides. If the balance is disturbed, chaos ensues. The good rewards us with praises and satisfaction. The bad teaches experience and improvement. Appreciate both and regret nothing. After all, the coin is in our hands and only we can toss it.

Revive retain relish 'Desi'



Priti Khullar
Teacher, AIS Noida

The making of the AIS Noida contest issue 2016 began with a simple premise- why not Indian culture? Why not revive our roots and bring 'Desi' back?

The idea clicked with the entire team and the students began to delve into variegated fields, glorified with an aura of 'desi' and there was no looking back. As the journey picked up, Whatsapp groups lit up, inboxes were flooded and meetings reverberated with out of the box ideas.

The editorial team outshone itself as it persevered through numerous rejections, countless drafts and uncountable variants of every headline. Some stumbled upon community outreach programs which aimed to revive traditional dying arts and some discovered the paramount value of 'desi' in novel entrepreneurship projects. Some uncovered the scientific basis of age old traditional practices. And in the process they discovered the true essence and the beauty of the word called 'Indian'. For the students, their work didn't just end at their own pages or articles. They maintained a constant influx of feedback and ideas as they strove towards making an issue which resonates team spirit. All of these efforts culminated in an edition, decked up with graphics and illustrations, which advocated the significance of 'Bringing Desi Back'. Now, fasten your seat belts and enjoy!



କୋହିନୂରର କାହାଣୀ ଏକ ଦୀର୍ଘ ଇତିହାସ ଓ ଏହାକୁ ନିଜର ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରେ ଦେଖିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବ।

ନୌପିନ୍ଦ୍ର ଦେବଦାସ, ଶ୍ରୀ ଫି ଓ ଇଲ୍ୟାବେଟ୍ କାକେରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ଟି, ଗୋପାଳ, ପ୍ରଭାତ ଉପାଧ୍ୟାୟ



Text: Oorja Rawat & Mannat Bhalla, XII G | Illustrations: Nidhish Dogra, XI F; Kriti Sinha, XII G; Sara Baijnath, XII A; AIS Noida

KOHINOOR

The untold story



STAGE I

In 3000 BC, Kohinoor was known as Syamantaka and belonged to Kakatiya dynasty of Kollur Mines, Andhra Pradesh. The gem believed to bring curse to its owner, caused the province being robbed by Alauddin Khilji, the Sultan of Delhi, in 1310.



STAGE II

Kohinoor made its way to the Mughal treasury after Babur invaded the Sultans in 1526, and called it the 'Diamond of Babur'. It was mounted on Shah Jahan's throne before his successor Aurangzeb, made an attempt to refine the previously uncut diamond, reducing its weight from 793 carats to 186 carats.



STAGE III

Nadir Shah invaded the Mughal dynasty and took away the diamond to Persia, where he coined its name as 'Koh-i-noor!' meaning 'Mountain of light'. He couldn't escape the wrath of the stone either, and was assassinated during a rebellion, against his rule. Finally, the gem was acquired by his own general, Ahmad Shah Durrani.

STAGE V

The lighter, but more dazzling Koh-i-noor added its brilliance to the crown of several queens before it was finally installed in the crown of Elizabeth I. Today, it attracts millions of people at the Tower of London where it is displayed along with the crown of jewels.



STAGE IV

Durrani's descendant brought the diamond back to the subcontinent in 1813 and gave it to the Maharaja of the Sikh Empire in exchange for military support. But the Sikh Empire was annexed by the British and they asked for the diamond as war compensation. The diamond was then handed over to Queen Victoria. When spectators expressed their disappointment with the appearance of the stone, the royals decided to polish the gem, drastically reducing its weight from 186 carats to 105.6 carats.



Koh-i-noor, the diamond, cursed to be 'Not forever' in the possession of its masters has been a subject of grave political discussions, an object of utter admiration and an enigmatic cause of the destruction of many dynasties. It moved from one hand to another; passing its glory and deadly bane.



Pics: Dhruv Chhabra, AIS Noida, VI F

The boring holiday

Illustration: Sara Bajnath, AIS Noida, XII A

Short story



Aditya Sahdev, AIS Noida, VII I

New year is my favourite time of the year. No, not because of those lame parties, but for the annual family vacation that we take every year. This year was no different. All of us sat down looking for places to visit this year. Oh sorry! You must be wondering who 'all of us' are. Well, that's me, my mom, my dad and my sister Nisha. She wanted to go to a haunted house. Thank God my mom suggested that we go to my uncle's farm.

I was thrilled. Uncle's farm was just another farmhouse but what excited me were the **inhabitants** of the farmhouse, especially Bruno and Teddy. I just love them. Oh sorry again! Bruno and Teddy are not my cousins, but the dogs in my uncle's farm. We had gone to my uncle's farm last year and had it not been for those two, I would have died of boredom, especially with the kind of stupid games Nisha suggested. Like corner, corner. Who plays that? As soon as we entered, Bruno and Teddy came running towards us. I told you they are adorable.

The evening saw a usual party, with the same boring food. Suddenly, Bruno and Teddy started barking too loudly.

The evening saw a usual party, with the same boring food. Suddenly, Bruno and Teddy started barking too loudly. Just then my uncle told me that a tiger had been spotted in the vicinity. Now that was exciting! But Nisha wanted to sleep. So, we went to bed. The next morning, we found four ducks missing and a broken fence. And then a goat, and then a sheep went missing too. I don't know why everybody was furious. Aren't tigers allowed new year parties? The farmhouse was boring now because mom didn't let us step out.

Day 2 was going horrible, when we heard loud noises. Finally, some excitement! We ran outside. And there was my dad, holding not a tiger by the neck but an ordinary man. Well, he was a local thief who had been stealing animals. So, the little chance I had of finding adventure amid the boredom, was also lost. **GT**

So, what did you learn today?

A new word: Inhabitant

Meaning: A person or animal that lives in or occupies a place.

Kaavya Chauhan, KG

B'day
Nov 8

Role Model
Little Krishna

Loves
Playing, dancing & painting

Hates
Untidiness

Favourites

Game: Hide & seek

Book: Pepper series

Food: Pasta

Mall: Ambience

Poem: Hathi Raja

Teachers: Audrey & Garima Ma'am

Subject: Art

Ambition
Rockstar

I want to feature in GT because

It is an excellent platform where we can share our views.

It's Me

Riddle Fiddle

Saksham Jain, AIS Noida, VII I

1. What demands an answer, but asks no question?
2. I am weightless, but you can see me. Put me in a bucket, and I'll make it lighter. What am I?
3. Squeeze me and I cry tears as red as flesh, but my heart is made of stone. Who am I?
4. What belongs to you but others use it more than you do?
5. What is harder to catch the faster you run?
6. Which vehicle is spelled the same forwards and backwards?
7. I'm tall when I'm young, I'm short when I'm old. What am I?

Answer: 1. Telephone 2. A hole 3. Cherry 4. Your name 5. Your breath 6. Racecar 7. Candle or a pencil

Grill-in-sandwiches



Dhruv Chhabra, AIS Noida, VI F

Chana masala grilled sandwich

Ingredients

Bread slices2
Chana (boiled)1 cup
Tomato (diced)1/2 cup
Onion (chopped)1/2 cup
Chaat masalato taste
Red chili powderto taste
Garam masalato taste
Lemon juice2 tbsp
Butteras required

Method

- In a bowl, toss the boiled chana with red chili powder, garam masala, salt and lemon juice.
- Apply butter on two bread slices.
- Spread chana mix over one of the slices. Top with diced tomatoes and chopped onions.
- Sprinkle chaat masala on it and cover with the other slice.
- Grill the sandwich in the oven or sandwich maker. Your delicious sandwich is ready.



Olive oil3-4 tbsp
Salt and pepperto taste
Butteras required

Method

- Heat a teaspoon of olive oil in a pan on medium heat.
- Add chopped mushrooms and sauté until water evaporates.
- Next, add green chillies, salt, black pepper and sauté together.
- Turn off heat; stir in coriander leaves, mix and set aside.
- Now take two slices of bread and spread butter on them.
- Spread the mushroom mixture on one slice and cover with the other slice.
- Grill the mushroom sandwiches and serve warm.

Mushroom with herbs grilled sandwich

Ingredients

Multigrain bread slices.....2
Mushrooms (chopped)400 gm
Green chillies (chopped)2 to 3
Coriander leaves (chopped)7-8



Cheesy corn capsicum sandwich

Ingredients

Bread slices2
Sweet corn (boiled)3/4 cup
Red bell pepper (chopped)1/2 cup
Capsicum (chopped)1/2 cup

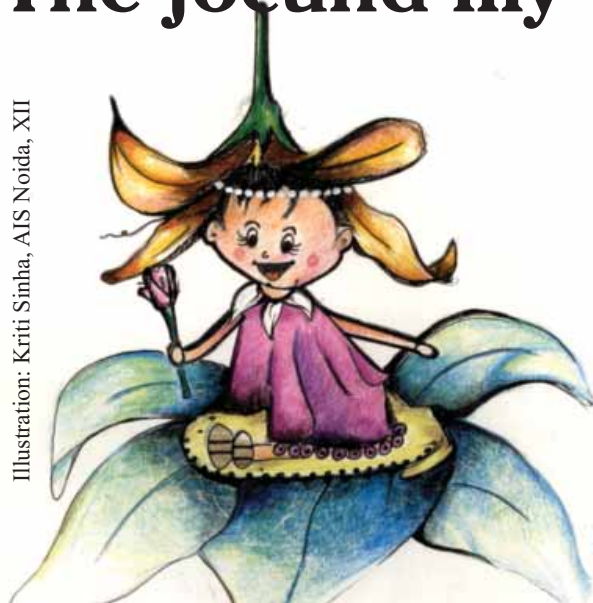
Cheese spread2 tbsp
Black pepperto taste
Saltto taste
Butter2 tsp

Method

- In a bowl, add the boiled corn kernels, cheese, capsicum, salt and pepper and mix well.
 - Brush two slices of bread with butter.
 - Now, spread the corn mixture on one slice and cover it with the other slice.
 - Grill the sandwich.
 - Enjoy it hot.
- Tip: This sandwich tastes best with mint chutney.*

The jocund lily

Illustration: Kriti Sinha, AIS Noida, XII



Aaliyah Banerjee, AIS Noida, VII N

When the white petals cross my mind
I can see the lovely lily
All the beauty my eyes can find
Lies in my thoughts

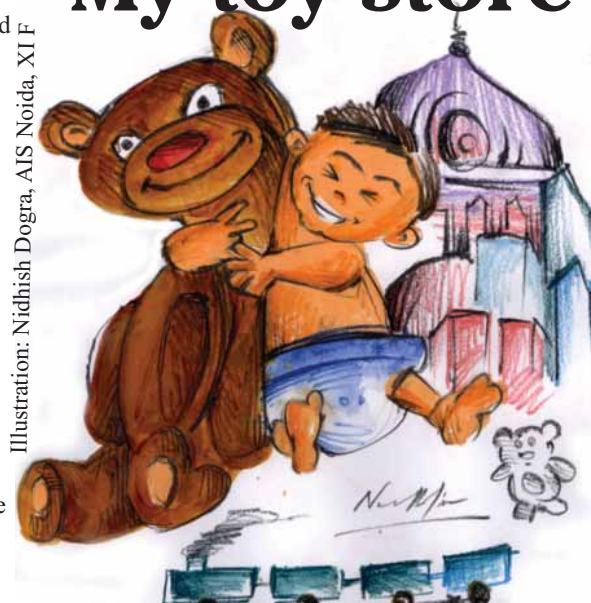
Of the delightful company
Oh! The sprightly lily
The more you'll see
The merrier they'll seem

The one day they may be
Blissful enough for me to dream
And relish those pictures
Oh! The jocund lily

Because deep inside, I know they are
Too lively to be pensive
And among them, they do make
It a great joy to live!**GT**

Poems

My toy store



Niamat Gill, AIS Noida, V B

When I visit a toy store
I giggle to my core
I walk down the stands

Lined up with toys and dolls from fairyland
Rows and rows of puzzles and books I adore
That's what makes it my favourite store

UNO cards and other board games
Chutki, Sophia and Barbie - all in frames
Cars that run on battery delight

Both young and old alike
So if you want to bring on a smile
And not be called a bore

So hop till you drop and
Head for the corner shop
We so fondly call a toy store.**GT**

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फेब्रुवारी इत वेळ नवी ब्रह्मांड इकाई, डॉ. इत ब्रह्मांड नवी.
इकेडो चेन्नई, डॉ. नवी, श्री ट
पद्म हवी.

Triple celebrations

Accolades shower as Amity bags the Best New Centre, Best Staff and Best Preparation Centre award for the year



Renu Trehan (R) receiving the award from Liam Vint

ESO

Education Services Organization, a futuristic initiative of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson Amity Group of Schools and

RBEF, to provide the best educational services and add value to the existing educational curriculum, was awarded The Best New Centre of the Year 2015-16. The award conferred by Cambridge English, a non-profit department of the

University of Cambridge, was received by Renu Trehan, CEM (Centre Exam Manager) at the South Asia Centre Exam Managers Conference held on September 20, 2016 at Chennai. Jyoti Saxena of ESO, was awarded the Best Staff Award for the Year 2015-16. The awards were given away by Liam Vint, Deputy Director, Global Network and TK Arunachalam, Regional Director, South Asia.

Amity Group of Schools also won the Cambridge English Award for the Best Preparation Centre for the year 2015-2016 for Innovation and Growth during the Cambridge English Coordinators Conference, held in Delhi on August 6, 2016. All AIS across Delhi and NCR were awarded the Preparation Centres Gold Plaques, in recognition of their growth and positive impact on language learning and teaching under the Cambridge English programme in schools. [G](#) [T](#)



The new student council members vow to discharge their duties

Induction ceremony

AGS Noida

Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, has always envisioned that Amityans should gain confidence by facing challenges in life. Keeping this in mind, Amity Global School Noida held the induction ceremony of their leadership council on Sep16, 2016. The event commenced with the recitation of 'Saraswati Srotam' followed by an invigorating group song. The newly appointed council members marched in with heads held high, where they were adorned with sashes and received their

flags from Mohina Dar, Director, Academics, Amity Group of Schools and Jayashree Kad, Principal, AGS Noida. Both of them emphasised the importance of discipline, responsibility and dignity in discharging duties. The new Head Boy, Krishna Yadav of A1, Head Girl Pranika Aggarwal of A1, Activity Secretaries Aryan Kumar and Kopal Bhatnagar of IG2, Middle School Prefects Kritika Chhetri of LS3 and Nimish Nandrajog of LS2 took oaths to discharge their duties with sincerity and fulfill everyone's expectations. The event reinstated faith in the calibre and leadership of the future generation. [G](#) [T](#)

Learning diplomatic skills

AIS Vasundhara 1

The school held its second intra school Model United Nations conference on July 15 - 16, 2016. The conference officially commenced with the opening ceremony where school principal Valambal Balachandran encouraged the students to know what is actually happening in the United Nations and to develop leadership abilities. The delegates from Classes VI to XI participated in two committees, namely, General Assembly and All India Political Parties Meet. The agenda for General Assembly was 'combating terrorism' where the delegates discussed issues related to funding of ISIL and the problems terrorism is creating in the world today. The agenda for All India Political Parties Meet was 'centre state relations' where the debate stressed on federal co-



The new diplomats ready to take on the stage, with their school principal

operation in India.

The conference concluded with the participants learning the skills of diplomacy, international relations, researching, public speaking, debating,

writing, critical thinking and team work. Various awards were given away to deserving students in different categories as Best Delegate, Commendation and Special Mention. [G](#) [T](#)



Students present a cultural programme

Foundation stone

AIS Gwalior

The school celebrated its first foundation stone laying ceremony on Sep 19, 2016. The function commenced with a *havan* ceremony where all students and staff took part. This was followed by a cultural programme. The

students of Class I and II presented 'Ganesh Stuti' while students of Class III and IV sang a beautiful song. The yoga demonstration by Class I to IV was applauded by one and all. School principal Seema Thakur shared the school's mission and vision and appealed to all, to fulfil the same with dedication. [G](#) [T](#)

Celebrating Hindi Divas

On September 14, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted Hindi written in Devnagri script as the official language of India. To commemorate the day, Amity schools organised several events



Chairperson (L) along with jury members of the Hasya Kavi Sammelan

AIS Pushp Vihar

To celebrate the Hindi Divas, the school organised a 'hasya kavi sammelan' on September 14, 2016. Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, who firmly believes that it is important to learn Hindi language to understand our culture and traditions, graced the occasion with her presence. The day witnessed teachers from different schools recite self-composed humorous poems on the topic, 'Sakaratak

Soch'. The laughter gags and epic punch lines made everyone laugh their hearts out. The poems carried a social message along with the amusing anecdotes. The presentations were judged by a panel of esteemed literary stalwarts as Mahinder Sharma, former Sub Editor of Dainik Hindustan and Durgesh Awasthi, a renowned poet. Neha Sharma of AIS Saket and Rachna Chaudhary of AIS PV bagged the first and second prize respectively. The event concluded with words of wisdom by jury members who extended their blessings to everyone. [G](#) [T](#)

AIS Vasundhara 1

The school organised a special assembly for the students of Class III and IV on September 14, 2016. The objective of the assembly was to involve students in discovering the numerous beautiful aspects of the rich language which included poems, recitation, skits, speech, etc. The assembly captivated the audience with its myriad vibrant activities. [G](#) [T](#)



Students conduct special assembly



Students participate in several activities to highlight the importance of Hindi

AIS VYC Lucknow

The school organized several activities to highlight the importance of Hindi language. Students of Class IV presented interesting facts about Hindi. They shared that though Hindi evolved from Sanskrit, many of its words still trace their origin to Arabic and Persian. Hindi is the mother tongue of 180 million people and the second language of 300 million peo-

ple. The students also highlighted the contribution made by great Hindi writers and poets for this language. This was followed by a video on the beauty of Hindi. The students also presented a skit to show the evolution of the language and participated in an inter-house Hindi poem recitation competition. The programme concluded with the words of coordinator Tanuja Singh, who emphasised the correct usage of Hindi language in our daily conversations. [G](#) [T](#)



Sahi Nahii Pakdey Hai!

In the midst of glorifying our 'Wakhra Swag', here is the 'desi' we don't mind not coming back!

Sara Baijnath, AIS Noida, XII A

We're all in for bringing out the *desi* in our *videshi* attitude but like every story, this one has a few villains too, some typical Indian habits being the most evil ones. Oh how we wish they would go back! Here's bringing you, our least favourite ones!

Breaking (bad) the queue

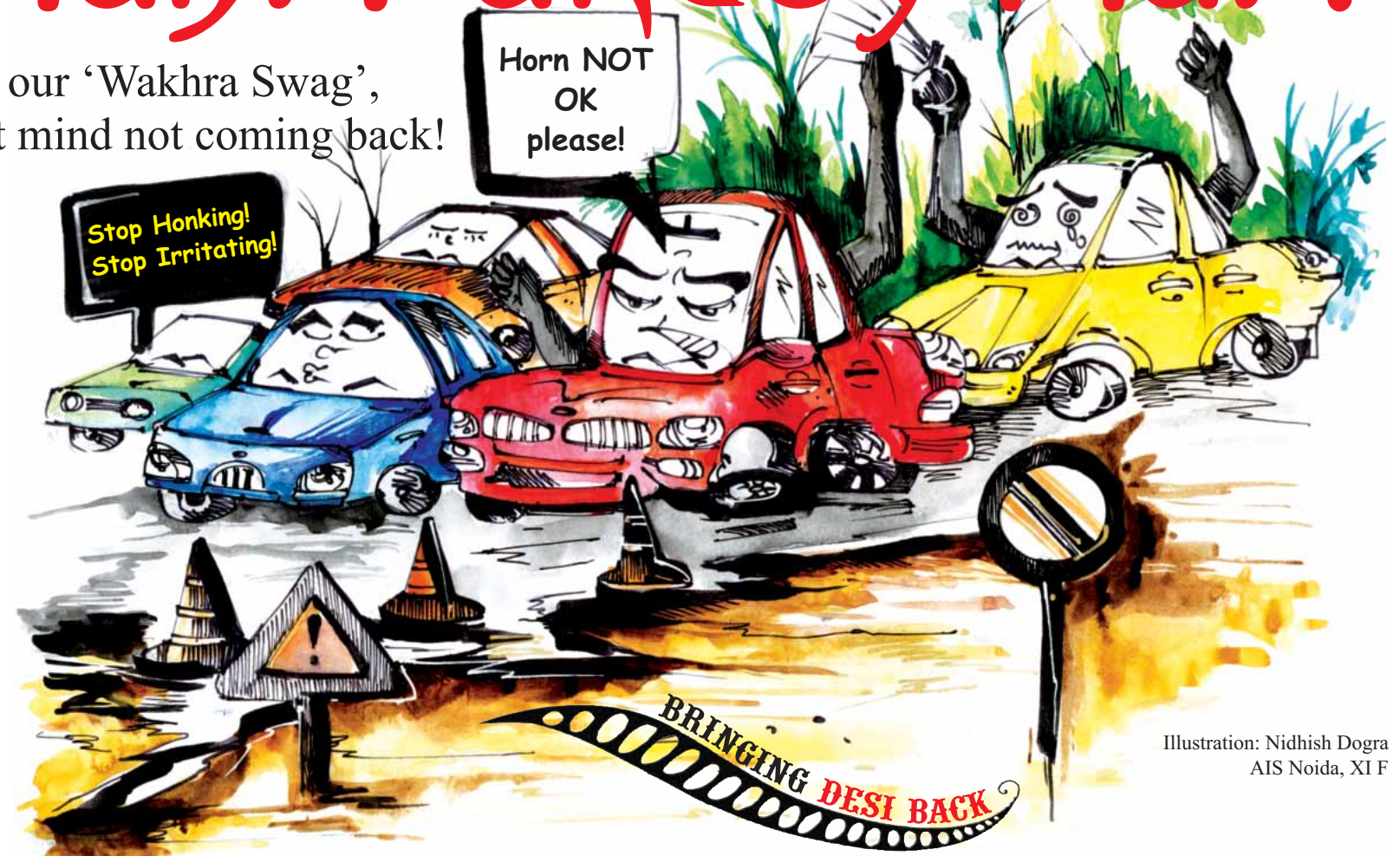
"Hum jaha khade ho jate hain, line wahi se shuru hoti hai." Okay, two things need to be understood here- a) That was a movie and he was Amitabh Bachchan and b) Even Amitabh Bachchan isn't allowed this special treatment. Wouldn't life be much easier if we just stood in queues?

Pull to push and push to pull

There is definitely something wrong with the way Indians read sign boards. Remember that man at the movie ticket counter, standing right in front of a board that spells 'CLOSED' peeping, trying his luck and asking, "Are you closed?"

Beta, aur lo, aur lo

Okay. In case, you feel our parents don't feed us enough or there is a shortage of grains in our locality, here's news: the amount of food a person eats is proportional to their needs and not the quantity of food prepared by you. Please, we can't eat more! We understand you're trying to be hospitable but to be honest, you are just being downright annoying!



Horn. Okay (we got it). (Stop) please

Indians have this magical car that automatically clears traffic when you honk. No? We don't? Really? So then what is the other explanation for honking continuously at a red light? Did you confuse it with music? Time to buy some CD's and stop honking. Take a chill pill!

Full time bargainers!

If India was to have its own superhero, he would perhaps be called 'Bachatman'. No this one wouldn't save mankind but his own money. Save the day? More like seal the pockets! "Kitne ka diya? 10 rupaye? Kuchh toh kam karo! At least 9 rupaye toh kam kar do!"

The part time matchmaking

Hmmm...so "Bunty ke paas paisa hai, bangla hai, gadi hai aur maa bhi hai." Good for him. But we also have a lot of things, like the right to decide when to get married topping the list. So, for now you can look for another part time profession instead of matchmaking! 🇮🇳

Pic: Kartik Arora, XI D|Graphic: Aasheesh Randeo, XI A|Models: Aasheesh R, XI A; Yash Kumar, XI I; AIS N



What's in Whatsapp?

"Do I send a thumbs up...or do I just seen-zone her?" Ah, the countless nuances one must keep in mind when texting! In the quest for answers as to why the human race is so 'whatsapp-ically challenged', Ritika Mathur, AIS Noida, XI J, ended up making a list of all the annoying things serial texters do.

The 'seen-zone'

In layman's language, the point in a conversation where the person decides that talking to you is a drag. Ouch. Reply maybe?

The infamous 'one letter' reply

K...just k. Are you angry? Are you mad? Are you bored? I'll never know...

The 'tYpNg LyK dIs'

There are 26 alphabets. Make good use of it. It won't take much time, considering you don't have much because I'm going to feed you to the wolves if you type like this again.

The 'thumbs up'

I just cancelled our plans...what's with the thumbs up? Show some emotions maybe? *Poker Face*

The 'forwarded message'

"Send this message to two people and you will be rewarded with good luck." Well, now I know why my life is falling apart.

The 'not so' group chat

Two people chatting away to glory in a group of 10; you need at least three to spoil the broth.

The 'unrelated emojis'

This is *aunty-je*/mommy special. If I would get a rupee for every time I had to ask my mom why she responded to my 'going out with friends' text with the sun, a goat and a bowling pin, I'd be Bill Gates.

The 'infinite loop'

'Hi.' 'Wassup'. 'NM'. 'GTG bye'. 'Hi'. And on and on and on it goes... Downright the scariest of all these habits. Once you enter this chain, there's no going back- you're stuck. Good luck trying to have an actual conversation!

Resume on a roll

Pic: Ishita Bajaj, XII E

Model: Rishabh Sharma, XI A; AIS Noida

Manoj Kumar's brooding silence is passe. Ranveer Singh's flamboyance is in! Resumes too are following suit

Oorja Rawat, AIS Noida, XII G

NAME: Jane Doe
EMAIL ID: iroxxxxx01@teenmail.com
CONTACT NUMBER: 912*****

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 793 Instagram followers
- 598 likes on my Facebook profile picture
- 109 Retweets and 8 from celebrities you've never heard of

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Memorised 4 chapters of History in two hours last night!
- Finished 3 seasons of GoT in one night
- Managed to finish 4 ice creams in 2 minutes straight
- Slept in Math class without getting caught by the teacher

EXPERIENCE:

- Expert at not returning borrowed pens
- 10 MUNS done, 10985 photos taken
- Expert pouter and proficient selfie taker

EXCEPTIONAL TALENTS:

- Fluent in the language of the internet
- National level bathroom singer
- Can type at the speed of light
- Can eat and whisper in class without raising suspicion

HOBBIES:

- Being a couch potato
- Passionate about wasting time
- Robbing friends of their canteen money
- Making a register the night before homework submission 🇮🇳



~ SENT FROM MY IPHONE 9.