



This special edition has been brought to you by Amity Global School, Gurugram, 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 Amity schools across Delhi/UP/Haryana churn out its own 'Contest Edition' which are pitted against one another at the end of the year which decides the winner at GT Awards. So, here's presenting the second edition of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2020-21'.

AMITEpoll

Do you think that the 'Texas Heartbeat Act', the law banning abortions in the US state, is antithetical to women's dignity, equality and autonomy?

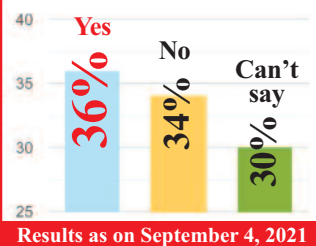
- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Can't say

To vote, log on to www.theglobaltimes.in

POLL RESULT

for GT issue August 30, 2021

Do you think the post American power vacuum in Afghanistan will aid China and largely shape India's strategic choices and behaviour?



Results as on September 4, 2021

Coming Next

AIS Saket Contest Edition

Aisa kaisa paisa!

The Art Of Management Of Money Meets The Mishap Of Ignorance

Riya Kharyal, AGS Gurugram, X

In India, as of 2019, more than 30,000 crore INR was left untouched in banks. Today, the amount has jumped to 95,000 crore. The money, coming from savings, matured policies, provident funds, etc, lies unclaimed, and even if a nominal 6% return is assumed, it means that we are losing 15 crore INR every day. On the other hand, Indian households carried debts worth nearly 43.5 trillion INR by March 2020, a number that skyrocketed from 6.6 trillion in 2008. Some oversave and some overspend; in either case, such catastrophic figures should have woken us up from slumber. So, why is the veil of financial illiteracy still clouding our judgement?

More money, more problems

According to the S&P's Global Financial Literacy Survey, financial literacy is the ability to understand financial concepts to make decisions about saving, investing and borrowing. As per the same survey, European countries like Denmark, Norway, and Sweden hold the highest financial literacy rate in the world at 71%, and only three countries in Asia have a rate of over 50%. The situation in India, one that is eyed by many MNCs for its long list of assets, is extremely poor with merely 24%, the lowest in major emerging economies. This comes off as appalling, particularly for a nation making strides in development in almost every sphere. Going by the National Centre for Financial Education Report of 2015, metropolitan areas like Maharashtra

and Delhi stand at the financial literacy of 17% and 32%, with Chattisgarh only accumulating a rate of 4%. Not just individuals, but small and medium scale firms are also hard-hit with financial worries due to high competition and lack of managing debts. They employ the largest numbers of workers in India at 11.10 crore, after the agriculture sector, and yet many shut down leaving workers jobless. Why? Well, according to RBI, about 42.9% of these enter-

prises borrow money from informal sources like commission agents and lenders, leading to higher interest rates and eventually debt traps. The overall analysis of the situation points to the fact that at least 76% Indians were never taught anything about financial education and only 53% even have a savings account, reaffirming the dire need of financial literacy.

More awareness, more solutions

The Hindu reports that while investment in fixed assets have increased exponentially, there is a major lack of financial planning in terms of life and health insurance. All of this proves that individuals, especially of the younger generations of millennials and Gen Z, face a disbalance between consumption and penny-pinching, where investments and saving come off as foreign terms, but all hope of financial education is not lost. Various policies and steps have been initiated by PFDRA and IRDA. Yet the biggest challenge is that all of these have been more on paper. A need for implementation on grassroot level cannot be ignored where students should be equipped to deal with finance even before they enter the adult world. RBI's National Strategy for Financial Education Report 2020-25 hopefully will come as our saviour with its 5Cs plan to create financially aware and empowered Indians. National Centre for Financial Education, too, aims at educating people on basic financial factors, and Securities and Exchange Board of India plans on introducing their new programme, SMARTs, with the purpose of educating investors. Upcoming plans by TGFIEL and FSDC could also help in converting our hopes into reality, and stand proof to how only practical knowledge and right targeting of financial education schemes can bridge the gap of financial illiteracy.

As the 136 crore population of the country runs on its hamster wheel to earn their *rozi roti*, financial literacy remains the only way for them to use, save, and invest their hard-earned money to its maximum potential, finally creating a financially literate India.



Illustration: Riya Kharyal, AGS Gurugram, X

From High Commission

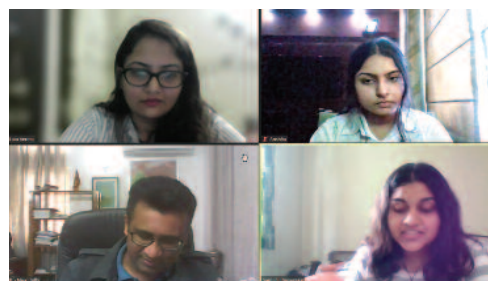
HE Niluka Kadurugamuwa Talks About Diplomacy & More

Samudi Ranawake, AGS Gurugram, XII

From maintaining good relations with the host country on a political, economic and socio-cultural level to de-escalating situations that could turn hostile, the role of a diplomat is laden with numerous responsibilities. HE Niluka Kadurugamuwa, deputy high commissioner, High Commission of Sri Lanka, New Delhi, has essayed all of them with panache. Dipping his toes in the fields of diplomacy, literature and politics, he is a man of many talents. To gain his insights on the same, GT caught up with him for an exclusive interview.

Diplomacy - what it entails

Simply put, diplomacy is good personal relations in the international order. Diplomats then are people who maintain these relationships on behalf of their countries, and for the most part, we have been successful. UN came into existence in 1945 in order to avert humankind from reliving the horrors of the world wars seen till then. Today nations are resolving conflicts by negotiations and discussions undertaken by diplomats. It is human nature to collide with each other, but it is because of diplomacy that countries



HE Niluka in conversation with GT reporter

don't go to war at the first sign of these conflicts.

Foreign service - when abroad

When working in the foreign service sector, it becomes pertinent to change your approach according to the geographical location you are posted in. For instance, the approach you follow in Rome will be different from what you follow in New York or India. Rome and Bangkok are bilateral stations where an embassy is accredited to the state but also has multilateral organisations, so your approach for them differs from each other. In such hybrid roles, you not only have to solidify your relations with the state but also with the international organisations. If I am coming to New Delhi, then it becomes an extremely important posting, more so than others, as India and Sri Lanka are neighbours who have had close relations with each other for millennia. If you are working in New York, then you have to deal with the time difference as an additional challenge because your headquarter office

INTERVIEW

back home might be living in a different timezone. At every station thus, the approach of your work differs depending on where you are at as well as the nature of the work associated with that station.

Literature - why the love

I have always been an avid admirer of literature; I would read anything I could get my hands on, and I have been reading books in Sinhala ever since I was a child. In Grade XI, I did my first translation between English and Sinhala and it was even published in my school's newspaper. One year later, I was sending my translations to national newspapers and then I moved on to translating books and novels. Because of my busy schedule, I haven't been able to do much in literature lately, but I have translated six novels till now and I even won the Literary Award for Best Translation for two of them, a feat I hold close to my heart.

Passion - where it will lead

If you are a budding diplomat, the first thing you need is passion; be passionate about what you do and success will follow. And since you will be serving your country, so be honest and be proactive too. Learn when to take a breather though, but don't be lackadaisical. Just be honest and keep your country and its people as your prime objective.



HE Niluka Kadurugamuwa, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of Sri Lanka, New Delhi





Bowled over!

The Organisation That Is Changing The Field For Blind Cricket, One Over At A Time

Viwaswan Jha

AGS Gurugram, X

Say 'cricket' and the blood of every Indian runs blue; the love for it harboured in every soul. But in a game where everyone is fighting to keep their eye on the ball, ever wondered what happens to those whose eyes fail them? Pushed back into the pavillion, the visually impaired find themselves bowled out. To change this and the mindset of people about the connection between the visually impaired and cricket, Blind Cricket Association started their innings to create a better playground.

The bat: Striking off challenges

For the general public, cricket is a game for the able-bodied. Thankfully, Manvendra Singh Patwal did not share the same views. Having been a professional player for around 14 years, even representing India in 2003-2010 and in three world cups, he knew that the game operated beyond these stereotypes, and was as much for the visually impaired. "I realised that people saw blind cricket more as a fundraising activity than an actual sport. I wanted to change that,

especially at the grass-root level, which is how the idea for Blind Cricket Association came into existence in 2012," he says. As the general secretary of the organisation, the head office of which is based in Moti Bagh, New Delhi, he knew the path ahead was not going to be easy. "In any sport, visual aids play an important role, which meant that teaching cricket to the visually impaired would have its own challenges. A lot more time would be needed at both the input and the output, and it definitely takes a lot longer for the results to show up than in a case with an able-bodied person. But that doesn't mean it's not worth it.

If the visually impaired might be at a disadvantage because of their vision, then they more than make up for it in their strong sense of dedication and concentration. With their personal bat of enthusiasm, they strike away any and every challenge that is thrown their way."

The ball: Swung into action

"Visually impaired players require special training and experience, which is why our first



Blind cricket team pose post a win



GROUND REPORTING

step was to employ special educators for them. They used various approaches to suit their needs best. We also organise special workshops and camps from time to time to hone our players," said Manvendra Singh Patwal. Surely the organisation was doing something right as in the short time since their opening, they have conducted various matches and tournaments for their players, and have expanded to having a unit in almost all states of India. This not only

helps them in organising matches at a zonal and state level, but even national levels, thus identifying gifted players. "We have coaches, instructors and other members whose main purpose is to identify potential talent, and once we do so, we make sure that we provide them with various playing options so they can pick which suits them the best. We also provide scholarships to gifted players to boost their morale." With all the equipment ready for a match, the organisation does not

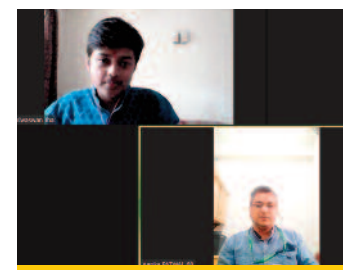
fail to deliver a ball that truly changes the game for these gifted players.

The wicket: For an equal ground

Even though all their matches have been fairly successful till now, the innings to winning the true trophy is still on-going and is saddled with inequality. "Blind cricket does not receive the recognition and support it truly deserves, and we want to change that. We want to develop better infrastructure, organise



A shot from one of the matches

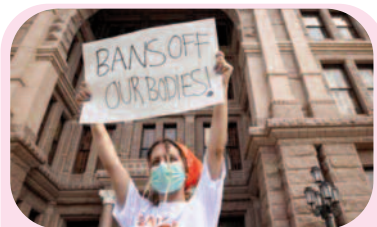


In talks with Manvendra Singh

and even employ international standards, but due to lack of funds, there is only so much we can do. This is why we want blind cricket to be seen as a sport, and not merely a 'social service'. We will keep working on the upliftment of the game as well as the players; our aim is for people to finally see that a visually impaired sportsperson is just as good as an abled sportsperson, and that they, too, should be given the proper opportunity to convert their passion into a career." [GT](#)

Around The WORLD

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



USA

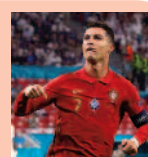
Texas bans abortion

Texas passed a new anti-abortion law on Sept 1, 2021, that puts a ban on abortions in the country after 6 weeks of pregnancy. The decision came after the US Supreme Court refused to block the said law even after being previously intimated to do so by the abortion-rights groups. Tagged as 'extreme', the law charges anyone who 'aids or abets' to the procedure illegally. Also, it has no provision for exceptional cases like rape and incest, making it difficult for women.

PORTUGAL

Ronaldo breaks world record

Cristiano Ronaldo, who has recently joined Manchester United for the second time, has broken the world record of 109 goals for the most goals scored in international football matches (male). The record was previously held by the former Iranian footballer Ali Daei. He attained the feat with his recent goal against Ireland in a 2-1 World cup qualifying match held on Sept 1, 2021. Ronaldo now has 111 goals to his credit.



AFGHANISTAN

Head of the country announced

All set to form a new government, the Taliban reportedly announced its supreme leader Haibatullah Akhunzada as the top leader of the new governing council, along with his key deputies holding important positions. The militant group will be unveiling its new government in a ceremony at the Presidential palace, Kabul, within a few days. The new national flag, constitution, and anthem will also be made known.



CHINA

'Xi Jinping Thought' in classroom teaching

The Chinese education ministry has incorporated new guidelines into the national curriculum wherein the students will now be served with President Xi Jinping's thought and ideology. The move is aimed at cultivating ideals of patriotism for the country and the Communist party of China. This type of schooling will be modelled for primary to university level teaching. It is believed to help blend the children's personality with a Marxist understanding. The textbooks have been adorned with the president's quotes and images to further the said motive.

INDIA

India excels at Paralympics'20

India's performance in the Tokyo Paralympics 2020, the biggest sporting event for specially-abled, has been a victorious one with 17 medals so far into the schedule. With four gold, seven silver and six bronze medals, Indian athletes have earned India its first record-setting double digit run. Out of the total medals won, 5 were notably claimed on August 30, 2021.



AUSTRALIA

Victoria to ban display of swastika

As a triumph for the victims of the Holocaust, Victoria state becomes the first in the country to advance a ban on the public display of Nazi symbols like swastika. With recent rise in the neo-Nazi activities in the area, and support from the opposition to eradicate the same, the chances of the ban becoming a law have increased manifold.





If you are passionate about a particular career, learn it in three different ways!

Armaan Soni, AGS Gurugram, XI
Page Editor

Targeting marketing



The world now revolves around the invisible wires of the digital network, and everything that can be done online will be done there. So why would the glittering and shining stream of marketing be left behind? But for all those who think that digital marketing starts and ends at pop-up ads, well, you are in for a shock! The stream is full of its own thrills, adventures and challenges. Keep reading as **Armaan Soni, AGS Gurugram, XI**, tells you what you might need to do to join the race.



Pankaj Sehgal, digital marketing trainer



Laxmi GK, team handling expert

Founder of Ridhinama Enterprises, **Pankaj Sehgal** is an entrepreneur who focuses on training individuals in digital marketing. He has an MBA from GGSIPU and has held prominent positions as a marketing executive whilst freelancing.

With an experience of more than five years in handling a team of over 15 people, **Laxmi GK** is an expert in working SEO. She holds a Bachelors of Engineering IT in Project Management.

Journey so far

Digital marketing is not about academic knowledge, but rather about your creativity, connection and technology. In today's world, where everyone is online, digital marketing is needed for any and every promotion. My career as a trainer bloomed because of the high demand where one lecture turned into two, and then there was no looking back.

Basic necessities

The skills needed to be a digital marketing trainer are the same as every other teacher of any other subject. You need to be knowledgeable enough to teach your students properly. However, digital marketing is something that is constantly changing, so you have to always stay updated. Even I, as a teacher, turn into a student every single day because there is always something new on social media. It's a new learning everyday.

Praise to be gained

The remuneration completely depends on your knowledge, expertise and experience. Someone starting out might only get 25,000 INR, but it can also move up to 50,000-60,000 INR. It all depends on your experience and what you are teaching.

Bound by the schedule

Teaching is bound by a time schedule. In this field, the students you face will be both - already-employed people who are looking to sharpen their knowledge, and the ones who are yet to start their career. Thus, you end up conducting classes through the week, even on Saturdays and Sundays.

Challenges faced

The most challenging part of this field is how it is constantly evolving, so if my students ask me a query, I have to get on it right away and provide an

answer to them on the same day. But even to reach this level, I had to struggle a lot. I always tell my students the story of how I had been rejected 21 times before I even started my own company, but those 21 rejections taught me a lot about the things that were lacking in me and gave me an opportunity to work on myself.

The road to travel

Digital marketing is an extremely vast field, so much so that I won't even be able to name each and every arena. The basic example of digital marketing that people usually know are ads you see on different social networking sites like Facebook, Instagram, Google, etc. Then you also have content writing, affiliate marketing, email marketers, blogging, online reputation management, news agency, social media promoters, etc. All in all, you have plenty of options in this field.

Journey so far

When I joined this field, all I had was theoretical knowledge, but as a leader who is handling a team, you learn more through self-study, experience and overcoming struggles. It is gradually that you learn what strategy should be applied to what client and subordinate because everyone's requirements and skills are different.

Basic necessities

To be in the digital marketing industry, there are no such prerequisites in terms of educational qualification. However, one can take a digital marketing course to know the basic concepts. If you are leading a specific team on a project, you must possess the technical capabilities for it. This is a fast-paced stream, so if you want to survive here, you need to be smart and courageous enough to always accept new challenges.

Praise to be gained

There are no specific numbers to be given when it comes to remuneration for a team handling expert, because the field of digital marketing in itself depends on the consumer, the company and the niche.

Bound by the schedule

The profession of digital marketing is not bound by conventional working hours, but rather by client's timezone and deadlines. If you and your team are working with an international client, you need to stretch your working hours accordingly. If a certain deadline is approaching, the team will again reschedule their work based on it.

Challenges faced

As a leader of a team, you need to be good at understanding your staff, have a strong work ethic, and the ability to motivate a team in order to get the best results.

Being a leader can be challenging because you need to handle different people from different backgrounds. You need to be the intermediary point between the management and the team, and it is not always easy to maintain the balance. And as a team, it is also difficult to work with the clients because no one strategy works for all. You need to form new strategies for every new project and mainly understand your target audience.

The road to travel

Digital marketing is in demand and there are a lot of avenues you can explore here like video and audio production, interactive technology, mobile marketing, SEO, social media, e-commerce, content management, web design, etc. Due to the pandemic, the need for digital marketing has increased a lot which has created more career opportunities in the field.



Shreya Gupta, SEO analyst

Having worked with big names like Amazon e-commerce, POPxo, and the NGO Bhumi, **Shreya Gupta** topped her batch of MBA from GGSIPU and has various academic achievements under her name. Currently, she works as a SEO specialist at Lotus Herbals and was even promoted to Assistant Manager in mere 10 months.

Journey so far

It is not easy being in the field, as it keeps evolving. One thing you will really need in your journey is an out-of-the-box thinking, especially if you want to be a trendsetter.

Basic necessities

If you have a degree in marketing, business management, digital marketing or even mass communication, you are qualified to be a social media manager, but do note that companies often consider work experience just as important as a degree. Having a great pool of ideas does not require any educational qualification, which is why you need to be able to present your ideas into actionable strategies. You also need to have a deep understanding of your follower bases and what

works best for them.

Praise to be gained

There really is no 'getting paid as per the industry standards' here, because in this industry, you get compensated for what you bring to the table. I have seen professionals with four years of experience getting 8 lakh INR per annum, and have also seen people with 2 years of experience getting 12-16 lakh INR per annum irrespective of their degree, so it really depends on your capabilities.

Bound by the schedule

Since the digital world never sleeps, neither does the content. I try to follow my basic work hours, but I know I have to keep myself available on the weekends too if the need be.

Challenges faced

With influencer culture becoming a billion dollar industry, maintaining brand authenticity has become a challenge in the field of digital marketing. It is hard to cut through all the noise and actually build an authentic user base.

The road to travel

Bill Gates said that if your business is not on the internet, it will go out of business, which is true, because social media is now a primary channel for any marketing strategy. All companies are now on social media platforms to generate leads or even increase their brand awareness. Digital marketing has a broad scope, so whether you want to get into influencer marketing or even becoming a strategist, you have many roads to travel here!



The wrath of zinc



What Happens When One Element Replaces Another In A Compound?

Kasak Jain

AGS Gurugram, X

Bubbles of happiness were floating in the air in the underwater town of CUSO₄. "It is my pleasure to welcome a new family to our humble aqua city, so, everyone, please raise your glasses for Mr and Mrs Sulphate and their little ones," said President Copper.

All of them started clapping, happy to have gained new neighbours. "Let the party begin!" announced the President.

Mr and Mrs Sulphate went around saying hello to everyone and the little Master and Miss Sulphate had already found many Copper friends to play with. The town looked happy, but sadly the fun didn't last long. A roaring shriek was heard over the music and everyone stopped in their tracks.

"He...He is coming. Evil Zinc is coming!" cried someone and suddenly everyone started running. The people of the town were not sure of when the terrors of Evil Zinc had originally started, but all they remembered was how they had grown up hearing stories of how it could displace them from existence in a second. President Copper instantly called a meeting of the highest officials to prepare for war, but he knew there was no way the tiny underwater town could ever actually fight Evil Zinc.

"I am sure Evil Zinc's return has

The science of it

The displacement reaction states that when zinc is added to aqueous copper sulphate, due to the higher reactivity of zinc, it replaces copper in the solution and forms zinc sulphate, changing the colour of the liquid from blue to colourless.



SCIENCE
BEDTIME STORIES

something to do with the Sulphate family," cried Vice President Copper Junior; "Think about it! Evil Zinc hadn't returned in years, but as soon as Mr and Mrs Sulphate come to town, he also comes back? This can't be a coincidence!" All the others were shocked at their leader's words, but on a deeper pondering, they, too, started doubting the Sulphate family.

After a lengthy discussion, all of them had agreed that the Sulphate family must have something to do with Evil Zinc, and immediately guards were sent to arrest them. Mr and Mrs Sulphate cried, repeating again and again that they did not know Evil Zinc, but the scared town was too quick to blame them. But even after the arrest, Evil Zinc continued to wreak havoc. An uncontrollable fear ran through the citizens as Evil Zinc started smashing buildings, destroying public property and even going as far as attacking

some citizens. "Free us; we can help you, we promise!" cried Mr Sulphate. President Copper wasn't sure if he could believe them, but what other choice did he have? Even if the Sulphates were lying, Evil Zinc was going to kill them all anyway, so he ordered the guards to let the Sulphate family go.

"We are grateful to you for welcoming us into your small town," said Mrs Sulphate, "and even though it was only for a day, we loved being a part of your family. And families protect each other, which is why, it is our time to protect you." The whole Sulphate family stood in front of Evil Zinc with determination clear on their faces.

"What can you puny elements do to me, ha? You can't even touch the silver on my body," said Evil Zinc.

"We'll do more than that, don't you worry!" replied Mr Sulphate, and together the entire family charged towards Evil Zinc.

A loud smack was heard and the whole town was surrounded in grey smokes and when it cleared, everyone noticed that the colour of their underwater town was clearer than it ever had been. Evil Zinc, that stood tall and shiny in front of them a minute ago, was now black and burnt and the Sulphate family was nowhere to be seen. "The Sulphate family sacrificed themselves to save us," cried President Copper with tears in his eyes. At the end of the day, the town was saved, and all of them thanked the brave Sulphate family for saving them.



Illustration: Saatvik Chakraborty, AGS Gurugram, X

Let's ketchup!

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

Vaanya Tyagi

AIS Vasundhara 6, III C

Hey! My name is: Tomato

I am also known as: Solanum lycopersicum

About me

- I come from the tomato plant and am its edible berry.
- My name is derived from the Spanish word 'tomate'.
- It is said that the Aztecs used me in their cooking at the time of the Spanish conquest and that is how the Spanish encountered me for the very first time. They then brought me to Europe and that is how I got to go around to the rest of the world.
- I am very diverse and can be consumed either raw or cooked. People use me in various dishes, sauces, salads and even drinks.
- Though I am a fruit (and I know people always



Illustration: Vaanya Tyagi, AIS Vas 6, III C

go crazy when I tell them so!), I am more commonly used as a vegetable ingredient or even a side dish.

- My plant typically grows to 1-3 meters in height, and my vines have weak stems so they always need support.

- My size varies according to the cultivar and I range in 1-10 cm in width.

My different avatars

- Cherry tomato
- Roma tomato
- Better boy
- San marzano
- Black krim
- Japanese black trifele
- Moneymaker
- Cherokee purple

What I offer

About 90 grams of my consumption will give you:

- Calories: 16
- Fat: 0.2g
- Sodium: 5mg
- Carbohydrates: 3.5g
- Fiber: 1.1g
- Sugar: 2.4g
- Protein: 0.8g
- Vitamin C: 12.5mg

I can help you with

- Strengthening your immune system
- Lung cancer
- Stomach cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Preventing diseases in pancreas, colon, throat, mouth, breast and cervix
- Heart diseases
- Protecting your eyes from blue light

Where you can find me

I originated in the western South America and even Central America, and some say that my domestica-



tion and use as a cultivated food item was started by the good people of Mexico. After the Spanish found me and took me to Europe, it was then that I got to see a lot of other countries that were under European countries' rule. Hence, I spread throughout the world, and today you can find me in almost every single country in the world. I also have a lot of variations so you can look out for me. All thanks to greenhouses, I can be grown in all sorts of temperatures around the world and you can even see me in production throughout the year.

Why I fear climate change

Climate change is a deadly factor for everyone on the planet and I am also not spared the charge. If the temperature of the world keeps changing and increasing, there will be strong and significant decline in my production. The length of my growing season in the future will reduce by 2-3 weeks on average but the rate of maturity will be relatively faster, resulting in poor production. Though scientists are trying to solve my crisis with measures like transplant and harvests, water management, etc., but at the end of the day, letting me grow organically and at my pace will suit me the best. I hope all the human beings in the world who enjoy eating me will come together and save me and themselves from climate change! 🌱



I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by.

Anshita Kumar, AGS Gurugram, X
Page Editor

The memoirs of me

Presenting To You The Rhapsodical Autobiography Of An Autobiography Itself

Viwaswan Jha, AGS Gurugram, X

Jotting down the traces of human lives, painting a picture of their experiences and leaving behind a legacy to be read and immersed in - an autobiography, stitched together with the delicate of all touches, can be this and so much more. I would know it, since I am it. Born out of a quest for expression, maintaining records and emotional evolution of life, be it of The Dalai Lama, Malala Yousafzai, Barack Obama, Nelson Mandela, Sachin Tendulkar or anyone else you find fascinating, I am universal. And as far as the question of existence goes, I am, perhaps, mankind's most immortal and invincible creation, as without me, the account of all their other creations would be lost in unwritten pages. But how did I become the world's most used genre of art, you ask? Well, if you look at the history books, the first time I was even called an 'autobiography' was in 1797 by William Taylor, but I had been in existence way before then. In fact, the first real Western account of me is Confessions by Saint Augustine of Hippo written between AD 397 and 400, making me fairly popular amongst Christian writers throughout the Middle

Ages. In these ancient times, I used to go by the name 'apologia' where I was mainly employed to be a messenger of self-justification rather than documentation. From noteworthy names like Flavius Josephus to Libanius, I was put in use by the greatest of all, mainly to narrate their struggles and experience with religion.

Even as time passed, these first printed pages of me kept inspiring more and more of me, encouraging others to archive their tale in lands far and wide. It was in the 15th century that Leonor Lopez de Cordoba wrote Memorias, giving life to the first ever me in Spanish. Even Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire, sang his own song in Baburnama written between 1493 and 1529. From one of the first great autobiographies of the Renaissance by Benvenuto Cellini, Vita, to Book of Margery Kempe, the earliest known autobiography in English, I have transcended the boundaries of language, country and man to reach to all of humanity, as the words written in me might change with the pen, but the feeling of expressing oneself and narrating one's own tale remains the same.

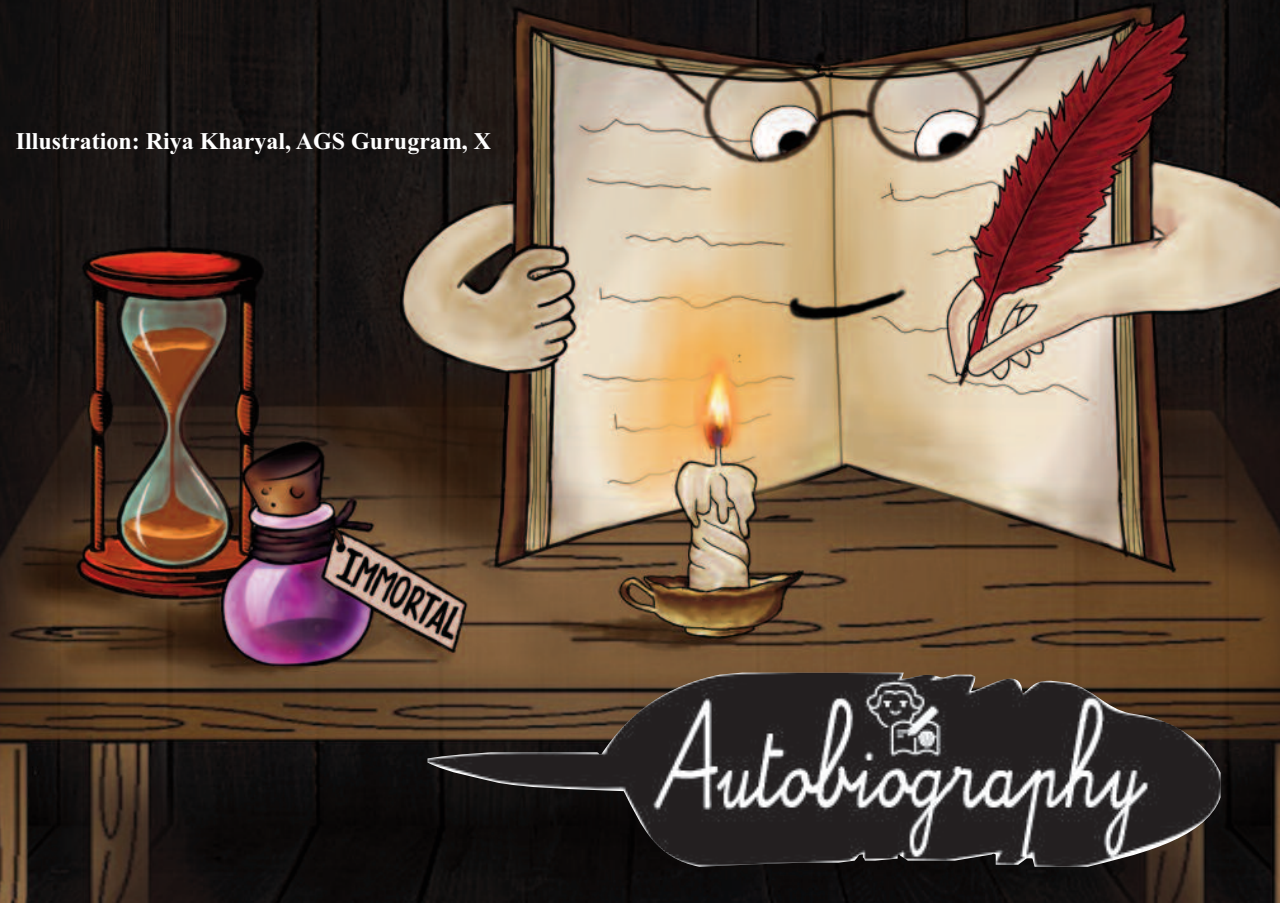
With the rise of education, newspapers, prints, and with a want to be remembered, many writers started

noticing me and using me to tell their stories. Today you will find me on the shelf of every book store, some even going as far as dedicating a whole column to me, and why wouldn't they? I have turned nobodies into the biggest names of the world, brought you the stories of the sparkling celebs, and am the

only one with spine enough to carry their chronicles that otherwise would have been lost in whispers. From great writers like Dickens, to politicians like Henry Brooks Adams, to philosophers like John Stuart Mill, and even actors like Dilip Kumar and Tiny Fey, I have turned everyone into an author.

The world moves on and so will its wheels, and as long as it does that, I will be here, filling my pages as humankind picks its pens and bleeds its ink onto me. You can say that I have lived a dramatic life, but will I really be worthy of being picked up if I weren't dramatic? I guess not!

Illustration: Riya Kharyal, AGS Gurugram, X



Throwback!

Here's Remembering And Emblazoning The Astronomical Tokyo Olympics 2020

Adya Srivastava, XII D &
Ananya Mittal, X B, AIS Vas 6

In a world left bleak and dark in the pandemic, Olympics 2020 came to us as a ray of hope, its torch shining bright and telling us that better things are awaiting. The biggest sporting event in the world was not only a show of ultimate sportsmanship, but also a wave of a lot of new things it brought with itself. So, let's look back and bask in the glory of the great event that was Tokyo Olympics.

New games, new hope

Driving the message of new rays of hope, Olympics 2020 included a lot of new sports for the very first time. Sports like skateboarding, surfing, karate, sports climbing, baseball and softball were added. Whilst this addition gave the chance to a lot of first-timer countries to be included in the event, it also increased the number of eyes glued to their television. Olympics have always had a wide variety of events, from racewalking to tug of war, so it was high time to include these missing ones and to add to the thrill of the event!

Young blood

From 12 year olds to 24 year olds, the

Olympics have never been considered a child's play, but thankfully, these kids know how to win the game. The youngest participant of the event, Hend Zaza was only 12 years old at the time when she participated in table tennis and represented her country, Syria. She may not have walked away from the event with a medal, but she did walk away with everyone's admiration. The event also saw a lot of other young participants and winners like Kokana Hiraki (12 years old), Sky Brown (13), Rayssa Leal (13), Momiji Nishiya (13) and many more.

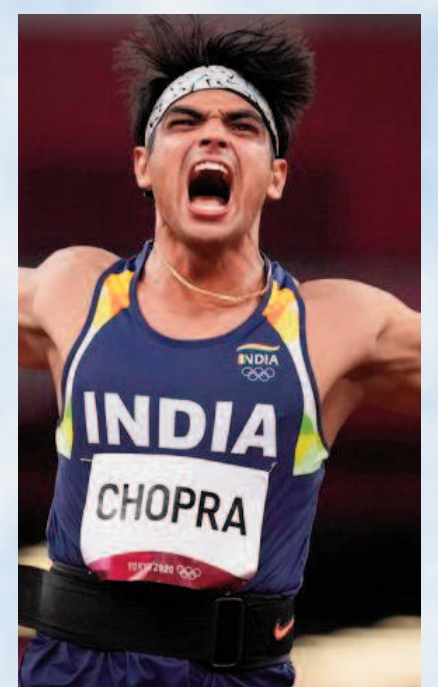
All inclusive

Olympics this time was more inclusive than its previous editions, with more women and racial minorities partaking in the event. It is noteworthy that women made up for 49% of all athlete participants. The prominence of women of colour did not go unnoticed as Naomi Osaka lit the

cauldron and sprinter Allyson Felix held the title of the most decorated field athlete. Even our Indian women's hockey team broke new records and made us all proud!

Overall growth

Fitness does not merely stand for physicality and the olympians this time never failed to mention it. Recognising the stress the pandemic has put on everyone, Olympians like Simone Biles and Osaka focused on keeping themselves mentally fit and also encouraging everyone else to do so. Even though Biles' withdrawal from the game came as a shock to many, it highlighted the pressure that a sportsperson has to go through, and soon many more athletes came forward in her support and raised their voices against the hur-



dles they have to overcome. This Olympics proved that mental health is also a part of holistic health, and hopefully more and more people will start viewing it as so!

Even though we have said goodbye, Tokyo Olympics gave us a lot that will forever stay in our memories and our history books. Let's hope that we learn from it and implement these beautiful lessons in every other field of life.



Scripting social change



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

If we want a tiny sapling to bloom into a fully developed tree, we need to provide it with all the necessary elements - sunlight, water, soil and air - in the right proportion. Each sapling may take its own time to blossom, but it surely does, provided its caregiver nurtures it with constant love and attention.

I can claim with pride that every Amitian is nourished by a similar devotion showered upon them by their teachers. These dedicated educators have consistently imbibed them with qualities of knowledge, wisdom, patience, perseverance, respect, gratitude, love, sharing, caring, dedication and responsibility towards for the society, never letting any situation or hardship hamper the process of growing and learning. These values that define each student at Amity have helped them become harbingers of change in the 21st century.

Satyam Mehta, of AIS Noida, is one such changemaker whose initiative has won him the prestigious Diana Award 2021. The award recognises the fact that young people have the power to transform their country. But this is no easy task. To bring about social change, an individual requires not only a solid educational foundation but also a great deal of emotional intelligence. Satyam has shown that he has both these assets. His vision is to bring about a positive change in society by promoting rural investment, educating people about sustainable management of e-waste, and safeguarding women's menstrual health. He has proven that the power of education can be utilised for a bigger goal, one that can build a better and stronger nation. The difference he seeks to make is bound to set an example for many more youngsters to follow. I applaud him for this effort, while also wishing that a similar sentiment of selfless service should reside in the heart of every Amitian. **GT**

Power of perseverance

"Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other." - **Walter Elliot**



Arti Gupta
Principal, AGS Gur

Since time immemorial, people have been searching for the ever-elusive secrets to success. There are a lot of people who try their best to grasp the newest technology, some emulate strong role models, and there are a few who study to their wit's end to find the secret to succeed. But the twist comes when the scientific studies reveal that the secret that they are looking for is not necessarily a matter of talent, intelligence, creativity, or even strategy. But success on any level requires the ability to follow through and to execute a plan, to give your all to a project and will through all the difficulties that stand in your path.

In fact, tenacity to persevere is the best technique to gauge success, because one of the greatest qualities of successful people is perseverance. It is the ability to continue going ahead with fortitude despite facing obstacles; it is the ability to learn and adapt and to never say no to a challenge. Being Amitians, I am sure your education and skills, armed with the ability to persevere, will enable you to achieve greater heights through academic brilliance and values, thereby fulfilling the dreams of our respected Chairperson ma'am. I am extremely happy that with the same perseverance, the students of AGS Gur are making their debut in the GT Making-a-Newspaper contest. **GT**

Curiosity: dead?

The Issue Of The Slow Burning Demise Of Inquisitiveness

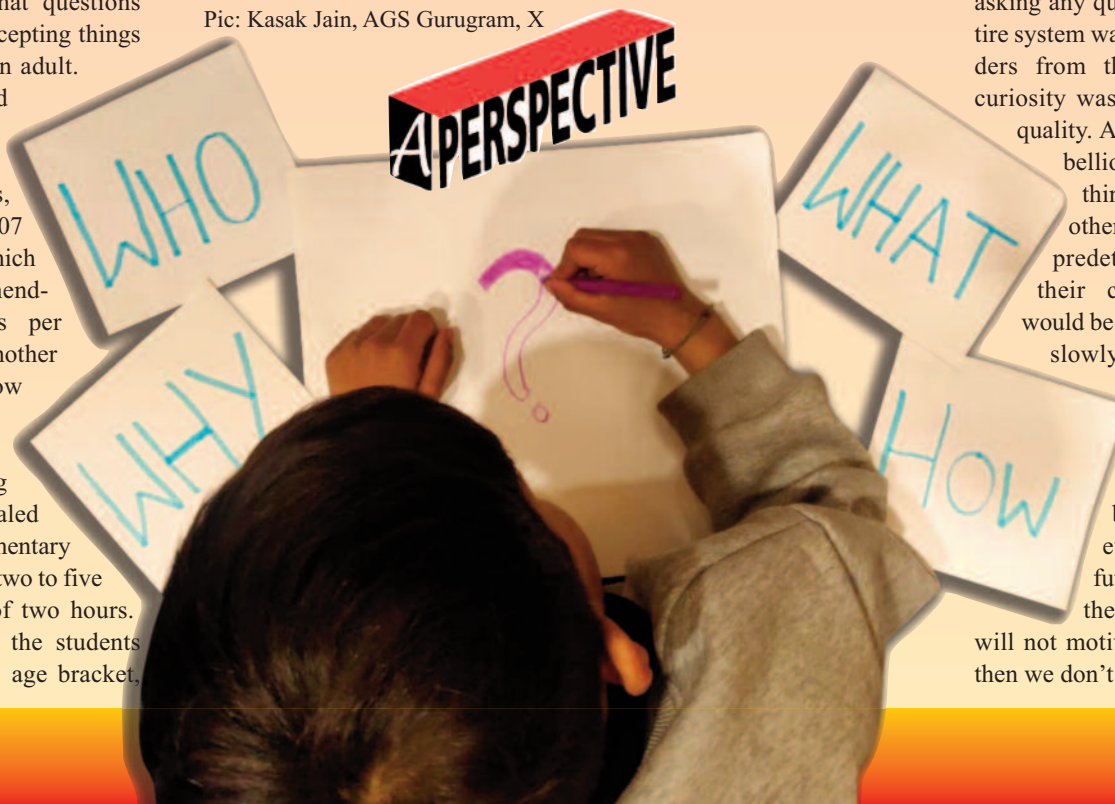
Anshita Kumar
AGS Gurugram, X

The innate curiosity of a child sparks up at everything, embarking on an innocent quest for enlightenment. With a wish to learn, they progress through life, going from the intrigued eyes of a kid to the dulled spark of an adult; the will and want to learn more about the world around us dying down. Dazzled by the intricate mysteries of the world, a child that questions everything ends up accepting things the way they are as an adult. One research revealed that children in the age group of 14 months to 5 years, asked an average of 107 questions per hour, which translates to a commendable three questions per minute. In contrast, another study showcased how the same spirit of inquiry drops significantly once schooling starts. The study revealed that students in an elementary school asked between two to five questions in a span of two hours. Things got worse as the students grew up to the 10-11 age bracket,

failing to ask their teachers a single question in the same two-hour span. Recent Google trends also bear testimony to this fleeing spirit of enquiry with a fall in the usage of keywords such as 'how' and 'why' in the past 10 years.

But if it's about asking, then why must we really ask. A research by Journal of Personality and Social Psychology found that highly curious toddlers have higher IQs as adults than toddlers with low curiosity. Be-

Pic: Kasak Jain, AGS Gurugram, X



ides, curiosity is the hotbed for innovation and discovery. Newton could have very well enjoyed an apple juice, for the fallen fruit was none of his business. And yet as an individual progresses through life, he learns set things in set systems, the curriculum forcing him to think in one direction, hardly allowing creative and inquiring digression. As Sir Ken Robinson states in the most watched TED talk of all times, "we don't grow into creativity,

we grow out of it", proving that a part of being an adult means losing the ability to learn, unlearn, and re-learn things. Adults find it difficult to be vulnerable enough to firstly admit that they don't know everything, secondly, question the conventional methods taught to them, and thirdly, ask for help.

Ever since the dawn of the Industrial Age, the tyrants looked for a workforce that performed consistently and diligently, but mainly without asking any questions, and so an entire system was created to follow orders from the top down where curiosity was never too good of a quality. And even if you are rebellious enough to question things, a quick answer of others already having their predetermined ways and their cemented knowledge would be enough to silence you, slowly but surely killing a curious cat that never attained any sort of satisfaction. Curiosity is the spark behind the spark of every great idea. The future indeed belongs to the curious. And if this will not motivate us to be curious, then we don't know what will.

Nature and us...

...A Broken Bond We Must Work Hard To Mend

Raabia Ali Abidi
AIS Saket, VIII B

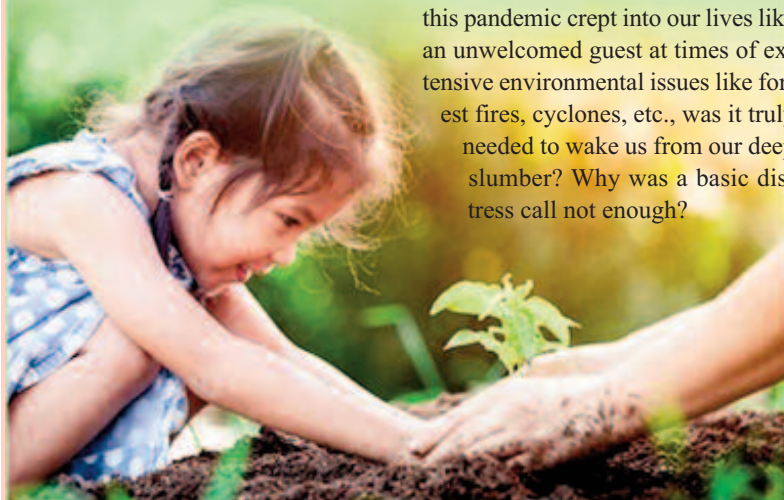
There can be no renewal of relationship with nature without the renewal of humanity itself, is something we are all well aware of by now. For in the ecosystem, every action has an equal and opposite reaction. The COVID-19 pandemic played a huge role in making us reflect on this symbiotic relationship that we share with the environment; in teaching us how everything in the natural world is connected and how all its sundry parts work together to make a balanced system. And that's solely why we must stay in harmony with it at all costs. When we kept disrupting this balance with our incautious actions, COVID-19 is how nature retaliated, and justifiably so. Need I dwell more on what accompanied the pandemic? I don't think so. Thus, maintaining this har-

mony is essential for us to nourish our soul and feel one with the natural world. And there's no better way to achieve it than living sustainably. We have several SDG goals to accomplish, howbeit, quite unfortunately, we are moving in the opposite direction. Nature is becoming increasingly fragmented and is diminishing at a rate quite incomprehensible for us humans. We no longer live in peace with nature but instead in accord with an artificial environment modified by human activity. This rapid expansion of the human population and the consumerist society makes us the dominant, invasive species. Protection of the environment from us and for us should thus be our topmost priority. Ask yourself - Our Earth is so beautiful then why must we cause it pain? Have we already forgotten the profound socio-economic challenges that the pandemic posed for us? The way this pandemic crept into our lives like an unwelcomed guest at times of extensive environmental issues like forest fires, cyclones, etc., was it truly needed to wake us from our deep slumber? Why was a basic distress call not enough?

These questions call for a strong and immediate response on our part to safeguard nature as quickly as possible. To avoid such pandemics from taking place, we need to please nature with our actions and not destroy it by proliferating selfish activities like urbanisation, deforestation, mining, etc. It is also crucial to promote biodiversity as many beautiful species of our planet are increasingly becoming extinct. So, in line with how charity begins at home and education is the key to success, we need to start educating those around us about such critical issues and the need to address them.

For only when we learn to live in harmony with nature, could we expect nature to behave in a likewise manner. When man indulges in destroying nature and its composition for selfish gains, humankind will be forced to repent for generations. This should be avoided at any cost, for the development of mankind is intertwined with that of nature and wildlife. Any break in their ranks would not augur well for the future. Nature and humans are two sides of the same coin, one simply cannot exist without the other. I am an ecosystem and an ecosystem is in me, so why must I not protect it with utmost sincerity?

(This essay was selected as a weekly winner for an essay competition titled 'Year 2 AC' hosted by UNESCO and Takhte, and will soon be published in their book.)



A spectacular beginning!

"Every secret of a writer's soul, every experience of his life, every quality of his mind is written large in his works." - **Virginia Woolf**



Lata Verma
GT Teacher
Coordinator

Students at Amity Global School, Gurugram, have perseveringly proved their mettle, and here we strongly stand having made a spectacular beginning of our participation in GT Making a Newspaper Contest! The opportunity incontrovertibly allowed the students to exhibit the IB and Cambridge-learner attributes they have developed over the years at Amity. They have indubitably been principled to meet the deadlines, revise their stories as per the feedback, and always give it their best. They came forward to efficiently and intuitively brainstorm, and consequently narrow down a plethora of ingenious ideas in collaboration with each other, which, finally, are presented here for the reader's perusal. These unprecedented times were a challenge for all of us, but they have only made us stronger as a team. I am amazed by the boundless enthusiasm of the students, and every moment spent with these young minds has been a favourable opportunity for me to nurture and shape their creative yet original ideas. On that note, dear readers, delve deep into the ocean of words and graphics spread across these twelve pages presented by Team AGS Gurugram. Happy reading! **GT**



We write to taste life twice - in the moment and in retrospect!

Shubhangi Lakhanpal, AGS Gurugram, X
Page Editor



The central vista dilemma

Wondering What Is The Project That Is Tearing Down Your Childhood Memories?

Shubhangi Lakhanpal
AGS Gurugram, X

It was a breezy autumn afternoon as Joon made his way to India Gate. He was finally meeting his childhood friend, Jin, after years: both had decided to meet up at the iconic destination that had been their staple picnic spot when they were kids. Soon Joon, excited, spotted Jin sitting in the garden in front of India Gate, but when he saw his sad expression, his mood changed.

Joon: Hi, Jin! It has been so long!
Jin: Yes, 10 long years!

Joon: But you don't look too happy to see me. What happened?

Jin: No, no, it is not you. I was just thinking about this park.

Joon: This park? What is so sentimental about this park?

Jin: What isn't so sentimental about this park, Joon? Don't you remember how we used to come here for school picnics? And even so many times with our families? Soon none of this will be here. The only thing we will have is our memories. They are ruining it all - even our history, altering the Parliament and what not. It was in the precincts of the existing

parliament that Britain handed over the reins to India. Nehru, too, gave his famous 'Tryst with destiny' speech from the parliament hall.

Joon: Ruining? How?

Jin: I heard some vista project is going to tear down everything. Whatever is it and why do they want to ruin such iconic places?

Joon: Ah, you mean the Central Vista Redevelopment Project? Well, it is actually a plan to revamp our country's central administrative area near Raisina Hill. Did you know this area has been intact since it was first designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker in the British colonial rule and until this project, no major changes had been made to it?

Jin: So why on earth are they changing it now?

Joon: Well, they say they want to revamp the three kilometre long Rajpath between Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate, and convert the North and South Blocks to publicly-accessible museums. They aim to create a new Central Secretariat, a new Parliament building, new residence and office for Vice President and Prime Minister. Some older places might even be converted into museums.

Jin: That all sounds too much. How much taxpayers' money will be used in this project?

Joon: As far as I know, the estimated cost of the whole redevel-

opment project, including a common CS and SPG building, is 20,000 crore INR for all four years. The project started on December 10, 2020, and will be finished by 2024, and up till now, 1339 crore INR have been sanctioned for it.

Jin: Woah! That sure is a lot of money. Do we really need this whole redevelopment and revamping? Weren't things fine as they were?

Joon: Some would say 'not really', because a revamp session has been the need of the hour for quite some time now, Jin. I mean, look at it logically. Do you think a house built in 1921 is still strong enough to function? I'd be scared to set my foot inside it. Would you want to live in such a place?

Jin: 1921? No way! What if it collapses on me?

Joon: Yeah, that's what worries the authorities as well. With the whole Central Vista being a century old, there have been claims that it has 'failed' to keep up with our needs, and the government even pays 1000-2000 crore INR rent per year because of its poor conditions. A study in the 1990s was also done on it by the government and they concluded that the area needed to be redeveloped.

Jin: So, they could have just refurbished it.

Joon: The existing Parliament building showing signs of overuse and distress is not the only prob-

lem; our current Parliament has only room for 552 MPs as of now. The population has increased four times since independence, but the number of MPs have not increased in the same proportion. Where do we house new MPs if we don't have enough space? As per the project, we will also have a new parliament building which will be built beside the existing structure and it will have a larger seating capacity than the current one. The Rajya Sabha will have 384 seats and the Lok Sabha 888 seats, with additional capacity of 1272 seats.

Jin: That sounds like major remodeling. What else does this project entail?

Joon: There is also the Central Vista Avenue where bridges, pedestrian underpasses, wide footpaths, parking lots, benches, etc., are proposed. Then we have the Central Secretariat that will be built on either side of Rajpath, and then the existing Vigyan Bhavan will be demolished to create a new Central Conference Centre besides the National Archives. There are new offices and residences for the VP and PM, and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts will be relocated from its current home on Man Singh Road to a plot near Jamnagar House.

Jin: Okay, that all sounds interesting, but...

Joon: But..?

Jin: But did we really need to allocate so much money on such a project when our country is only developing and has bigger issues like poverty, unemployment, pandemic, etc?

Joon: You are right. These were also some of the complaints raised by the public and oppositions, and even former civil servants have questioned the need to spend so much on such a project during the pandemic. But on the brighter side, the project can give a boost to our economy considering it will employ 2,000 people.

Jin: And I don't think conservationists and historians agree with the decision of tearing everything down. These buildings and places have been a part of Delhi's history, and just taking them away seems a little weird.

Joon: Well, that has also been mentioned by a lot of critics. They are concerned about the destruction of places we have come to know as a part of our rich heritage. This is perhaps why a petition was filed against the project, which as of now rests with the Supreme Court.

Jin: The project is still ongoing so we don't know what the end result will actually be, but I hope it doesn't end up ruining our favourite places.

Joon: Yeah, I hope so too! Come on, let's go get an ice cream like we used to do in the old times, at least for now!





Storywala



Graphic: Riya Kharyal, AGS Gurugram, X

Vidushi Goswami
AGS Gurugram, XI

This was it. My hands shook vigorously, and my breath was stuck in my throat, as the sultry substance on my hands dripped to the murky floor in droplets. This was it. I had finally broken free. Forcing myself to take a large gulp of air, I look into the lifeless eyes of my husband that shone under the moonlight flooding in through the window. He deserved it. If anything, what I had done to him was much

less than what he truly deserved. But I couldn't hold the heartbreak and terror any longer as I fell to the floor; a disheveled mess myself, as my frustration poured out in a flood of unwanted tears. My hands still sticky with blood, pulled at my hair tightly as a silent scream escaped my mouth. I couldn't handle the pain any longer. It felt like somebody had torn open my chest and carved a gaping hole in my heart. It was the physical pain that reminded me of what I had just done, of the grave sin that I had just committed.

He deserved it. If anything, what I had done to him was much less than what he truly deserved.

Mumbling profanities to myself as my hands painfully ripped out strands of my hair, my wild eyes stared at the knife lying on the kitchen floor in a puddle of his crimson lifeline. Coated with blood and disposed as though it meant nothing, it seemed to be calling out to me, as though if I were to pick it up, the gut-wrenching pain would automatically leave.

An involuntary whimper escaped my mouth, as a final tear forced its way out of my frantic eyes. Taking longer breaths, I urged my body to stand up, to awaken from the shock. My knees wobbling and feet decorated with splatters of blood, I prowled towards the knife lying beside my husband's putrid body. The pounding of my heartbeat against my chest was a comfortable rhythm; the rattling sounds of my breath a familiar friend.

Forcing myself to inhale, I slowly and quietly bent down to pick the knife up when it happened. I let out a blood-curling shriek and jumped back with alarm. My eyes widened as panic flooded through my veins, and I held my breath as I saw my husband's hand creeping towards me. His blood-spattered hand inched towards me as though it was a silent reminder that freedom wasn't an option for me.

As soon as his fingers grazed my feet, I burst out laughing hysterically with tears rolling down my cheeks and snot covering my face. "CUT," cried the director next.



Avani Goel

Tutti Frutti Vanilla cake

Avani Goel, AIS VKC Lucknow, IX

Ingredients

Curd.....1/2 cup	Milk.....1 cup
Butter.....1/3 cup	Vanilla essence1 tsp
Powdered sugar1 cup	Baking powder1 tsp
Semolina.....1 cup	Baking soda.....1/2 tsp
All-purpose flour.....1/2 cup	Tutti frutti1/3 cup

Procedure

- Sieve semolina and all-purpose flour in a bowl.
- Now, add some curd, butter, and powdered sugar in it and mix gently.
- Slowly add milk in this batter and keep it aside for about 10-15 minutes so that the batter becomes fluffy.
- Add baking powder, baking soda and vanilla essence to this batter.
- Now, let the oven preheat at about 180 degrees for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, grease a baking pan with some butter.
- Pour the batter in the pan and sprinkle some tutti frutti on it. You can garnish it with anything you like.
- Put the batter in the oven and let it bake for about 30 to 40 minutes.
- Take the cake out and serve it to your family and friends! Savour it all!

WORDS VERSE

Harshita Prasad
AIS Noida, IX C

People, people, everywhere

Once upon a bright shining time
I was curious, wanting to see
How it would truly feel like
When I was alone and was free

Away from thundering crowds
Away from never-ending words
Away from the hustle of daily life
And secret conversations overheard

Once upon a bright shining time
I would have given up my name
To have a day away from people
And extinguish my anguish's flame

I dreamt of relaxing in my room
With some music I'd have chilled
I would be out of people's reach
My peaceful world I would build

With myself I had wanted to be
Away from stress and the strain
There's people, people, everywhere
I felt all my efforts go in vain

But never had I much anticipated
My irrational wish becoming true
In such a cruel and torturing form
That my wish I now withdrew

Corona spread, pandemic came
Lockdown trapped us, had us homed
Far from roads, far from public
Alone in our thoughts, we roamed

It might not seem to be as awful
When it had on first started to
I wonder how bad it could be
Worse it got, through and through

I woke up now like a normal day
Dressed and stepping out of the door
But schools are closed for long
A longing I'd never felt before

I got ready on the weekend
For my family and peers
"Sorry, but there's a lockdown"
My wish took away my cheers

I have become more stressed
And then came restlessness
Every minute seemed like an hour
An hour was a day, more or less

Now I was alone, wish fulfilled
Boredom at every second's beat
People, people, everywhere
But not a single one to meet

"What can and should I do?"
I thought a hundred times a day
Video-calling wasn't the same
When standing in harm's way

In the balcony, I quietly sat
Catching glimpses of running feet
People, people, everywhere
But not a single one I could meet

Soon it finally dawned on me
People are anchors of our lives
Bring fun and make it worth living
Without them, loneliness thrives

So, now I cherish every moment
With all the folks around me
Thankful I will be for the support
Away from them I don't want to be!



CAMERA CAPERS

Sajal Kumar, AIS Vasundhara 1, Alumna

Send in your entries to
cameracap@theglobaltimes.in



"I'll be with you from dusk till dawn..."



"The dreaming of escape, will keep you up at night..."



"I've got the wind at my back and my foot to the floor..."



Of course, it is happening inside your head, but why on earth should that mean that it is not real?

Gauri Sharma, AGS Gurugram, VIII
Page Editor

The fruit of practice

Wisdom tale



Aditi Agarwal

AIS Gurugram 43, VIII

“There is no way Sanskriti should even participate; she is so poor at sports!” laughed Catherine. Upon hearing her taunts, all her friends laughed with her. Together they made their way down the hill, and soon they all saw Sanskriti walking their way. Dressed in basketball shorts, a t-shirt, and sports shoes, Sanskriti was out and about to practice for the upcoming race the school was organising. She was the topper of her class, always receiving good marks and good at everything, but the list did not include anything athletic. In fact, whenever it came to playing games or any sports,

she was always the last one to finish, huffing and puffing to catch her breath. Her classmates would always make fun of her because of it, which had disheartened her too much. She thought that maybe this time she could practice before the upcoming race to perform better, but here were Catherine and her minions to tease and taunt her once again. “Oh, there is the geek! Hi, Sanskriti. What are you doing wearing sports shoes? Didn’t even know you had them. Must be brand new since we all know they are useless in your care!” said Catherine. Even though Sanskriti tried to ignore them, their harsh words stung her, and she wanted to go home and cry. As she reached home, her mom saw the

frown on her face.

“Sanskriti *beta*, what happened?” her mother asked lovingly.

“I want to win the Star Award, but I can’t!” cried Sanskriti.

“Star Award? What is that?”

“The school is organising a Star Run and whosoever wins the race will be awarded the Star Award and a gold medal.”

“And why do you think you cannot win it?” enquired the mother.

“Because I am bad at sports and everyone makes fun of me!”

“So?”

“So, mom? I cannot win!”

“How are those two things related? You are such a studious child, and you always work so hard, so how can you, of all people, forget what perseverance can get you? If you want to win, prac-

Her classmates would always make fun of her because of it, which had disheartened her too much.

“Practice, practice, practice, and keep practicing hard, and you will surely win!”

“Really? You think so, mom? You think I can win?” Sanskriti asked.

“Of course, I do!”

Her mom passed Sanskriti a reassuring smile which lifted up her spirits. Taking her words into consideration, Sanskriti decided to practice hard every single day to become better, and she did become better!

When the day of the race came, everyone thought Sanskriti would definitely be last.

“3...2...1!” yelled the coach and blew the whistle. Everyone ran as fast as they could. Catherine was leading through the race. Everyone including Catherine herself was confident that she would win. But just as the participants neared the finish line, Sanskriti overtook everyone including Catherine. The audience couldn’t believe it. Sanskriti won the race, and the Star Award too. 🏆

So, what did we learn today?
Practice makes a man perfect.



Table lamp

Mihika Mahajan, AIS Vasundhara 6, II

Supplies

- 500 ml plastic bottle
- Decorative material
- Cutter
- Acrylic colours
- Small round wax candle
- Paint brush
- Glue

Steps

- Take a plastic bottle and using a cutter, cut it into two equal parts horizontally.
- Using acrylic colours and paint brush, paint both the parts. You can use the same colour or two different colours.
- Once it dries, apply a second coat and let it dry once again.
- On the bottom half of the bottle, cut a rectangle in the middle which is wider than your candle in breadth and almost double in length.
- Take the top half of the bottle and make slits at its bottom, creating a few inch-sized strips. However, make slits only half way through the circle as shown in the picture. Bend the ends so that all the slits face upward.
- Decorate both halves with any decorative material you might like such as stickers, flowers, pins, etc.
- Once you are done, place the top half on top of the bottom half.
- Light a small candle and place it in the rectangle hole in the bottom half of the bottle. Your table lamp is ready!

PAINTING CORNER

Anika Jain, AIS Mayur Vihar, VI



A soldier returns

Gauri Sharma, AGS Gurugram, VIII

Sending my very last goodbyes
To a beloved bedecked in festoons
Though I still remember him today
As a little kid watching cartoons

Oh, how beautiful he truly looks
Wrapped nicely in our tiranga
But how painful it seems to be
To watch him mixed with ganga

I did not even get to witness
What they say was his last smile
But how was I supposed to know
He’d said he’d be home in a while

But when did I ask you, my son
To return at this doorstep like this
But when did I ask you, my son
To greet the ultimate death’s kiss



You have left your family today
Left your friends and alike behind
Because you kept your land first
A soldier of one of its own kind

You never even uttered a cry
Repressed it all like a smoulder
Because you had a job to complete
For you were a brave soldier!

It's Me



Know me

My name: Krishna Aditya Verma
My Class: III
My school: AIS VYC Lko
My birthday: August 28

My favourites

Teachers: Mary ma’am, Twisha ma’am and Sunita ma’am
Subjects: Math and Hindi
Friends: Arnav and Krishabh
Game: Cricket

Food: Dal and chapati
Mall: Phoenix Palassio

My dreams and goals

Hobbies: Playing games and dancing
I like: Watching TV
I dislike: Cheese and sleeping
Role model: My mom
I want to be: An IAS officer
I want to feature in GT because: I want to be famous.

POEM



World of peace

Praful Kumar, AIS Saket, V

I spent years fighting in a war
But want to believe in my heart
That everything will one day be
As good and lovely as it can be

The world will no longer fight
And our future will be very bright
So I decided to write this down
To help me overcome my frown

I am gazing at the stars in the sky
Hoping to war we all say goodbye
Our days shall be full of peace
Without wars, world is complete! 🌍



Be the next Neil Armstrong

Recreate The Magic Of One Small Step
For Man, One Giant Leap For Mankind

Do you love space? Have you also always wanted to float amongst the stars, walk on the moon, and deliver lines that will be remembered for the rest of humanity's existence? Yes? Well, then, you are in luck! On the joyous occasion of 52 years since Apollo 11 first landed humans on the moon on July 16, 1969, the New Astronautical Space Assembly (we are a real organisation, we promise, but don't try to verify!) is paying the 'real' NASA homage by starting a new mission to replicate the original one. Read all the details of the OG mission below so you can join us in copying it, too!

Attention!
Attention!
Attention!

Requirements for astronauts

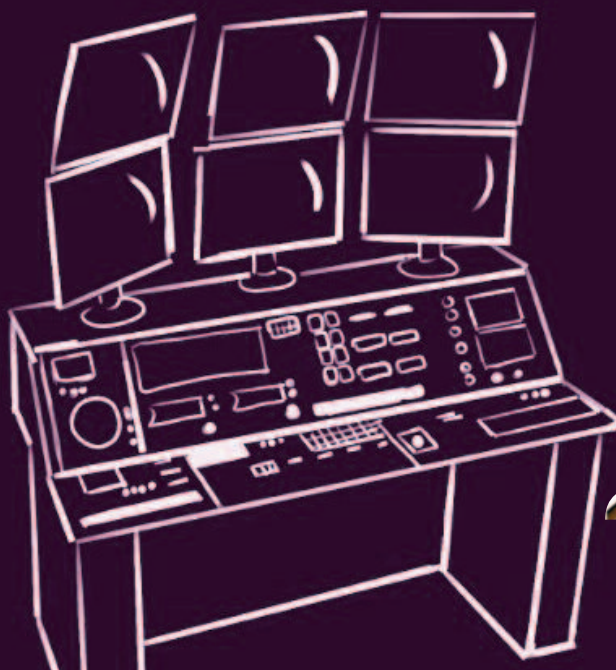


Since the original Apollo program consisted of three crew members, we, too, are looking for our shining trio. Neil Armstrong's replacement will be the Commander and Buzz Aldrin's copy will be the Lunar Module Pilot, and that, of course, means that Mr Second-Hand Armstrong will be the first man to step on the moon, at least for us. We will also need

someone to be our Michael Collins and fly the Command Module, alone in lunar orbit as the other two spend 21 hours and 36 minutes on the moon's surface and set up their own camp there called Tranquility Base. They need to collect 21.5 kg of lunar material to bring it back to Earth for examination, just like the original team.

Requirements for technology

Just like NASA, we are aiming for our spacecraft to have three parts: a Command Module, a Service Module, and a Lunar Module. The spacecraft will be launched by a Saturn V rocket, a super heavy-lift launch vehicle, which we will be borrowing from the original mission. Paying detailed attention to being an exact copy of the first Apollo 11 mission, we want our spacecraft to be the exact same, which is why Columbia, the Command Module, must have a cabin for the three astronauts as it will be the only part of the spaceship that will return to Earth. The Service Module needs to support the Command Module with propulsion, electrical power, oxygen, and water, and Eagle, the Lunar Module, must have two stages - a descent stage for landing on the moon, and an ascent stage to place the astronauts back into the lunar orbit so they could be on their way back to Earth. As Apollo 11's technology was developed by Project Gemini, NASA's second human spaceflight programme, we, too, are looking for our own version which can adopt the advances of the original in semiconductor electronic technology, including MOSFETs in Interplanetary Monitoring Platform, and silicon IC chips in Apollo Guidance Computer.



Requirements for office sites

Although we do have a main office that is made up of real buildings, we promise, we still are looking for a launchsite in Merritt Island, Florida, so we can launch the rocket from the same place NASA launched it. Granted, we aren't the Kennedy Space Center, but anything close enough is also okay with us. Not just on earth, but we need a landing site on the moon, and just like Apollo 11, we also need a Site Selection Board that will study the moon's surface based on the data provided by the Lunar Orbiter program and Surveyor program. Basing the final site selection of 7 criteria, NASA finally selected Sea of Tranquility for the landing, a feat we want to replicate.

Requirements for a PA

Yes, we know this one sounds so stupid, but our team is a little forgetful, so we need someone to keep reminding us to stick to deadlines. So if you are up for being our Personal Almanac, you need to ensure that we follow the original mission's timeline where our spacecraft should be launched from Earth on July 16 and should travel for three days before it enters the lunar orbit. The Lunar Module should then be landed in the Sea of Tranquility on the moon on July 20, and after spending more than eight days in space, the moonwalkers should be back home, splashing down in the Pacific Ocean on July 24. And, oh, before our Apollo 11 makes a debut, you also will need to arrange the expeditions of Apollo 7 to evaluate the Command Module in earth's orbit, Apollo 8 in the lunar orbit, Apollo 9 to put the Lunar Module through its paces in earth's orbit, and Apollo 10 as a dress rehearsal for the final show. To retain the feeling that was created on July 16, 1969, it would also be the duty of the PA to ensure that Armstrong's understudy recreates his iconic "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" dialogue, with an estimated one million spectators watching the launch from the vicinity of the site. Several dignitaries from US and all around the world should be present to mark the occasion and it should be broadcasted on live TV.

If you are interested in repeating the course of Apollo 11, the first mission that landed humanity on the moon, then sign up with us today and let's role-play this amazing adventure that not only changed the course of space race, but also of the limits that humanity held itself up to. Join our team today and let's pay homage to Apollo 11 and its small step that truly did change the course of mankind.

HISTORY DECODED



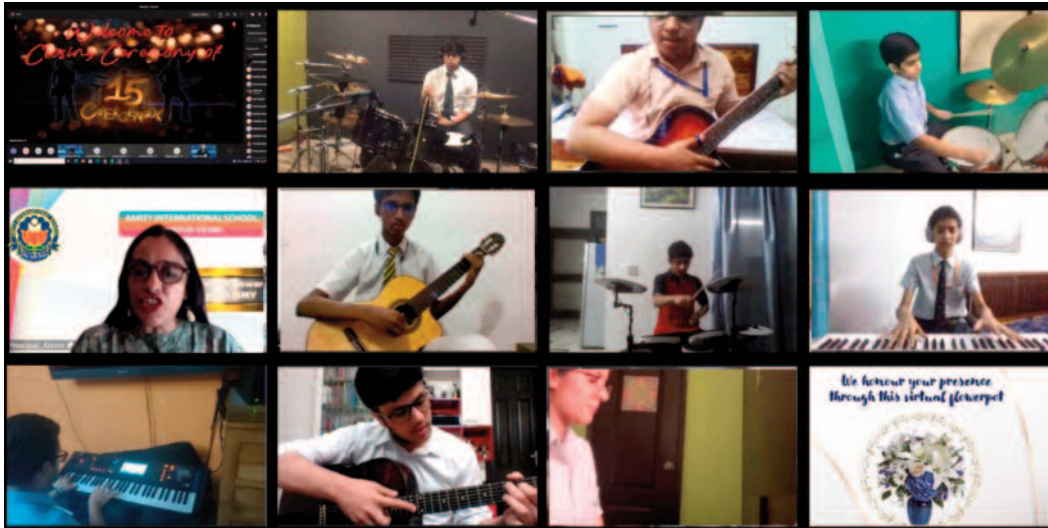
What is the point of making a claim if you cannot prove it, Watson?

Samudi Ranawake, XII & Riya Kharyal, X
AGS Gurugram, Page Editors



Crescendo 2021

A Fest Of Western Music And Melody



Music enthusiasts display their talent in various fields of western music at Crescendo

AIS Mayur Vihar

The western music society of the school organised 15th Crescendo, the annual inter-school competition of western music in its 2nd virtual avatar titled 'Crystal Crescendo', from July 28-30, 2021. Envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, as a platform to nurture rhythmic intelligence of young minds, the event also commemorated 15 years of the establishment of the society. With 225 participants from 44 eminent schools of Delhi/NCR battling it out in different categories, the event was indeed filled with a drive to bejewel their schools with the prestigious awards. The event began with a soulful hymn and the virtual felicitation of Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, Amity University, and the Chairperson. School principal, Meenu Kanwar addressed the participants, motivating them to resonate the com-

petition with their soulful melodies. A short video was showcased displaying the vivid colours of Crescendo during its vivacious journey of 15 years. Another video showcasing the alumni from various Amity schools who made the legacy of Crescendo possible over the years was also presented. Aanvi Bhatt from Class XII of AIS VKC Lucknow won first prize, while Diya Verma from Class XI of AIS Pushp Vihar bagged third prize in the original composition category. Navya Tuli from Class IX of AIS Mohali got the award for best lyrics in the same category. In solo singing category, Parth Khullar (XII) from AIS Saket won second prize, and Pari Sinha (X) from AIS Pushp Vihar got the consolation prize. In live category, Arnab Khurana (XII) from AIS Gurugram 43 won second prize in acoustic guitar, and Vedansh Batra (XII) of AIS Saket won second prize for electric guitar. Gauhar Mathur

(VII) of AIS Gurugram 46 won second prize, and Ekorshi Paul Choudhury (X) from AIS Vasundhara 6 bagged third prize in acoustic drums. Ritika Chatterjee (VII) of AIS Noida bagged second prize in electric drums. In bass category, Prashast Kolhe (XII) from AIS Saket won second prize. Debaditya Halder (XII) of AIS Mayur Vihar, and Nishant Verma (XII) of AIS Gurugram 43 won first and second prize in keyboard respectively. For piano, Deetya Tripathi (X) of AIS Saket bagged the consolation prize. In unique instrumental category, first prize went to Rohan Nagpal (XII) from AIS Pushp Vihar, while Shreyans Hariharan (XII) of AIS Saket bagged third prize. The event was judged by professional musicians and the members of famous music bands, Ashton Vaz and Aveleon Giles, along with the notable alumni of the school, Nishant Iyer, Ayan Sharma and Maulshree Kumar. It was a zestful show of music, melody and marvel. 🇮🇳



The prestigious Diana Award



The pioneer of social change, Satyam Mehta

The quest for change

Diana Award For Tangible Change

AIS Noida

Budding social entrepreneur, Satyam Mehta from Class XII of AIS Noida was felicitated with the prestigious Diana Award 2021, in a virtual award ceremony held on June 28, 2021. Established in the memory of Diana, the late Princess of Wales by the charity of the same name, the coveted award recognised 300 young social changemakers in the age group 9-25 years for the inspiring initiatives to build a better world. Satyam has won the prestigious award for his positive social change initiatives and humanitarian efforts in empowering rural investment, sustainable management of e-waste, and promoting better menstrual health. He was selected for this award after rigorous global nomination in which the participants had to demonstrate positive impact of their social

initiatives with respect to five parameters namely, vision, social impact, inspiring others, youth leadership, and service journey. An advocate of inclusive growth technology lies at the heart of all the initiatives of Satyam which won him the award. His winning initiatives were an app called 'Rural Invest', an e-waste management initiative titled 'Junkguards', and the menstrual health promotion initiative 'Pravahkriti'. The app Rural Invest (www.ruralinvest.in) is a comprehensive wealth management system which seeks to empower the rural users with financial literacy to invest their money in various asset classes. It aims to minimise the dependence of rural people on local money lenders. The Junkguards (www.junkguard.com) is about e-waste management and has collected more than 700 kgs of e-waste for its sustainable reuse. The initiative has also

won the national level NYS leadership league and has received investments worth INR 2,00,000 from the Foundation of Young Innovators, Essel Group, and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE). His third winning initiative, Pravahkriti (www.pravahkriti.com), strives to promote better menstrual health and hygiene management among females. It engages different strata of society towards period positivity. Besides his winning initiatives, Satyam is also the CEO of FlyUp (www.letsflyup.com), a student run organisation which provides entrepreneurial opportunities to youngsters through Entrepreneurship Clubs, Global Student Community, Pitching Opportunities and Mentorship. He has also been selected for MIT Launch X program 2021, where he will be mentored by the industry experts to create real products and solve business challenges in viable ways.



Gitesh Chopra with his certificate

Cybersecurity champion

AIS Pushp Vihar

Gitesh Chopra of Class XII has been declared as an ethical hacker after clearing C|EH Master exam on July 25, 2021. It is the most popular cybersecurity certification program in the world. He cleared the prestigious exam which has been developed to give aspiring cybersecurity professionals a chance to prove their skills and abilities based on today's challenges. He was sponsored by MyCorporation.in for the Certified Ethical Hacker V10 program and mentored by the EC council trainers before clearing exam. C|EH is the foundation exam for anyone with 6-12 months of network security experience seeking to be a cybersecurity professional. 🇮🇳

An ode to Hindi

Amitians Celebrate National Language

AIS Vasundhara 6

Students from Class VI-VIII organised virtual Hindi Pakwada from July 22-30, 2021, to sensitise children about the richness of Hindi language and literature. Various activities like role plays, interviews, book reviews, etc., were conducted for an entire fortnight. Class VI put up 'Kathputli Khel' based on topics 'Lockdown se mili seekh', and 'Jal hi jivan, jal hi pran'. Students from Class VII engaged into Sak-

shatkar Pratiyogita, a pair activity wherein students acted as interviewers and celebrities. Class VIII students participated in the unique 'Kaun Banega Shikshak Pratiyogita' wherein they played the roles of different teachers. They also paid a literary tribute to the legendary Hindi author Munshi Premchand. As a tribute, they presented a pictorial book review of his numerous novels, did role plays, created a digital story, and presented a virtual panorama of his great works like Godaan, Gaban, etc. 🇮🇳



Kathputli show put up by the students



Students discuss Hindi literature



A video showcases spaceship take-off

Space reading

On Space Sojourns

AIS VKC Lucknow

School conducted reading activities for Class I-VIII from August 3-7, 2021, to make students more aware about the recent space sojourns of Richard Branson and Jeff Bezos. Students from Class I-III watched the presentations and videos to enhance their understanding of the space adventures undertaken by both stalwarts. Class IV-VIII engaged themselves into reading newspaper and magazine articles, and collected newspaper clippings of space travel by both the billionaires. They also discussed fun facts about the space travel in their respective classes. 🇮🇳



Nightmarish hell

A Young Scholar's Spine-Chilling Journey To The Depths Of Hell And Back

Aadvik Bhargava, AGS Gur, IX

As Jack sat down to do his homework, a wave of lethargy took over him and he felt his eyelids getting heavy. Slowly he drifted off to dreamland...only to wake up on blood red clouds. Before him stood a giant gate with a sign "Welcome to Hell!" Terrified, Jack pushed it open to pass through all the 9 circles of Hell.

First circle History

Hundreds of people with wrinkled skin surrounded him as soon as he entered the place. Eyes menacing, the skeletal figures asked million questions at once - "You boy, when was the Battle of Plassey fought?" "Oh, you dimwit, when did the French fight for democracy?" Not knowing the answer to anyone of their questions, Jack ran away, already scared out of his wits.

Second circle Physical Training

He probably shouldn't have run and exhausted his energy because he entered the vast gym-like ground with everyone running faster than he could ever dream of, making his knees weak. "Run, boy, run!" yelled the coach, and in fear, he joined the crowd. After about 15 minutes or so, when he really couldn't feel his legs anymore, he crawled through the

crowd and thanked heavens for making his escape successful.

Third circle Chemistry

As he crawled in, he saw the walls covered in periodic tables and in the middle sat a woman named Chemistry wearing the crown of Hydrogen atom. The bones peeking out of her chemically burnt skin spelled NaCl and her teeth showed Ca. As she charged towards Jake, her skin, slowly going through a reaction, caught on fire, causing him to scream and run with a newfound energy.

Fourth circle English

"Away, you snarling, you elf-skin, you stock fish," cried Shakespeare

to him. "Away, you three-inch fool. Your wit's as thick as a Tewkesbury mustard," yelled Chaucer. "How could you stand in my presence when you can't even tell a noun from a pronoun?" Bearing their insults, Jack backed away with tears in his eyes.

Fifth circle Foreign Language

"Est-ce que tu parles français?" cried a man in a bonnet in his ears. "Huh?" was all Jack could say. "Ah, Sie sprechen wahrscheinlich Deutsch?" "HUH??" "Hangug-eo malhaeyo?"

"HUHHH??" As more and more people came up to him, talking in languages he didn't understand, he screamed his way past all of them.

Sixth circle Biology

Entering a science lab, Jack saw various people taking notes as one of them stood in the front and lectured on: "A study of life and living organisms, it is only biology that tells us about the chemical processes, molecular interactions, physiological mechanisms, and evolution of a being." Already bored to death, he silently made his way out of the study where everyone was #cells stan.

Seventh circle Artificial intelligence

Clicking away buttons on a keyboard, the techies were busy writing codes after codes. Seeming harmless, Jack finally took a breather and approached them to see what they were engaged in when a shiver ran up his spine. "Robot to kill all of humanity...what?" As he backed away, he bumped into a table, causing a glass to drop and making everyone look at him. "Don't kill me!" he cried.

Eighth circle Geography

Entering a land which was half covered in mountains and half in oceans, Jack, at once, felt cold and hot. "How am I freezing and dying of humidity at the same time?" "Because here you will find both the Southern and Northern Hemisphere of Earth mixed together along with all the other places on the planets. Want to be lost in the Himalayas forever? Or drown in the Pacific Ocean?" "N-n-no!"

Ninth circle Mathematics

As he finally made his way to the very last circle, a large snake made his way to him. Frozen in fear, he heard him speak in his serpentine voice, "Tell me! What's the sssquare root of 8M? Ssspeak now!" The snake advanced on him, wrapping himself around him and choking him.

"Nooooo," Jack screamed and opened his eyes only to realise it was all just a dream! "Thank God!"



Illustration: Dhanvi Gupta, AGS Gurugram, X



Evaluating the work, Editor-in-chief



Press corps, The Editorial Board



Articulating through art The illustrator



Capturing the world The photographer



Developing best of the visuals The graphic designer



Weaving the magic of words The writer



Selecting the finest of all The page editor

