

This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, Saket, as a part of the ‘GT Making A Newspaper Contest’. Each page of this unique edition carries a special story handcrafted by the school’s editorial team as a part of the competition. The inter-Amity newspaper making competition witnesses different branches of Amity schools across India churn out their own ‘Contest Edition’ which are pitted against one another at the end of the year, culminating with GT Awards. So, here’s presenting the third edition of ‘GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2020-21’.

Do you think monetisation of the various underutilised public assets, as per the National Monetisation Pipeline, would help give a much-needed boost to the Indian economy?

a) Yes b) No c) Can’t say

To vote, log on to www.theglobaltimes.in

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?

Yes: 38% No: 32% Can’t say: 30%

Results as on September 12, 2021

Climate Change Adaptation – Adapting To Life In A Changing Climate

Change begets change

Sarthak Sahoo, XI F & Leela Ajeet, X, AIS Saket

“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent; it is the one most adaptable to change,” said British naturalist Charles Darwin. Today, as the climate clock ticks with rising heat, the world is due to a taste of truth: prevention is not enough.

From Smoke to Mirrors
What’s Up?: With 30% of all of our carbon footprint arising from industries that are crucial for national development, efforts at preventing such conditional evolution are rejected. The standards for the environment in growing economies are poor owing to the focus on development. **Poor Prevention:** In spite of global commitments, fossil fuels hold more than 70% of the share of the global energy market. This is because the positive effects of hydrocarbons are felt on a global scale, while negative on a local level. This in turn leads to heuristically biased judgement inhibiting action by governments. We should then move to a remedial model of reducing carbon footprint as opposed to the popular preventive tools which have failed so far. **Adapting To It:** The role of technology has to be realised in contrast to minimising releasing carbon in the first place. Case in point - carbon capture technologies that are crucial to reduce the carbon already prevalent in the atmosphere, sequestering it for other use. As of 2020, there are 21 global operating carbon-capturing projects as 44 remain in development and investment in green technology increases. *The cogs and coughs permeate through the tenuous yet blinding air.*

Drop by Drop
What’s Up?: Glaciers play a significant role on earth and their melting leads to manifold blights. As our protective cover melts, we have ‘cold-runoffs’ which affect the downstream temperatures and endangers fisheries. Reducing glaciers leads to the loss of habitat of walruses, arctic foxes, reindeers, etc., thereby adversely impacting the rich biodiversity of our planet. **Poor Prevention:** Efforts of mass reduction in the melting of the glaciers have not been successful as the 6th IPCC report predicts that just 500 bn tonnes more of CO₂ emissions would leave only a 50% chance of staying below 1.5°C. This means that the Arctic going ice-free by 2050 is most likely in all assessed scenarios. **Adapting To It:** Since dwindling water supply, a symptom of glacial retreat affects hill communities the most, dwellers of the Italian Alps now use alternatives such as burning wood chips to generate electricity, instead of hydroelectricity. Those in the Peruvian Andes focus on saving as much as possible of what is left by upgrading the water infrastructure to prevent waste. *The white peaks disappear away as the lone polar bear watches on.*

Poseidon’s Early Callings
What’s Up?: From destructive erosion, wetland flooding, aquifer and agricultural soil contamination with salt, and lost habitat for fish, birds, and plants, a deluge of problems descend on us as the sea levels rise. Already, flooding in low-lying coastal areas is forcing people to migrate to higher ground, and millions more are vulnerable to flood risk and loss of basic services due to higher coastal water levels. **Poor Prevention:** In spite of attempts at intervention by governments, organisations, and individuals to rarify the effects of rising sea levels, climate scientists predict a possible increase of up to 2 metres in sea level by the end of the century. **Adapting To It:** Houses on stilts and floating houses are flood mitigation methods being used in coastal regions. New infrastructure for homes, businesses near the sea now factor in the effect of rising waters into their building plans. Sea walls, dykes and flood barriers are also being made to keep structures on land safe from the sea. *A visit to the archipelago is best done now, or you may not be able to at all.*

As we traverse the thicket of the COVID-19 crisis, we have seen that adaptation is the gradual means to normality. Climate change is inevitable in varying degrees around the world owing to natural and artificial reasons. Humans then have to do what humans have done best - adapt to it. How do we stand the test of Darwin’s prognostications? To leverage human ingenuity and indomitable will to live is the sole road to a better and only future.

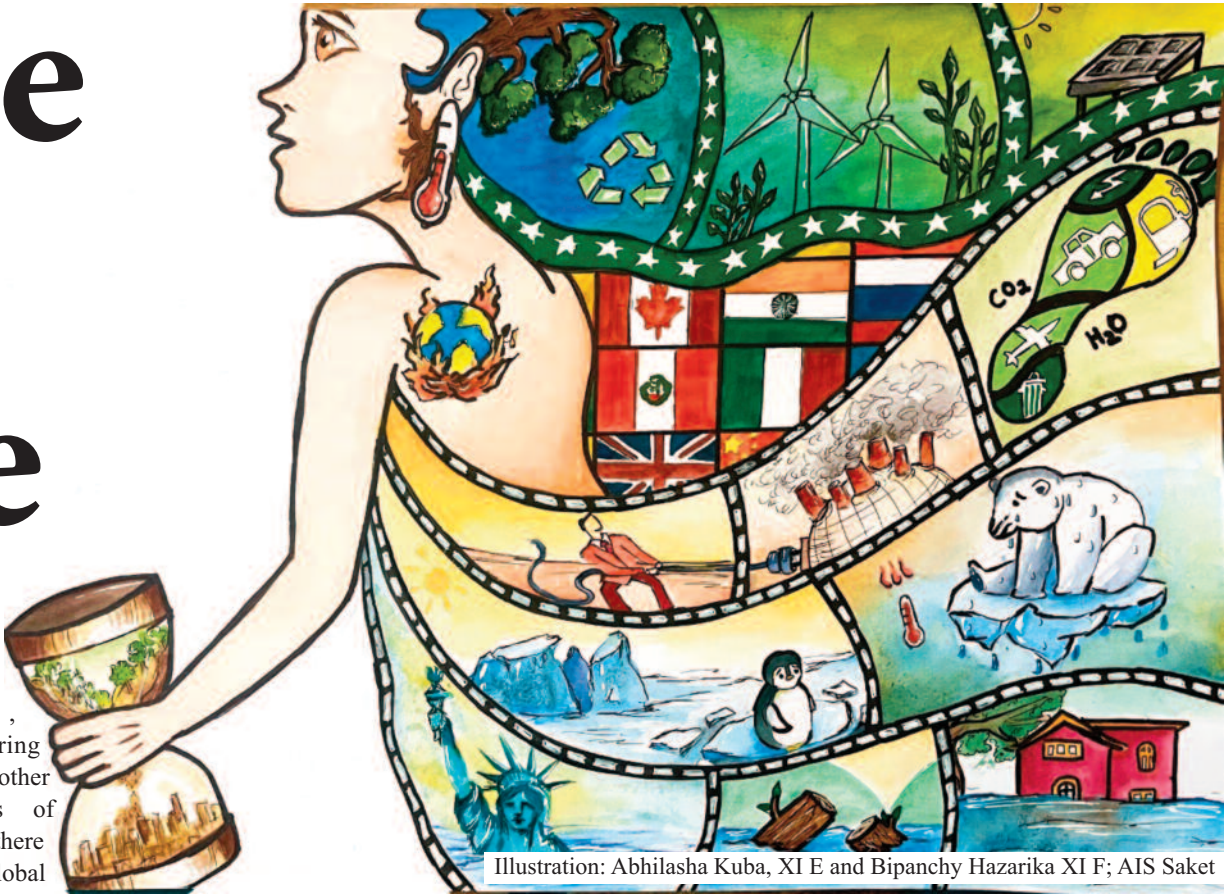


Illustration: Abhilasha Kuba, XI E and Bipanchy Hazarika XI F; AIS Saket

The 3Ps of sustainability

Zitin Munshi On The Need To Create A Sustainable World

Zitin Munshi, Founder, Next Mile Co.

Sarthak Sahoo, XI F & Madhav Sharma, X D, AIS Saket

“Every minute there is someone thinking of a new innovation, a new business idea, a better life that will be good for both the ‘planet’ and ‘people’,” says Zitin Munshi, founder, Next Mile Co. Having explored different geographies such as Botswana, the United States, and the United Kingdom across different types of organisations, Zitin evaluates the status of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) internationally within the entrepreneurship sphere. In a conversation with GT reporters, she sheds light on the three Ps of sustainability- people, planet and performance, which benefit enormously from a sustainable business.

Of people
The preface: My first acquaintance with the concept of sustainable business was when I started working at Hindustan Unilever Limited. It is there that I understood how an organisation can make a meaningful difference if it wishes to. Not only is this good for their business performance, but also for the planet. For me, it was something new and I realised the narrative of business was changing. **The practicality:** When we talk about the notion of sustainable development, each country or locality has its own set of challenges and opportunities. For example, if we take a cross-country example between Botswana and India, the overall atmosphere differs significantly in terms of the culture, economy, demographics, etc. But, on the other hand, awareness about sustainability as a concept is nascent in both countries. In the entrepreneurship space, the idea of building a sustainable business is also new for them both. However, it is heartening to see that entrepreneurs are open to embedding principles of sustainability, especially if it makes business sense.

Of planet
The plan: The SDGs have to be made locally relevant to the challenges being faced. In the case of

INTERVIEW

always go in good faith towards the best day, but also always be prepared for the worst day.

Of performance
The periphery: The SDGs have very defined goal statements and they appear to be ambitious in nature. However, I believe that if only we aim big, we will gain something close to it. In the case of the SDGs, we need to work together at all levels and find ways to fill in the gaps which are local in nature so that solutions are also local and locally relevant. If these small local challenges are overcome, we’ll actually go a long way to fulfill the 2030 goals for the world. **The path:** The goal of sustainability is something that we can work towards right now. Whether we walk to school, carpool or start a social awareness campaign, we can pursue this goal. What we need right now, globally and locally, are leaders who have empathy and who think, act and advocate for the long-term well-being of the planet at large.



Red is the colour of our contest edition. In alliance with the cupid, it represents our passionate love for the edition.
Vidushi Bhardwaj, XII E & Madhav Sharma, X D
 AIS Saket, Page Editors

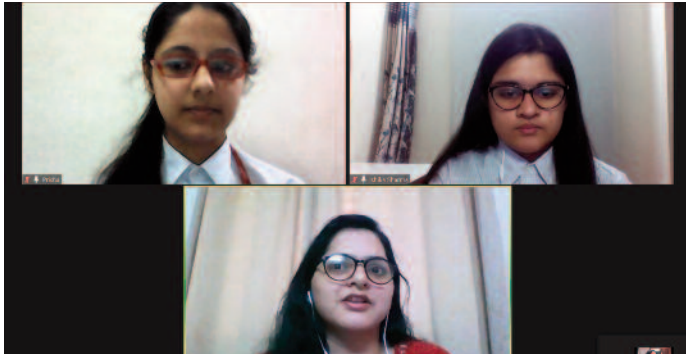


Making Left 'Right'

The Left Hand Shop - A Convenience Store For Those Facing Inconveniences



Left handers' gel pen (L) kids checking out products



GT reporters in conversation with Mrs Sandeep Pavitter Singh



Mrs and Mr Sandeep Pavitter Singh at The Left Hand Shop



GROUND REPORTING

Ishika Sharma, XI D & Prisha, IX B
 AIS Saket

Can you sharpen that pencil with ease? Is that notebook comfortable for you to write? If you have no difficulty in using these everyday objects, chances are that you are right-handed. Left-handers, on the other hand, do not enjoy the luxury of this comfort. Alleviating their everyday ordeal are Mrs & Mr Sandeep Pavitter Singh, co-founder, DiffSuff E-Commerce Private Limited. Their initiative 'The Left Hand Shop', a first of its kind, online platform offers a wide range of stationery products for left-handed children, alleviating the problems they face in their growing up years.

It all began at home...

"Our elder son is left-handed. When he got promoted to Class IV, he started using gel pen instead of pencil. He would often mention how his notebooks were smudged with ink. Talking to him, we

realised that it wasn't just the smudging of ink that bothered him; he had difficulties sharpening pencils, cutting with scissors, etc. Hence, it was more of our need than inspiration to do something for left-handed children," says Mrs Singh.

Everyday was a problem...

A simple smudging of ink opened up a plethora of problems that left-handed people face daily. "Firstly, while writing in notebooks with gel pens, due to conventional direction of writing from left to write, left-handed children are unable to see what they are writing, along with creating a smudged handwriting. To avoid this, they tilt their hand (called hooked hand), a posture not good in the long run. Secondly, left-handers face difficulty in everyday tasks such as opening a doorknob or using scissors; these small things affect young children mentally. Also, while sitting on the same desk with a right-hander, 'elbow wars' (bumping of elbows of people using the opposite hands) are very common," informs Mrs Singh.

A journey to change began...

Speaking about the initial set-up, Mrs Singh mentions that the beginning wasn't easy. "Nobody was

into such a thing before us in India. When we were kids, if someone was left-handed, the parents would want the kids to 'switch' to being right-handed because of religious beliefs. My son's grandparents too wanted him to switch to right hand because they believed it was not 'healthy'. This lack of awareness still persists in the society," she says. While challenging societal taboos was a challenge, there was another major hurdle, "The main agenda was to bring left-handed products in India at affordable prices". A year of hard work and countless meetings later, Mapped, the French based manufacturing company, agreed to be on board. "Initially, no company was ready to invest in Indian market because they were under the impression that superstitious beliefs dominated the concept of being left handed in India and hence, there were no potential buyers," she recalls. She adds on, "Another challenge was to convince them to reduce the cost, so that the products could be afforded by a regular Indian family. Thus, an affordable price range was fixed for several items such as scale, pen, pencil, etc."

Culminating in sweet success...

The most popular product from The Left Hand Shop

is the geometry set, which includes necessary stationery items, like protractor, scale, sharpener, eraser, pencil, etc., all designed solely for lefties. The metallic sharpener is designed in a way that only the pencil is to be rotated, not the sharpener, making it easier to sharpen pencils. While writing, the alignment of the left hand is such that it blocks the view of the written part. But the left-handers' gel pen, which is curved in the middle at the grip position, alleviates this problem. Similarly, the left handers' scale has markings written in a reverse order (from 15 to 0) to help them use the scale efficiently.

Spreads the melody of 'left' in joy...

"When we started our journey in 2016, our main focus was on school stationery, but now we are into kitchenettes, cricket items, and other stuff like playing cards, shirts and mugs," she shares. Talking about future plans, they plan to extend the enterprise to prime cities. With the website (www.thelefthand-shop.in) in place, anyone can buy the products hassle free. Soon, they plan to set their footprints in the international market as well as make their appearance in the form of brick-and-mortar stores, all in an effort to make left 'right'. 🇮🇳

Around The WORLD

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



CANADA

Protests against anti-logging

Anti-logging protest becomes Canada's biggest ever act of civil disobedience. Members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have been tasked with enforcing the injunction, but have faced sharp criticism for their use of force, including ripping off protestors masks to pepper-spray them. Police have also faced the scrutiny of the public for obscuring their faces and not wearing name badges, and also their attempt to bar media from reporting on the long-running protest.

INDIA

PM launches Shikshak Parv

Through a video conference, the PM has inaugurated 'Shikshak Parv', organised by the Ministry of Education. The celebration started on Sept 5 and will continue till Sept 17 in recognition of the valuable contributions of teachers and to take the New Education Policy'20 a step forward. The aim behind this is to encourage innovative practices to improve the quality of education.



UK

Petition against lying in parliament

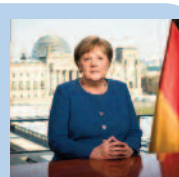
A petition to make lying in the House of Commons a criminal offence is nearing 1,00,000 signatures in the country as it calls for all MPs, including Ministers, to face serious penalties for "knowingly making false statements in the House of Commons, as is the case in a court of law." The Government has already responded to the petition, saying it "does not intend to introduce legislation of this nature."



GERMANY

Angela Merkel to step down

Germany's 'eternal chancellor', Angela Merkel, 67, will be stepping down this month after 16 years in power. She will become the first German Chancellor to step down entirely by choice, with a whole generation of voters never knowing another person at the top. She leaves behind a fractured political landscape, with the question of who will govern Germany next, wide open just weeks before the September 26 elections.



JAPAN

A female face for the country

Sanae Takichi has declared that she will lead the ruling party before the general election begins. She has visioned herself to lead the Liberal Democratic Party and has put the proposal in front of the Prime Minister, Yoshihide Suga, who is the current head of the party. Citizens are excited at the prospect of a revolutionary turn in the political climate of Japan.

SRI LANKA

State of emergency

The government has declared a state of emergency in order to control the rising prices of food and to prevent hoarding, which in effect is leading to an acute shortage of food sources. Apart from this, the government also reports a foreign exchange crisis with no tourism taking place. There have been no exports too which is an added expense with several loan repayments.





A-Z of Art



For When The World Of Words Fails, A Career In Art Thrives

Vidhi Khurana & Abhilasha Kuba, XI E
 AIS Saket

Say art and the first thing that comes to mind is hobby, passion or something that you indulge in to relax your senses. But this world of colours goes way beyond a leisure activity, at times even translating into a full-time career option. Here are some roads you can take if you wish to travel the artistic way...

The beginning: I never really thought of becoming an expressive art therapist. I think my goal was to become a psychologist and expressive art therapy became an important modality to connect with people of different age groups. When I started working with visual art, I realised that even when you give adults a piece of paper and pencil, they put their thoughts and feelings on it. That makes it so much more tangible and helps you process things in a better way that you otherwise might not be able to comprehend.

The pre-requisites: To become an art therapist, you need to enrol in two or three specialised courses on art therapy. In India, there are still lesser courses but new ones are coming up. Besides, it is important to know what accreditation they have. Like, I

Know the expert

A counselling psychologist and an expressive art therapist registered with RCI & UNESCO, Priyam Kumar has been associated with mental health care service providers and schools across Delhi & NCR. Her key work deliverables include therapy, designing wellness experiences and facilitating workshops.

have done a short course on art therapy and I am certified by UNESCO. So, make sure to opt for courses that give you a valid license, along with a good experience.

The challenges: Many people are still unaware about art therapy and they confuse the profession with being an artist. It is a

misconception that one needs to be an artist in order to be an art therapist. Overcoming such myths can be daunting.

The scope: There are many individuals who opt for art therapy courses with and without a psychology background and are practicing at MNCs and NGOs. However, places like hospitals and schools prefer a background either in clinical psychology or counseling psychology. All hospitals now have art therapists either full time or part time. So, an individual 45-minute session at a private hospital might start from somewhere around 1100 INR and can go much higher. You can also join a school set up where you're given a fixed salary as per the pay scale.



The beginning: I was interested in animation since I was ten. Like every other kid, I loved Pixar more than anything. I drew a ton as a kid, but discontinued it in high school because I was trying to balance good grades and extracurriculars. It was then that I realised how much I loved art. I applied to art schools and thereon began my journey, as I was introduced to the principles of storytelling in design and animation.

The pre requisites: First and foremost, you need to be excellent at drawing. So, draw as much on paper as you like. But in addition, you need to be adept at digital software since that is the fastest way to animate. Besides, that is what the TV industry is using, which is why you will be expected to know software such as Photoshop, TV paint, and 3D software like Maya. You also need to have a very good understanding of story structure, composition, design, colour and light for visual

Know the expert

Michelle Cheng is a Toronto/LA based visual development artist and character animation student at California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). Passionate about filmmaking, she strives to create well-researched, thoughtful work.

development. Having a strong portfolio is another must-have, since the industry is very competitive. In order to build the same, you have two options - either you enrol in animation school or opt for online courses.

The challenges: The biggest challenge is the expectation to be creative all the

time. Sometimes, you have creative blocks and overcoming them is a challenge creative animators and illustrators encounter at work. Also, competition is fierce but varies according to the role you are applying for. Some roles are more competitive such as that of a character designer because there aren't many openings for it. Again, if you are looking at working for big prestigious feature studios like Pixar and Disney, it's going to be extremely competitive but you have to remind yourself that there are tons and tons of small great studios that make quality content.

The scope: Well, there are a lot of pathways; you can have a story focused career or design focused career or you can go into effects or compositing or modelling. But what is important is that you make a start. So, begin from wherever you get a chance to show your creativity and build your portfolio.

The beginning: I studied art history for my under graduation in the US and then I went to the UK where I did law, but soon realised that I was quite passionate about working in the art industry. Moreover, I decided to give art curating a try because the field involves a lot of research, something I really enjoy.

The pre-requisites: You don't need any particular qualification, but it is always helpful to have a basic understanding of art history. You will also need a strong portfolio. For the same, you will get several opportunities along the way at school and college level. For instance, art students get to curate art fairs and senior art presentations. Keep an eye on these opportunities and make the most of them, for they will not just help you build a strong portfolio, but also a robust base. Further on, it is imperative to engage with your stakeholders. I spent the last year and a half to engage with artists, galleries as well as collectors. Engaging with people helps you learn because con-

Know the expert

Teesta Bhandare is an art curator and consultant at Teesta Bhandare Art Advisory, a reputed global advisory that connects artists, galleries and collectors from across the world. With a background in law and postgraduate diploma in Art Law, she has spent extensive periods of time working in cultural and legal organisations such as the United Nations and international law firms in New York, Singapore, Rio de Janeiro, Los Angeles, London and New Delhi.

temporary art is always evolving and you have to be updated with the emerging trends.

The challenges: It's important to not just be like "Oh these are ten pretty paintings and I want to put them together". Finding a mes-

sage that joins them and a curatorial framework that's relevant is important and extremely challenging. Also, one faces several rejections on a regular basis. For instance, you might want XYZ artist for your show, but that may not happen. So, being open to rejections is crucial.

The scope: It's huge. You can go on to work in museums as well as do international and collaborative shows. Even if you are a beginner, you'll always be learning something whether it's cataloguing or just conceptualising, meeting and interacting with new people, understanding the different dynamics that are at play and so on. As far as the remuneration is concerned, it depends on the type of employment you choose. If you're a curator within a gallery, you have a fixed salary. If you are self-employed then it depends on the artworks you sell.





Yellow is the colour of our contest edition. It ignites hope and happiness in our spirits.

Bhuvi Pandey, X D & Tanya Sachdeva, XII F
AIS Saket, Page Editors



The court of Elementia

Here, Take A Sneak Peek Into The House Of Chemical Elements



**SCIENCE
BEDTIME STORIES**

Hridyanshu, AIS Saket, X B

Long time ago, in the land of Mandalorian, there lived a huge family of 118 members. Each of the members had a special atomic number and a unique identification symbol according to which they were allotted houses. The elements were supposed to stay inside these houses and avoid any kind of feud with each other as advised by the organiser of their houses, His Highness Dmitri Mendeleev. He also classified them into different categories on the basis of their properties, grouping them together in rows and columns, and even gave them titles such as metals, non-metals, noble gases, metalloids, etc. All in all, he wanted peace to reign in the land. All was hunky dory until one day, an unknown member was identified in the land. Furore ensued. Nobody knew this person, there was no identification symbol on his body as well and his atomic number was also unknown. Soon, there was an announcement that all the members shall be ready for the reallocation of their houses as the new member had to be accommodated. The announcement led to a huge panic in the land as none of them wanted to shift to a new house. While this was going on, one of the members shouted on a loudspeaker, “Why are we worrying so much? Let’s go and meet His Highness and find the solution”. Thus, the court of Elementia was set up and all the 118 members quietly took their places around the periodic table with His Highness sitting on the royal chair. The candle was lit, and the discussion begun.

Hydrogen: Greetings, your Honor. I was discov-

ered by my master Henry Cavendish, and I am one of the most abundant elements in universe. Without me, no one can get water. I request you to not re allocate me, as I might not be compatible with members belonging to some new group.

Oxygen: I would like to stop you there. You are surely the most abundant element but without me, there is no water. Without me, no human or animal can survive. So, my request should be processed first.

Aluminium: Hey Oxygen! You might be important, but I belong to the royalty. From being present in the old French crown jewels to being used as the primary metal for the automotive and aircraft parts, containers, etc., I belong to the category of most used metals today. I would contest for being the most useful element.

Iron: Well, all my alloys, especially steel, are the most used by humans in civil engineering. I am the frame of all houses and buildings. This magnificent court cannot stand strong without me.

(The door opens)

Carbon: Hello everyone! I have a whole segment in chemistry dedicated to me called organic chemistry. I can also be a part of this debate, but what you all need to understand is that we are interconnected in our processes. I was quite flabbergasted by the points presented. Without hydrogen and carbon, photosynthesis cannot take place. If it doesn’t take place, then oxygen won’t be produced. Without oxygen, no burning processes can take place, which are crucial in manufacturing of substances like steel. Without iron and steel alloys, aluminium cannot form specialised magnets.

Does everyone now understand that all of us are interconnected? This table and our houses are bound to get updated periodically with every new member found on this land. So, stop contesting for the best element and rather welcome your new housemate with open arms, the way you all were welcomed by His Highness.

The periodic table of elements is an organised array of chemical elements arranged in the order of their increasing atomic number, electronic configuration and properties. Famously known as modern periodic table, it was initially discovered by Russian chemist, Dmitri Mendeleev in the 19th century. The table shows periodic trends that change with addition of every new element coming in.

The science of it



Graphic: Raghav Agrawal, AIS Saket, XI C

Luscious lychees

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.

Yusra Zahra, AIS VKC Lko, VIII A

Hey! My name is: Lychee or Litchi
I am also known as: Litchi Chinensis

About me

- I belong to the Sapindaceae family and am also known as the Queen of fruits as I have a lot of health benefits and a very high nutritional value.
- I was first cultivated in the region of Southern China, particularly in the cities of Fujian and Guangdong. There, I am also called as the ‘Chinese strawberry’ because of my similar appearance to strawberries.
- Unofficial records state my existence as far back as 2000 BC and China has been cultivating me for over 2300 years. I was a very popular delicacy in the Chinese Imperial Court of the Han Dynasty.
- My name in Chinese, ‘Lizhi’, translates to ‘gift for a joyful life’.
- I am a perennial or evergreen tree, which means



Illustration:
Yusra Zahra
AIS VKC Lko, VIII A

I can survive up to 1,000 years in the wild.

- The bark of my trees are greyish-black, and my flowers are white and yellow.
- My trees have an average height of around 49 feet or 15 meters mostly, but my highest recorded tree reaches up to 92 feet or 28 meters.

What I offer

About 90 grams of my consumption will give you:

- Calories: 66
- Protein: 0.8 grams
- Carbohydrates: 16.5 grams
- Sugar: 15.2 grams
- Fiber: 1.3 grams
- Fat: 0.4 grams
- Water content: 82%
- Vitamin C, B complex, A & E
- Other minerals (copper, potassium, magnesium)

I can help you with

- Improve your immunity
- Provide instant energy
- Fulfil dietary fiber needs
- Boost your metabolism
- Prevent heart diseases
- Reduce risk of cancer
- Regulate your blood pressure
- Improve skin and hair condition

Where you can find me

I am widely grown in the subtropical regions of the world as I thrive best under sub moist tropical climates. Deep, well-drained loamy soil, rich in organic matter and having pH in the range of 5.0 to 7.0 is ideal for me. India, Taiwan, Southern China, Vietnam and Thailand are the main producers of my fruit, with China producing 950,000 tons a year, India producing 429,000 tons, and Thailand producing 85,083 tons. Some other countries that are involved in my production are Madagascar, Australia, Philippines, Mauritius, the United States and South Africa.

My different avatars

- Hak Ip lychee
- Bengal lychee



- Emperor lychee
- Sweet Cliff lychee
- No Mai Tsze lychee
- Sweet Heart lychee
- Brewster lychee
- Kaimana lychee
- Mauritius lychee

Why I fear climate change

Soil moisture, humidity and rainfall are the conditions that are essential for my growth and cultivation. When my fruits mature, they require low humidity and occasional rainfall for proper growth. But in the last decade, research shows that the changes in the climate have been affecting my fruits, causing them to become smaller and less ripe. Due to climate change and erratic weather conditions, farmers are facing a lot of difficulties in producing a good harvest. In Bihar, where my famous variety ‘Shahi Litchi’ is grown, it has been tough to produce my fruit because of unpredicted heavy rainfalls in mid- May. As a result, Bihar not only struggles to produce me, it also incurs heavy damages in the harvest. I hope we are able to curb global warming in time, so that no further damage is done to our mother earth and farmers are able to produce loads of good harvest for everyone to enjoy the valuable bounty of nutrients that I offer. 🌱



Green is the colour of our contest edition. Providing harmony like no other, working on this edition has allowed us to blend and bond.
Resham Talwar, AIS Saket, XII C, Page Editor

Pic courtesy & model: Diya Arora, AIS Saket, IX B



Locked in the cabinet

Autobiography

The Tale Of An Abandoned Bone China Cup

Ishika Sharma, AIS Saket, XI D

Phew! Finally, I can breathe in some fresh air. All thanks to the lady of the house, Mrs Malhotra, who opens up this wooden cabinet twice a year. This fresh air makes me reminisce the initial days of my life. I was packed, wrapped and placed carefully in a brown-coloured dark and congested carton in a container, with almost a thousand more similar cups and dishes, to be transported to New Delhi. I felt so suffocated in all that packaging but I remembered the crack on my mother's face—a reminder that it's always better to be safe rather than sorry.

When we arrived at our mid-destination, 'Chinaware Outlet', we were all in hope of a change in our monotonous lives. Getting rid of those 15 layers of packaging was a sure breather! Just like a coy bride, I along with my peers was placed in one of the shelves in the store; my white skin beaming under a red satin cloth. We stood like showpieces, elegant and charming, inviting ample attention but no customer; courtesy – the 14,000 INR price tag.

But life changed, or so I thought it did, when the Malhotra family visited the store. The way Mrs Malhotra looked at me... God I still remember that loving gaze. I was already in my dreamland – dreaming of being placed at the dining-table, people sipping tea from my decorated edges. But then...

On arrival at the Malhotra residence, we were unpacked and enclosed in a transparent cabinet. Resting on the upper shelf, I thought the family was waiting for the right time to display me on the dining table. But occasions came and went by, and so did guests... and we still stood there. Of course, there were a gazillion compliments thrown, but none of them convinced Mrs Malhotra to take us out of this dingy cabinet.

At times, it made me question my existence. Why was I even born in a factory of 'Spode', in England? Imagine being created by the arduous process of crushing bones to produce ash and then using it in a porcelain mixture. Now, you know why they call me bone china.

That is just about me, though. My family has a long history, drenched in rich roots of culture and tradition. In the early 18th century, European manufacturers desperately wanted to recreate the beautiful porcelain pieces imported from China, but faced difficulty in doing so. Manufacturers were using all sorts of techniques to create a durable material. In the UK it was discovered that adding bone ash to soft-paste porcelain would strengthen the material during firing— that is how our demand grew and we became the royalty that we are.

In my family, there are 15 of us, ranging from scalloped, fluted, and ribbed to basic straight or round sided pieces of cutlery. Our tea-cup handles are just as distinctive, with names that describe our form, such as angular, D-shaped, serpentine, ring and curled. My favourite cousins are the poised and sophisticated ones; boastful of their beauty yet humble in their ways, they usually end up in houses much better than the rest of us as they are packed away and gifted to superiors.

Oh, the cabinet is about to close, and there goes my dream of meeting the dining table one more time.

A thank-you note

To The Amazing Artist That Has Made Me A Better Person Inside And Out

Tannya Pasricha, AIS Gurugram 43, XI B

Dear BTS,

How are you? That might be a hard question to answer for anyone in the world, especially considering how 2020 and 2021 have been extremely difficult for all of us. It was a difficult year for me as well; I had to adjust to online school and not meeting my friends everyday. I felt lonely and alone, because everything I loved and took for granted was taken away from me, but in those dark days, I found something, you, that made me see the brighter side of things.

They say music can heal all wounds, and art and artists can change the way you look at the world. Well, it was only when I found your band that I realised that it was true. When I was sitting at home, wondering about the unpredictable future that I and everyone around me had, it was your music that enlightened a ray of hope within me. You are the reason I was still laughing and smiling even when everything around me felt too bleak. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when everything was put on halt and the entire globe stopped, you were the one who made me realise that in the face of adversity, life goes on, so we all need to march on as well as we can and focus on making ourselves happy.

To me, you are not just singers or rappers, and your music is not just songs. To me, and to every single person you have given hope to, your music is an emotion that makes us smile, cry, dance and introspect. To us, you are a teacher who gives us life lessons, an inspiration which motivates us to work harder, an advisor who tells us to run towards our own happiness, and a companion who

always provides us with music that stays beside me and within me in my heart. It's nearly impossible for me to express my gratitude for your art in a mere letter, but I still want to thank you for all that you have done for me.

I discovered your music when the first lockdown was announced last year, and instantly you felt like a ray of sunshine to me. As I heard your music and your speeches, I felt a deep connection with it right from the start. And it was after listening to you that I realised the importance of self-love and self-healing. You always tell your fans, ARMYs, that "no matter who you are, where you are from, your skin colour, your gender identity, just speak yourself. Find your name and find your voice by speaking yourself!" Because of your words I had the epiphany about the importance of realising my own worth and realising that I truly am the one I should love in this world.

You taught me that even when we are not perfect, we are all limited edition and special, and that our life is a sculpture masterpiece we create as we make mistakes and learn from them. You taught me and so many other people in the world to be a kind and good human being, so thank you, Bangtan Sonyeondan, aka BTS, for changing my life with your music. Thank you for constantly inspiring me, motivating me, and healing me.

Kamsahamnida!

(Thank you!)

*Yours lovingly,
An ARMY*





Blue is the colour of our contest edition. Working on this edition provided us tranquility like no other.
Sapriya Sharma, XII F & Abhilasha Kuba, XI E
 AIS Saket, Page Editors



Beckoning A Better Future



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

My young Amitians have once again proven that they are driven by the desire to enhance the quality of life for everyone. I am referring to the two bright minds who have bagged the prestigious CSIR Innovation Award this year for their pioneering work in healthcare. Jaisal Kothari from Class XII, secured an all-India Rank 2 for his app Flicker, which enumerates all the reasons why photosensitive epilepsy can happen. Aditya Chugh, a Class XII passout, on the other hand, secured an all-India Rank 4 for his project Hriday, which is both a cost effective and a fresh method of conducting electrocardiography. These radical methodologies will help patients in receiving timely and critical care whenever required. Having the foresight to envision these pathbreaking ideas at such a young age is truly commendable.

While the achievement of these young innovators is truly praise worthy, one simply cannot miss acknowledging the hard work of those behind the scenes. Behind every successful innovator, there exists a loyal and supportive group of family, friends and mentors. My heartiest congratulations to everyone who was involved in the fructification of this idea. I have observed that participation in such events instils in students the importance of discipline, time management, perseverance and resilience. Students learn how to balance academic curriculum with extra-curricular activities. Being an innovator is not just about being skilled at technology or aiming to transform the world, it is also about evolution of self. I hope to consistently encourage my Amitians to explore and experiment, and be the change they want to see in the world. 🇮🇳

In the face of adversity



Divya Bhatia
Principal
AIS Saket

The ancient holy scripture, The Bhagavad Gita, enlightens us on the didactic between Lord Krishna and Arjuna. At the helm of battle, when faced with the looming prospect of suffering and danger, much like Arjuna, one is forced to contemplate adversity and

how to react to it. Over the past year and a half, we, too, were faced with an unprecedented challenges. The comfort of in-person interactions was lost to us. In spite of this obstacle, classrooms now flourish with interactive education, office workers flexibly work from home, entrepreneurs relish the haphazard challenges, and the artists traverse the amassing potential for creativity. At Amity, under the unparalleled guidance of our esteemed Chairperson, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan ma'am, we are equipped to transform the challenges into a chalice of opportunities. With an insatiable passion to excel, we have braved ahead with commitment, solidarity, and oneness - all the hallmarks of Amity. It is a testament to this metamorphosis, that students flooded the Editorial Board with an ingenious array of submissions for the contest issue. And to bring that to fruition, the Editorial Board - writers, illustrators and photographers - led by the teacher coordinators and the Editor-in-Chief, deserve hearty congratulations! This stint with COVID-19 has taught us that no matter how herculean an ordeal we may face, our perseverance in facing it is the sole means to victory. As Lord Krishna then pronounced to Arjuna, "We are kept from our goal, not by obstacles, but by a clear path to a lesser goal." 🇮🇳

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Let's be active

Not On Screens But In Reality And In This Essay I Will

Sunayana Ray, AIS Saket, XI F

We are living in a freshmen generation of social action, an era that has given an unprecedented platform to millions across the globe, where they can voice their opinion. Today with the help of digital algorithms, it is easier to be heard; the spread of information being ten times faster on platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram as compared to any other form of media. More than 70% of our youth consumes news that is virtually transmitted. However, as glittery as the stats may seem on paper, the reality is far from being so.

Why you may ask? While this era may have cradled woke citizens, it has also given birth to a new wave of activism – social media activism or 'Slacktivism'. As the name suggests, it is the act of turning towards simpler measures provided by social media platforms rather than making any substantive efforts towards bringing about a change. Signing an online petition, changing your profile pic, etc., are some acts that fall under this realm. #BlackLivesMatter, #MeToo, #MAGA (Make America Great Again) are just some hashtags that point towards the efficacy of social media as a tool for political engagement. Garnering the attention of the government towards imperative issues or creating sustained movements for social

change, citizens view social media as an avenue to engage with issues of priority to them. Over 67% people asserted the importance of these outlets in public discourse and recognised these platforms as "at least somewhat personally important to them as a venue for expressing their political views."

So far, so good. Or is it? This coin too has its flip side. The ease this medium comes with also brings along the ease of spreading half-baked information and perspectives often guided by ulterior motives. So, what may look like a social media campaign for a cause may well be a political propaganda. The

likes of Instagram as a medium of discussion are particularly notorious for its influencers who, with the use of visually-appealing and engaging infographics, spread unreliable and unsourced information. With even a single repost of the story, fake information has the potential of spreading like wildfire. A study by MIT researchers has shown that false news stories are 70% more likely to be retweeted than true stories. Furthermore, it takes true stories about six times as long to reach 1,500 people as it does for false news stories to reach the same number of people. Relay of incorrect information is

not the only thing we have to worry about. As people begin to rely on easier ways to promote change, they give up on all other means in order to stay within their comfort zone while doing the bare minimum, and this tends to discredit traditional activist entities. While slacktivism may ensure awareness about a cause, it offers negligible tangible change, with the issue remaining behind the screens. Slacktivism, sure is a great beginning towards change. Multiple shares or changes in people's bios may be enough to spark a sense of curiosity regarding a social issue, but there's only so much that arm-chair activism can do. 🇮🇳

APERSPECTIVE

Illustration: Abhilasha Kuba, AIS Saket, XI E



K(no)w the power of no

'Yes' Is Surely Appropriate, But So Is 'No'

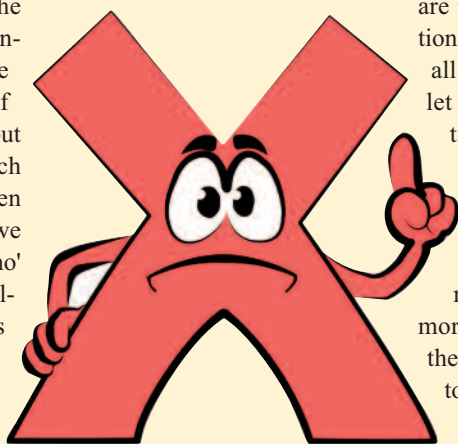
Radhika Kapoor
AIS Vas 6, Alumna

Since our very childhood, we are taught to be positive - to say good things and keep an open-hearted approach to life no matter what – the value of positivity and the gentle art of saying 'yes' is instilled in us so deep that we are not able to see the other side of the coin; a side that is equal but preferred and celebrated much less – that of saying 'no'. When we are taught to be positive, we are forcibly taught to not say 'no' to anybody or anything; to voluntarily oblige to whatever is thrown at us. Why? Does that mean we see 'no' as something negative?

But is it really? Because there are times when we are conveniently told 'no' for a number of things and they surprisingly turn out to be good. How does this work then?

The best example of it would be a student's life. It is a playful, happy-go-lucky phase in one's life and the best, as people often call it. Yes, best in a lot of ways but filled with 'no'. How? - "I need to go out and play," "No you have to complete your home-

work, you can't go"; "I need to meet my friend," "No, you waste a lot of time with your friends"; "I need a phone," "No, you are too young to have a phone." Now, how does one, as you would say, find positivity here? Well, it lies in how these re-



sponses unwaveringly fact the truth of the situation at hand and only aim to better it for the person concerned, even if the realisation for that person comes a bit late. Another example to know the actual power of 'no' would entail looking at it from a first person perspective. What if you say 'no' to your boss, or for that matter your colleague or a friend? "I won't be able to help you in this", "This is unfair and I am not

going to be a part to it", etc. Now, is it just you being selfish and negative here? Or does this have something to do with the positivity we so adore? Well, it does. It shows how we have a choice in life always; a choice, a conscience that makes us what we are today. More like an affirmation of the self that while I value all these relationships, I cannot let others influence me at all times. Because this is who I actually am, a separate entity with its own space and limits. Now, sometimes we do give in to the wants and needs of our compeers to be more accepted and valued by them, but that is where the need to set a limit comes to the fore. The more we self-actualise and delimit or shield ourselves from the influence or opinions of others, the more powerful we are as a distinct being. But strangely so, we overlook and ignore this potential of 'no' in the most important situations and fall prey to vulnerability and exploitation. So, let's change that. For, 'no' ain't a negative word. It empowers you; 'no' is right, 'no' is beautiful. And to know that a 'no' can be life changing at times, changes a hell lot!

A rainbow of colours



Debjani Das
GT Coordinator
AIS Saket

The world is a reflection of bright ideas expressed fervently through the prism of a multi-hued language, mirroring an immaculate mosaic of powerful emotions. However, if the world were a crayon box, it would have taken every colour in the box to curate

AIS Saket's Contest Edition - a thought that our page editors have succinctly articulated in the top quotes. As we continue to treasure the year's loveliest memories and look at the leaves shed during fall, it is pertinent to celebrate how far we have travelled in our journey and the path that we continue to tread.

Traversing a multitude of obstacles, including the pandemic, has taught humanity a variety of lessons but the most important one is that the show must go on. As you flip through this edition, with every beautifully-woven word entralling you and every creatively-drawn visual mesmerising you, I invite you to think conscientiously about the various seasons of your life. The afternoons of your life that are filled with never-ending laughter spells to evenings of soul searching, very much like the platform that the Contest Edition provided us this year in the form of its various categories. Our passionate edition, infused with a renewed sense of enthusiasm, cultivates a love for the journey, a flavour of launching ourselves out of the comfort zone and setting out for the goals that we have envisioned. With a conviction that you all will enjoy the vibrant hues of this wonderful issue, let's always strive to be a rainbow in someone's horizon. 🇮🇳



e-Rupi: Empowering the unbanked

A Complete Breakup Of The New Electronic Payment Mode

Nandita Bansal, XI E & Endri Agrawal, IX C
 AIS Saket

Nitin, a student preparing for IAS exam was on his way to his coaching when a notification popped up on his mobile screen. It read, 'Indian govt launches electronic payment mode called e-Rupi'. Nitin couldn't understand why a new payment mode was launched when there were so many existing payment platforms. As soon as he reached his class, he threw a volley of questions at his teacher. Here's what he learnt.

Yes, it's simply magical
 Think of your favourite aunt, the one who always gives you an Amazon Gift voucher when she comes to visit, bless her soul. You use the voucher to buy anything on Amazon within the amount available in it. That's exactly what e-Rupi is! Anyone can generate a prepaid voucher and send it to another person who can redeem it by simply showing a QR (Quick Response)

code or SMS which will be sent on their phone. So, it is cashless and contactless. Easy-peasy-lemon-squeezy!

Here's the catch

Suppose Raj is a farmer in the rural area of Odisha. The government wants to give him fertilizers at a cheaper rate. So, it issues an e-Rupi Prepaid voucher to Raj. Now Raj has been wanting to buy some new clothes. But when he tries to pay for the clothes using his voucher, he cannot. Why? This is because the voucher is purpose-specific. So if Raj shows his QR code at the clothes store, it won't match! It'll match only with all the fertilizer selling shops across the country!

Revealing the trick

This system has been built by NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India). The agency that wishes to issue a voucher to a person will simply approach the bank and give them the details of that person and the purpose of payment. This person would be identified by

their phone number and the voucher will be sent to them. Et Voila, you're done! A copy of the code will rest with the bank, the person and the agency.

The motives

The government launched e-Rupi with the primary motive to ensure its welfare schemes reach the targeted audience. Earlier, when the government gave money to Raj, it would go through a chain of many middlemen who pocketed most of it. Raj would then be left with less than half the amount the government intended to give him. e-Rupi cuts out all the middlemen with direct end-to-end encryption between the government and Raj, ensuring a safe and secure transaction. Apart from this, these vouchers can also be issued for use at vaccinations, cooperatives, banks, government education and health centres and more!

Good, Better or Best?

All online payment modes to date (Paytm, GooglePay, etc.) require a bank account to be

linked and tons of processes to be done. Countless people in rural India do not have a bank account owing to the lack of collateral and knowledge. These one-time e-vouchers, on the other hand, are simple and hassle-free, not requiring any cards to be swiped, bank accounts to be opened or smartphones to be bought. Even a simple Nokia cellphone does the trick! It also does not require a wi-fi connection. So it's an ideal solution for non-digital-savvy users.

As good as gold

Let's get back to Raj for a moment. Sometimes it would take time for the fertilizer money to reach him; after its use is no longer required. This often has led to wasted effort and loss of revenue. e-Rupi, on the other hand, will ensure timely disbursement of funds. Since these e-vouchers are specifically for the purpose of buying and selling goods and services, they would increase economic activity in rural areas and hence the money supply in the economy, leading to a substantial in-



crease in the GDP.

And a happily ever after

Currently, 11 banks are active in their transactions with e-Rupi and the numbers will only go up as more people start using it. Private sector companies can use these e-vouchers to extend specific benefits to their employees and as part of their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) activities. Credit will become easily accessible for the MSME segment and also make education and health support more accessible to the rural segment. And above all, it would help bridge the digital gap between urban and rural areas and would definitely be a step towards the digital transformation of India.





Violet is the colour of our contest edition. Royal and majestic, this edition puts our creativity on display.
Katayun Negahban, XII G & Ishika Sharma, XI D
 AIS Saket, Page Editors



Storywala

Missing since 2020



Saniya Sethi, AIS Saket, XII D

Rohan came rushing into the police station. “Good evening, Sir, I am here to report a missing person,” he said, gasping for air. “Please wait for your turn, sir,” Inspector Kulkarni said, sipping his evening tea. “Is there no one here right now? This is an emergency!” Rohan almost screamed at the police officer.

The Inspector choked on his tea, paused to breathe and then took out the thick dusty file on missing people. Full of yellowing, half-torn pages, the file read: MISSING PERSON REPORT: FILES 2025-2026.

“Okay, name of the missing person,” asked Inspector Kulkarni.

“Rohan Dutta.”

“Date of birth of the missing person?”

“March 30, 1995,” Rohan almost mumbled.

“What’s your name, sir?”

Rohan didn’t listen. He was zoned out.

“What’s your name?” He asked again loudly.

“Oh, um, Rohan Dutta.”

Inspector Kulkarni was perplexed.

“Relation to the missing person?” he said scribbling on the paper.

“We’re not related.”

With that, Inspector Kulkarni began to write the complaint...

STATE OF MAHARASHTRA
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
ADULT AND JUVENILE MISSING
PERSON CERTIFICATION

Date report filed: March 26, 2025

Name of missing person: Rohan Dutta

Birth date of missing person: 30.03.1995

Complainant’s name (Last, First, Middle):
Dutta Rohan

Complainant’s address: 54, Chand pole, Pune – 364064

Time of last contact: Cannot be recalled

Report type: Voluntary Missing Adult

Sex: Male

Physical description: Rohan Dutta is a muscular, 6 feet tall, 30-year-old man with black curly short hair and brown eyes with an arrow tattoo on his right wrist. Last seen wearing black pants, white tucked shirt with a doctor’s coat.

By now, Kulkarni had seen the same tattoo on Rohan’s hand. He was a little concerned, but



didn’t show it. He just pretended to write the report further...

Residence address: 34, Boulevard Street, California, United States of America

Business address/Office address: The California Hospital, California

“He works as a doctor?” Kulkarni asked.

“Yes, I hope he does. He’s a smart and ambitious man,” Rohan anxiously stated.

“What is your profession?”

“I am a student at Pune Medical University. I am going to pursue speciality in psychiatry.”

Inspector Kulkarni felt sure that he was chatting with a mental patient.

“So, he’s married,” the inspector continued.

“I am not sure.”

“You’re not sure?” asked Kulkarni.

“I have never thought about marriage,”

“Not your marriage, Rohan Dutta’s marriage!” Kulkarni laughed.

“Yes, that’s me,” Rohan said, fully disoriented by now.

“Are you here to report about your own disappearance?”

“No, or maybe yes. I am here to report my future self.”

“Your future self? What kind of a joke is this?”

“No, it’s not. This is a serious matter. I want to find him and know what he’s up to. He’s making me anxious.”

“You need a doctor, sir,” declared Kulkarni picking up the phone and dialling the nearest mental hospital.

“No, I don’t! Who are you calling?”

“I am calling the doctor. This is 2025 and no one visits police stations anymore. All our work is digitalised now. You need help...”

“Wait, this isn’t 2020?” Rohan interjected.

“What? No! This is 2025,” Kulkarni said rolling his eyes.

“Hello?” a voice answered the phone, similar to the mental patient who was sitting in front of Inspector Kulkarni.

“Hello, this is Doctor Rohan Dutta...”

Pic: Chhavi Chawla, AIS Saket, XI E
Model: Ronit Chawla, AIS Saket, VII A
Graphic: Sonil Varsney, AIS Saket, XI D



Designer photo frame

Karthik Kumar
AIS Noida, X

Material required

- Golden paint
- Paint brush
- Designer dry fruit tray
- Old miniature toys
- Fevicol/glue gun
- A photograph



Karthik Kumar

Method

- Take some old miniature toys and paint them golden or in any other colour of your choice. Keep aside and let them dry for a few hours.
- In the meantime, take a photograph (your own preferably) and using fevicol, paste it on the dry fruit tray in a way that some space is left

bare on the right side.

- Next, with the help of a glue gun, stick the miniature toys on the right side of the tray, covering up the empty spaces left on it. Wait for it to dry completely.
- Your designer personalised photo frame is ready to adorn your home!

WORDS VERSE

Encourage

Shreya Choudhary
AIS Gurugram 43, IX B

Ants in anthills made with stilt
Rebuilding when ruined by the wind
Encouraging us to persevere vehemently
And not be someone who’s tardy

Channel the lotus in the mud
Only thing shining in the puddle
Encouraging us to be our best
Avoiding rampant anger and stress

Or be like the distant stars
Shining bright from miles afar
Be like the illusive firefly
Spreading your gentle wisdom light



Be like a thread of silk
Strong as steel but smoother still
Be like a honey bee
Saving its haven till last breath

Nature encourages us to work hard
To try harder when we fall
Little things that we cannot see
Making small little changes rapidly

So can’t we humans of all
Try harder to change
For a much better world
By trying to stop our crave. **GI**

BRUSH ‘n’ EASEL

Agrima Abuja, AIS Vasundhara 1, X



A wildflower’s curse

Khushi Bansal
AIS Gur 46, XII

She is a girl
Made of paper and words
Her eyes are the lighthouse
By the frantic yet soothing sea
Her lips are the sugary nectar
Her soul is fiercer than dragon

She is a girl
Made of stardust and glass
Her voice is a siren’s lament
Calling out to a sailor lost at sea
Her fragile form may be weary
But she is head strong

She is a girl
Made of this world, you and I
She is littered with the truth
She is an engaging poetry itself
She is burnt into everything
She has done, will do and be. **GI**



A Christmas miracle



Wisdom Tale

Yusra Zahra

AIS VKC Lko, VIII A

It was Christmas day and Lori was all dressed up in her red jacket, a beautiful long red dress, and a red woolen cap. With a bouquet in one hand and a 'Miss You' card, which she had finally completed around midnight, Lori ran all the way towards the car. Today was her mom's birthday, and Lori and her father were going to spend some time with Natasha.

"Dad, please also buy chocolates and chips for the little girl!" Lori said. Her dad paid heed to her words. The smile on Natasha's face was priceless as Lori gave her the bar of chocolates and a polybag containing several packets of chips. Her parents' face

beamed with joy as they accepted the gift of blankets given by Lori and her father. Before going back to the car, Lori once again went to the resting place of her mother to whisper some more information which she felt was necessary. A gentle touch on her shoulder by her father reminded her that they had to return home as her aunt Ashley and cousin Azarael would be joining them for lunch.

Time flew by and a full year had passed since that Christmas day. It was a cold and dreary morning, and the spirits of joy and festivity were amiss. Lori was still in bed and gazing outside her window. Her dad could be heard advising people over what had become the new norm - video conferencing and work from

home. This year Lori had no new clothes or gifts for Christmas as they were in lockdown. She was sad as she could neither complete the birthday card for her mother nor visit her and share her emotions, feelings and life's vicissitudes. Tears started flowing from her eyes and memories of her mother started to overwhelm her heart. She had not heard her mother's voice since the day fate had separated them forever. Whenever time permitted, Lori and her father went to the Garden of Peace where her mother had found her final abode in this ethereal world.

Her loneliness, however, increased after the onset of the pandemic and Lori felt enslaved once the schools were closed and social distancing rules were en-

Today was her mom's birthday, and Lori and her father were going to spend some time with Natasha.

forced. Her train of thought was interrupted when she realised that her father was calling for her. Lori could not control herself as she looked at the TV screen and saw her mother's plaque and a bouquet of roses and her card gracing the little space belonging to her mother in the Garden of Peace.

"Lori, this little clip has been sent by the manager of the Garden of Peace. He told me that they brought flowers for your mother too," her father said. Before Lori could ask who, she saw the familiar face of Natasha and her parents by her side on the screen. The same child for whom Lori had brought chocolates last Christmas. "They remembered the day, Dad?" Lori asked. "Yes, Lori, they did remember the day," her father smiled at her and hugged her close. Lori was crying once more, but this time, out of pure joy and love.

(Budding writer, Yusra Zahra won first prize for the above story in 'Novella' category as part of an Inter-School Online Literary Festival held from August 2-13, 2021.)

**So, what did we learn today?
An act of kindness can change the world.**



Mini choco lava cakes



Ayushmaan

Ayushmaan Banerjee, AIS VYC Lucknow, V

Ingredients

Chocolate biscuits1 pkt
Milk½ cup
Eno1 sachet
Vegetable oil.....2 tbsp
Hershey's chocolate syrupas desired
Peanuts.....to garnish
Chocolate piecesas desired
Grated chocolate (optional)as desired

Procedure

- Take the biscuits and powder them well using a blender.
- Add the powdered biscuit in a bowl and mix it with milk. Keep mixing until a smooth consistency is achieved.
- Add a sachet of Eno to the mixture and mix well.
- Now, take a cupcake baking tray, and place parchment paper muffin liners inside the various moulds.
- Pour the mixture and place a piece of chocolate in the middle of each mould.
- Next, microwave the same for about 5 minutes.
- To check whether the cakes are completely cooked, insert a toothpick and see whether it came out clean or not.
- Let them cool for some time and then unmould the cakes.
- Pour Hershey's chocolate syrup over each one of them and decorate with peanuts and grated chocolate.
- The delicious mini choco lava cakes are ready to be devoured by you.

Making a Newspaper Contest
AIS SAKET
2020-21

The silhouette

Graphic: Arya Singh, AIS Saket, XI A

Tanya Ganguly, AIS Saket, X B

Outside a big bright lit doorway
Stands a tall and misty silhouette
Amidst the loud rolling thunder
And the dripping wet weather

A lamplighter by profession
Homeless at the time of birth
Desperate's his situation
For the wanting of a hearth

Staring at the cooking pot
Bubbling on the crackling fire
He hopes someone takes notice
And offer him, his heart's desire

Just some food to end his hunger
Some water to quench his thirst
And a warm bed if possible
To rest for some time, not much

He lights every lamp, every day
And in fact, every life too
But he doesn't have a fire
To warm himself through

Under a simple and humble roof
He hopes someday he'll get
Respite from the biting cold
In that soft and comfy bed

His service is his suffering
All his efforts go in vain
As he goes around lighting lamps
Looks like no halo, a lost saint

His complex of being the 'saviour'

Compels him to walk every day
To go out in rain or wind or snow
And light the dark away on the way

Now, he wants some kindness
For his days are now numbered
Hopes someone will thank him once
Before he sleeps the eternal slumber

But life like it is goes on oblivious
Of his valiant and essential role
And his saviour's complex forces him
To light every nook, cranny and hole

Sighing and turning right around
The silhouette trudges on and on
Knowing that these should have been
Wishes much long gone.

It's Me

Know Me
My name: Aadvika Ghai
My Class: II
My school: AIS Vas 1
My birthday: January 23

My Favourites
Teachers: Komal ma'am and Pooja ma'am
Subject: Mathematics
Friend: Renee Bhatnagar
Game: Trying different races with my friends
Cartoon: Peppa Pig
Food: Rajma rice and momos
Mall: Mall of India
Book: 101 Animal Stories and Cinderella

My Dreams & Goals
Hobby: Creating videos for my YouTube channel.
I like: Creating my own stories with toys, especially during lockdown as I cannot go out.
I dislike: Not being able to go to school
My role model: My mother

I want to become: A famous YouTuber
I want to feature in GT because: Being a new admission, I want my friends and teachers to know more about me.

PAINTING CORNER

Yash Aggarwal
AIS Mayur Vihar, IV



Black is the colour of our contest edition. Powerful and elegant, this edition dwells on ideas that matter to us.

Sarthak Sahoo, XI F & Keshav Gupta, XII C
AIS Saket, Page Editors



High Tea in Boston

All About A Cup Of Tax Free Tea

Be it Darjeeling, Assam or Ceylon, a hot cup of tea in the morning gives us all the much-required energy to kick-start the day. Known to be the second most consumed beverage after water in the world, tea was once a popular beverage in America (a colony of Britain in 1650s), where 3/4th of the tea Americans consumed was smuggled from the Dutch. However, when the British imposed monopoly on tea trade, it ignited a revolutionary and significant movement, aka 'The Boston Tea Party', that changed the life of Americans forever.



WHAT HAPPENED AT THE BOSTON TEA PARTY?

No, it wasn't a fancy tea party with tea and scones. Rather, it was a political protest that took place at Griffin's Wharf in Boston, Massachusetts. On December 16, 1773, a large group of men, some 100 of them boarded the docked ships and threw 342 chests of tea that these ships were carrying in water. These chests contained an approx. 45 tons of tea, which would cost nearly 1,000,000 USD today. Other than dumping tea in water, there was no other violence or damage caused. In fact, the protestors are even reported to sweep off the docked ships after the act.

WHO ORGANISED THE BOSTON TEA PARTY?

The protest was organised by Sons of Liberty – a group of American merchants and tradesmen. The group was founded to protest against the Stamp Act and other unfair taxes levied by the British. Prominent patriots such as Benedict Arnold, Patrick Henry and Paul Revere were a part of this group.

WHY WOULD SOMEONE DO SUCH A THING?

This goes all the way back to the 1760s when America had been colonised by the British. The Britishers had levied a series of taxes which Americans found unfair since they had no representation in the parliament. Amongst these taxes were - The Stamp Act of 1765 that taxed Americans for almost every piece of printed paper from playing cards to newspapers; The Townshend Acts of 1767 that taxed even essentials such as paint, paper, tea, etc. But it was the 'Boston Massacre' that proved to be the ultimate trigger. It all started with a street brawl between American colonists and British soldiers on March 5, 1770. The brawl turned ugly with fire being opened on the mob, resulting in the death of five colonists, injuring six. This further angered the already frustrated American colonists against the British.

WHERE WAS THE IMPACT FELT?

Even though the Boston Tea Party took place in Boston, Massachusetts, it had a ripple effect in thirteen American colonies, who then fought for American independence. To sum it all up, the event became the first major act of defiance against the British rule.

WHEN DID IT BECOME A TURNING POINT IN AMERICAN HISTORY?

Owing to the widescale protests, the British government had to eventually repeal most of the taxes, except the tea tax. The reason for the same was simple – tea was the most popular beverage in America, with the colonists consuming almost 1.2 million pounds of tea every year. Thus, the tax revenue earned on it was huge and letting go of the same would have meant huge losses for the Brits who were already under debt after having fought several wars. With the tea tax still in place, a second Boston Tea Party took place in March 1774. This time around 30 chests of tea were dumped into the water by 60 Bostonians. While the event didn't gain as much popularity as the first tea party, it led to tea-dumping demonstrations in Maryland, New York and South Carolina. In addition, the coercive acts sparked further unrest in American colonists. As a result, the First Continental Congress was convened on September 5, 1774, wherein elected delegates from all 13 American colonies came together to figure out how to resist British oppression, marking the onset of the American Revolutionary War.

HOW DID THE BRITISH REACT?

In response to the Boston Tea Party, the British parliament passed the Coercive Acts, which later on came to be known as the Intolerable Acts. These acts, as the name suggests, entailed but were not limited to closing of the Boston Harbour till the amount of tea lost was paid for, ending free town elections, creating martial law in Massachusetts, etc. While Britain hoped that these acts would squash rebellion and prevent other colonies from uniting, the reverse happened. The punitive laws further angered the colonists, who rallied to Massachusetts' aid, sending supplies and plotting further resistance.



Grey is the colour of our contest edition. Timeless yet practical, this edition represents our quest for the brightest ideas found between the black and white.
Tanishi Adhikari, AIS Saket, XII C, Page Editor

Robotronics'21

The Titans Of Technology Battle It Out Once Again



The young tech leaders and core team members of Tech Syndicate, launch the 8th edition of Robotronics virtually

AIS Gurugram 46

Tech syndicate, the technology club of the school organised its 8th Robotronics - an IT integrated event, virtually for Class III-XII from July 20-30, 2021. The finale held on July 30 was graced by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, who envisions Robotronics as a boulevard to promote learning of science and

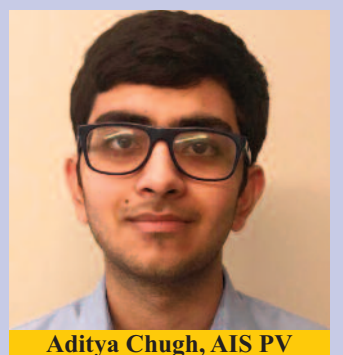
technology in a fun and engaging manner. The annual inter school event was based on the theme 'Interdisciplinary Engineering'. The event witnessed participation of 44 schools and 48 independent teams from Delhi/NCR and seven other cities. It comprised 11 competitions in junior and senior categories each. The competitions held were Robotics, Hardware, Hackathon, Designathon, Group Discussion, Encryptid, Cross-

word, Surprise, Paint 3D, Adobe Spark and Minecraft. Amitians bagged a number of awards in different competitions. AIS Gurugram 43 and AIS Gurugram 46 won first and second positions respectively in Adobe Spark. AIS Vasundhara 1 and AIS Pushp Vihar secured first and third position, respectively, in Hardware. AIS Noida won second position in Paint 3D and third position in Minecraft. AIS Mayur Vihar secured second po-

sition in Surprise, and AIS Saket bagged third position in the Group Discussion. At the closing ceremony, school principal Arti Chopra appreciated the innovative spirits of the participants. Sohini Ghosh from Class XI gave a musical performance and the Tech Syndicate presented a video showcasing the highlights of the event. Chanchal Dhingra, head of IT department, delivered the vote of thanks.



Jaisal Kothari, AIS Saket



Aditya Chugh, AIS PV

Innovative spirit

Big Wins At CIASC 2021

Amity's Children Science Foundation

Under the visionary leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, two Class XII innovators of Amity won big at CSIR Innovation Award For School Children - 2021, results of which were declared on August 13, 2021. Jaisal Kothari from Class XII of AIS Saket secured all India rank 2 for his app Flicker, which outputs the number of possible triggers for photosensitive epilepsy in videos along with their time stamps, and provides a safer version of the video for downloading. Aditya Chugh, Class XII pasout from AIS Pushp Vihar secured all India rank 4 for his project 'Hriday - a cost effective

and novel instrumentation to conduct electrocardiography'. It aims to tackle the shortage of medical equipment faced in hospitals throughout the country. With the use of mathematical modelling, light sources which vibrate in accordance to cardiac signals, and programming, Aditya was able to develop this instrument with materials which are easily available and cheaper as compared to the conventional ECG machine.

About CIASC

The annual innovation award for school children has been created by CSIR to increase awareness, interest and motivation in school children for Intellectual Property, support scientific temperament and encourage innovations. It aims to harness the creative and innovative spirit of school children.

Welcoming Krishna Janamashtami Celebrations



A little Krishna from AIS Gur 46

AIS Gurugram 46

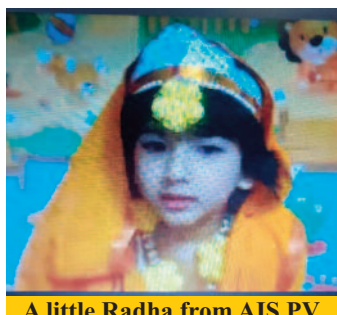
Students of Class II presented a virtual 'Shri Krishna Leela' on August 27, 2021, to celebrate Janamashtami. The programme commenced with invoking the blessings of Goddess Saraswati and welcoming the parents with

the virtual Tulsi saplings. School principal, Arti Chopra spoke about the importance of the day and told children about how this holy occasion brought people together and signified unity and faith. Children depicted the life history of Lord Krishna with beautifully decorated colourful *jhankis*. They dressed up as different characters from Krishna's life and presented skits, dances and songs. The vibrant group dances and enactment of key events like victory over *Kalia Naag* and lifting of *Govardhan Parbat* left the audience mesmerised.



Flute decoration by AIS VKC

AIS VKC Lucknow



A little Radha from AIS PV

AIS Pushp Vihar

Virtual assemblies were organised by the students of Class Nursery-V to celebrate Janmashtami on August 27, 2021. Students offered prayers, chanted hymns, danced, narrated stories and dressed up like Krishna and Radha on the occasion. Activities like *matki* decoration (Class III & IV), flute decoration (Class I & II), and making lord Krishna crown (Nursery & KG) were also organised.

Tiny tots of Class I dressed up like Radha and Krishna and presented *Krishna Leela* on August 25, 2021. The celebration graced by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF began with the rendition of *shloka* from Gita. Children performed dances showcasing Krishna's life. The Chairperson encouraged children to strive to be like Lord Krishna.

PDP 2021



Educators participate and share best practices in one of the sessions of PDP 2021

Educators of Amity Upgrade Their Teaching Skills

HR Training & Development

An online Professional Development Program - 2021 for the educators of Amity Group of Schools was organised on July 3, July 10 and July 17, by Amity Group of Schools's HR and Training Department. All the virtual sessions were graced by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, who firmly believes that teachers have the important task of shaping the future of the nation and the world, therefore, they must continuously update their knowledge and teaching skills. The objective of the programme was to empower the educators with knowledge of the trends and best practices in the field of education, especially during the pandemic. The sessions were divided into 8 groups viz Group 1 (Nur-KG), Group 2 (I-II), Group 3 (III-V), Group 4 (VI-VIII), Group 5 (IX-X), Group 6 (XI-XII), Group 7 (Arts, PE, C.Sc, Music), and Group 8 (Languages - Hindi, Sanskrit, French & German). A total of 243 sessions were conducted on all three days - 89 on July 3, 87 on July 10, and 67 on July 17. A soulful message by the Chairperson was conveyed to the participants in each session, motivating the educators to be the changemakers and ignite the minds of the

young learners by creating a happy and conducive learning environment.

Key sessions conducted by principals and educators of Amity Group of Schools were: 'Outcome based education for futuristic schools' and 'Art integration in teaching learning pedagogy' by Arti Chopra, principal, AIS Gurugram 46; Meenu Kanwar, principal, AIS Mayur Vihar, took a session on 'Mathematics in ancient civilisation - an integrated approach'; session on 'Inner nourishment' and 'Stress management' was taken by Dr Anshu Arora, principal, AIS Gurugram 43; Ameeta Mohan, principal, AIS Pushp Vihar, took a session on 'History teaching: Kal aaj aur kal'; sessions on 'Teaching profession vs passion' and 'ECCE & special education' were taken by Divya Bhatia, principal, AIS Saket, along with Alka Sharma, special educator, AIS Saket; session on 'Making classrooms more happy and humane' was taken by Dr Bhavana Kulshrestha, principal, AIS Vas 1, along with Archana Trilok, special educator, AIS Vas 1; Sunila Athley, principal, AIS Vas 6, conducted session on 'Design and curriculum of question paper - Changes in Class IX & X syllabus' and 'Question paper design', along with Rachna Rai and Shweta Tomar of AIS Vas 6; session on 'Making teaching learning process more effective and

exciting' was conducted by Rachna Mishra, principal, AIS VKC Lucknow; 'Reflective teaching learning strategies' were shared by Jayashree Kad, Principal, Amity Global School Noida; the session on 'Question paper designing' was conducted by Valambal Balachandran, along with Geetanjali and Meena Vaidhya from AIS Gurugram 43. Apart from these, eminent external resource persons also conducted sessions on various topics like 'A fit mind and a fit body' by Lieutenant General (Dr) Ms Madhuri Kantikar; 'Art therapy', '*Bhasha Shikshan*', 'Learning mathematics through problem solving', 'Emotional resilience for stress and grief', 'Role of emotional intelligence of teachers in online classrooms', 'International relations', 'Accounting for companies-debentures issue and redemption', 'Dietary and lifestyle changes during COVID-19 Lockdown among school going children', 'Mental fitness regime or Improving mental health', 'Constructivism A Pedagogy of teaching and learning', etc. Each session empowered the teachers with latest tools and technologies which are the cornerstone of the teaching-learning pedagogy. They upgraded their knowledge and skills of teaching and also shared the best practices with their peers.



A black and white love story

Here's How Things Got A Lot More Spicy When Salt Met Pepper



Resham Talwar
AIS Saket, XII C

It was a rainy evening, and the pitter patter of rain drops called for some steamy saucy pasta. Soon, flavours exploded in the wok, all set to make their way to the dining table where a private conversation was well in order.

"You are too good for me! I mean why did you even choose me?" she said, the darkness of her mood now as palpable as her own skin tone. "Not again!" he thought but chose a rather somber response, "What makes you say that, love? You are the most coveted in your peers!" he said knowing fully well where this was headed.

"Maybe, but I have to compete, unlike you who reigns supreme." "That's because I am a misfit who does not belong to this category." For a moment, it seemed his stark white surface was turning red with exhaustion at the same debate.

"Right! Says the person who was used as a currency in ancient times." "Now if we are digging up graves, then what do you have to say about the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama travelling half the world for you."

Speechless at this repartee for a minute, she thought she'd almost lost this one, when suddenly as if in an epiphany, countless rejoinders crowded her mind. A rant ensued, "One person rooting for me and an

entire nation building its wealth because of you...remember Venice? And let's not even talk about how Chinese emperors used you as a leverage to control population. Now before you tell me that it's just the Chinese, let me talk about the Americans who used you as a mode of payment to pay their soldiers after the American War of Independence," said Pepper, her arguments now matching her spicy self.

Salt knew this was time for war and so he had to come up with his best arguments. "Alright! I have had an illustrious past, yes, but look at you today. You are the most traded spice in the world. I mean 500 tons of you being traded annually has to mean something. And if one nation built its wealth because of me, there was another that bled all its moolah because of you. Remember what happened to the Romans? Imagine sending 120 ships every year to Kerala just to buy you. Also, let's not forget king Alaric who asked for 3000 pounds of you as ransom when he besieged the city of Rome. Darling, they called you black gold for a reason."

Pepper had nothing to say to this, but found herself in tears, nonetheless. "But I am a mere option. They can do without me, unlike you who is necessary for the human body. And you aren't just a mere seasoning, they use you as a preservative too," she said

amidst what appeared to be stifled sobs. "Like I said at the onset, that's because I am a misfit, a mineral not a spice." "But you are required, and maybe I am desired; you are white, I am black..." "And you are yin, I am yang; together adding flavour to everyone's plate," he said

almost interrupting and taking her in a warm embrace. She smiled.

Meanwhile, two transparent spice shakers were shaken vigorously on the dining table, both being added to the steamy saucy pasta.



Pic: Amey Gupta, IX C & Chhavi Chawla, XI E | Graphic: Raghav Agrawal, XI C; AIS Saket



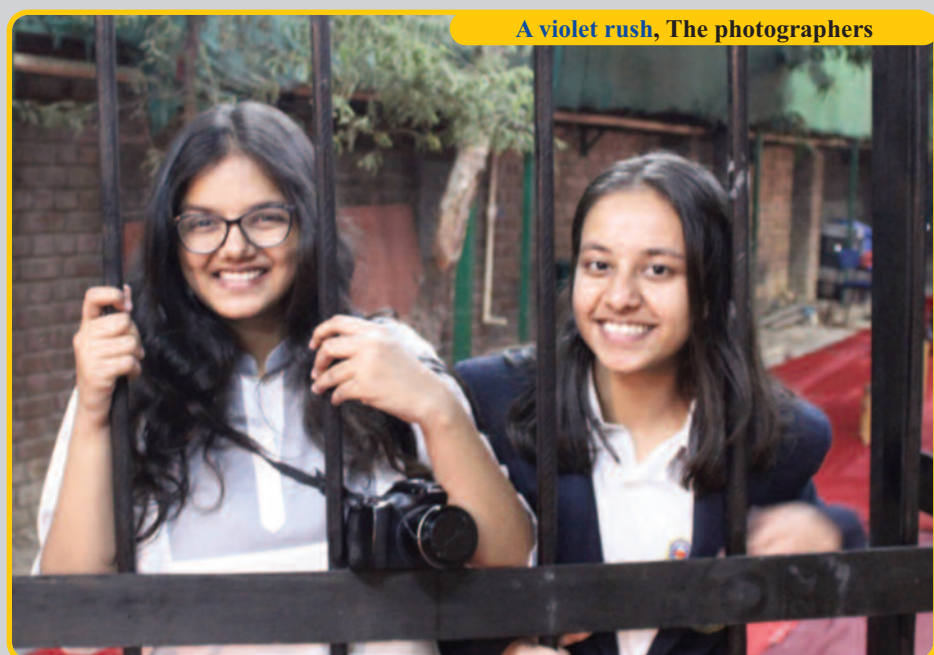
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A violet rush, The photographers



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A lilac tale, The page editor

