# THE GLOBAL TIMES

## Nowhere To Flee, Everywhere I Go, As Secretive As I Can Be, All Eyes On Me

#### Aadvik Bhargava AGS Gurugram, XII

ittle Brother wakes up and grabs his phone, willing open the eye that watches him through the device. On the screen, an ad appears; "I was just telling my friend yesterday I haven't had this snack in a while and here it is! How convenient!"

And convenience is key in a world where everyone needs everything handed to them, but what we often forget is that for these aids to fit our requirements just right, we need to be constantly studied. So, welcome to a modern society where total surveillance surrounds us. With promises of ultimate security, extraordinary experiences, and a holistic life, Little Brother, looking back at all the eyes watching him, asks – are you troublesome yet?

#### As Little Brother gets out of bed, the camera outside his window zooms in on him. He waves it a hello. "After all, it's here for my own safety. I'm being observed so I can be protected."

Watched we are, but it is for our own betterment. Countless crimes were stopped before they could even take place, simply out of fear of being recorded. Should anyone step out of line, evidence is available to deliver justice – CCTV cameras have reduced roadway crime by 24% and train station crime by 28%. More recently, the way we dealt with COVID-19 would have been unheard of a decade ago. Remember Aarogya Setu, downloaded 150 million times just by October



fuel (SAF) help in reducing the colossal carbon footprint created by the aviation industry? a) Yes b) No c) Can't say

To vote, checkout our Instagram page @the\_global\_times

#### Coming next Micro mayhem



2020? Even outside of danger, cameras in daycares, nursing homes, offices etc., can be of great use. Some cry that Big Brother is always watching us, but is that really a bad thing?

With the house feeling a little too silent, Little Brother, as he gets ready for the day, feels himself grow sad. "I hate living alone." Poor Little Brother did not know that this was simply not the case. Every piece of tech he owned – they were all with him, watching, listening, all day, every day.

Cultivate a safe haven

Sharma, senior manager,

Youth Power 2022-23.

In conversation with Dr Neha

content & curriculum at NGO

Arpan, also a jury member at

...more on page 3

As Little Brother rejoices how much safer he is, a question bubbles out - "To what extent am I under surveillance?" Well, presently, we inhabit a digital network of multiple surveillance tools: facial recognition, location tracking, internet monitoring, and social media analytics. For instance, some Samsung TVs reportedly have a baked-in 'feature' that listens to the consumers' conversations without their consent. Not to forget the 2016 elections in USA where 50 million leaked Facebook profiles were used for targeted advertising. All this also results in mass manipulation,

and the proof of it stands in Instagram selling 79% of their users' data to third parties and Facebook 57% (reported by pCloud), which leads to 80% of the feed being filled with promoted content. With such figures, just how much privacy are we willing to barter when our every click is so meticulously tracked?

Little Brother stands in the kitchen, pouring cereal, as a chill runs down his spine. "Is anyone there? I swear I felt someone watching me," but where are they? Who is watching him?

"It's me, hi! I'm the problem, it's



Under the sea Exploring the ethereal and enigmatic species that have made their home in the underwater world of the Mariana Trench. ...more on page 7



Empowering seniors Have a look at experts discussing the vital topic of helping the elderly as part of the panel discussion organised by YP team of AIS Gur 43 (2022-23). ...more on page 10 me" turns out to be a little too accurate in the case of surveillance. The carefully chosen ads that exploit our online experiences shape our choices, making it difficult to tell whether the purchase is because of freewill or psychological coercion. And let's not miss how our information is even mined for questionable reasons. All of this screams an invasion of privacy to a devastating level, and the results are just as harrowing - increased feelings of vulnerability, anxiety, and distrust. Imagine Little Brother having to censor his own thoughts out of fear of surveillance. After being surrounded by tools built from the ground up to spy information, he, and the rest of us, cry – who can we really trust?

Surrounded by technology, Little Brother realises that his own trusted tools are the watchful eyes he constantly feels on him. Nonetheless, he is determined. "No, I will not get rid of my devices. The influence of my gadgets is determined by how I use them."

Little Brother's approach seems the most logical one. The same surveillance tools that fuel targeted advertising can be relied on to boost data security with encryption techniques, anonymisation processes, and decentralised data storage. As the world continues to become an open book, billions of Little Brothers come together on both sides of the debate and battle out if a harmony can be struck between personal freedom and constant vigilance. In such an argument, which side are you on?

O POLL RESULT

for GT Edition April 15, 2024

As 40% of students struggle to find placement across IITs, what do you think is the reason for the same? Increase in batch sizes Low paying job offers

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# Around The E DENMARK W

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

#### **Børsen on fire**

Denmark's historic stock exchange building, Børsen, which is located in the centre of Copenhagen, was

engulfed by fire, with its iconic spire collapsing due to the flames. No casualties were reported, however, people rushed to save the historic paintings donning the halls of the notable building. The building was undergoing renovation and was covered in scaffolding and plastic covering. The cause of the fire is unknown, but the officials have said that the scaffolding created a hindrance in dousing the fire.



#### Paris Olympics flame lit

The flame for the 2024 Paris Olympics has been lit at the site of ancient



Olympia. Various dignitaries and members of the public witnessed the lighting in the stadium where the earliest recorded Games were held in 776 BC. The flame will now begin its journey towards Paris in a relay to mark the opening of the Games in July. Greek Olympic gold medallist rower Stefanos Ntouskos was chosen as the first runner of the Olympic torch relay.







#### J&J cough syrup recalled

The drug officials in Tanzania, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe have withdrawn an entire lot of Johnson & Johnson children's cough syrup as Tanzania's Medicines and Medical Devices Authority received a laboratory test report stating high toxicity in the syrup. Drug regulators have found high levels of diethylene glycol in the syrup, which results in acute kidney failure and has been linked to the deaths of many children.



#### **Fishing ban imposed**

A two-month fishing restriction has been imposed in Odisha in order to conserve marine fish stock during the breeding period. Fishing by mechanised vessels, including 553 trawlers and 131 mechanised boats from the Paradip fishing harbour, has been banned from April 15 to June 14, 2024. Under section 4 of the Odisha Marine Fishing Regulation, 1982, fishermen have been prohibited from embarking onto the sea.



### SINGAPORE

#### PM steps down

Prime minister Lee Hsien Loong has announced that he is stepping down from his position and will be replaced by deputy prime minister Lawrence Wong, who will now be Singapore's fourth prime minister. A statement by the PMO stated that Wong had the unanimous backing of the PAP members. Wong has said that Lee Hsien Loong would serve as a senior minister in his cabinet after he is sworn in as PM on May 15, 2024.





#### Samsung beats Apple

According to research by International Data Corporation, the South Korean giant Samsung Electronics has surpassed USA's Apple as the leading smartphone provider in the first quarter of 2024. Apple's shipments dropped 9.6% in the first quarter despite the market for smartphones expanding 7.8% overall. Samsung delivered almost 60 million smartphones, securing a 20.8% global market share. Apple came in second with 50.1 million units, accounting for 17.3% of the 289.4 million smartphone shipments worldwide.





#### Sustainable fuel deal

In an attempt to decarbonise and meet its net-zero carbon emission targets. Air New Zealand has signed its largest deal for nine million litres of sustainable aviation fuel with Finland-based petroleum refiner Neste. Manufactured at Neste's Singapore refinery, the green fuel will be combined with normal jet fuel and supplied to Los Angeles International Airport between April 1 and November 30, 2024.

► UAE: Flood in Dubai due to excessive rain ► Israel: PM Netanyahu vows to retaliate Iranian attack News Flash ▶ Spain: Protest rallies against overtourism ▶ UK: Creation of deepfake images without consent criminalised

# Cultivate a safe haven

Dr Neha Sharma On Preventing And Addressing All Kinds Of Child Abuse



#### Twisha Prasad, AIS Noida, XII I & Chaitanya Roy, AIS MV, XII I

n the realm of child safety advocacy, Dr Neha Sharma stands as a beacon of dedication. Currently working at a leading NGO, her work revolves around the integration of child safety messages into state and national curricula. With a PhD in mapping communitisation of Health Care Systems, she has held key roles in organisations like the Public Health Foundation of India and Population Foundation of India. Dr Sharma's work spans academia, advocacy, and training, making her a leading voice in preventing child sexual abuse. Serving as a jury member at the YP Finale 2022-23, she engaged with GT reporters for an insightful conversation.

#### Understanding the problem

Child abuse is a serious problem in India where over 90% of children experience some form of abuse before they reach the age of 18. Statistics reveal that every second a child in our country experiences sexual abuse, with both boys and girls being equally susceptible. Sadly, many cases, particularly involving boys, go unreported. Online sexual



abuse worsens this. Once it occurs, the damage is irreversible. While therapy can help, a single incident can lead to long-term issues like depression, suicidal tendencies etc.

#### **Setting right priorities**

Our priority should be overall child safety, fostering awareness, and empowerment of the next generation. If their life skills are strengthened, children are made aware of how to be safe, what to do if they face any unsafe situation, and what steps to take once they are out of the situation - all of this will help ensure child safety. Schools should promote child safety lesson plans which should be integrated with main curricula. Additionally, achieving true gender equality requires empowering women and raising men who understand and support them. Lastly,

accessible healthcare is vital for ensuring a secure life for everyone.

#### **Sharing life lessons**

All the work I have done towards empowering diverse communities has taught me to be happy with whatever I have. I have lived in villages while doing my PhD and got a chance to talk to many women. Those conversations stayed with me for a long time and taught me to stay grounded. This work made me more versatile, and I was truly inspired by rural women who multitask all the time. I believe that women can do anything and everything, given the right guidance.

#### Showing the way

It is important to look at child safety from a holistic perspective. Everyone who is a part of the child's support system needs to be made aware of various kinds of abuses and their forms. Parents, teachers, and caretakers should be made aware of the issue, how crucial it is to address, impact of abuse, and what actionable steps to take to prevent any kind of abuse. My message to parents is very simple: keep your child's life private. Teachers, look for unusual behaviour and intervene, ask students open questions, give them space to share, and don't judge.

#### **Message for Amitians**

Believe in yourself. There are a lot of creative people out there, so believe in your ideas. Execute them and don't be afraid of failure. Failures can even happen to the strongest and the most powerful people, but what is important is the will to try again.

# Technicia '24 opens its doors...

## ... Ushering In Innovation And Creativity

#### AUM

mity University Mumbai, proudly inaugurated 'Technicia 2024', marking the beginning of another annual celebration of innovation and talent. The three day event organised by Amity School of Engineering & Technology and Amity Institute of Technology commenced on April 3, 2024, and culminated on April 5, 2024. Drawing over 3000 attendees, the event witnessed nearly 500 participants from various universities across the country.

On April 3, the event began with a Banner Drop Ceremony featuring programmes like AI-assisted presentations, a 3D laser show, a live-streamed Banner Drop, music & dance fusion performances, a drone show, and a dance face-off sponsored by RedBull. The ceremony was attended by vice chancellor professor (Dr) AW Santhosh Kumar, and other dignitaries, faculty, staff, and students, from the university.

The inauguration ceremony, held on April 4, was presided over by vice chancellor prof (Dr) AW Santhosh Kumar who presented a token of appreciation to Dr Gopal Rai, founder & CEO of Dhirendra Group of Companies (DGC). Dr Kumar highlighted the pivotal role engineers play in bridging the gap between knowledge and technology. Dr Rai also shared insights from his illustrious journey, underscoring value of events like this in empowering students.

The event provided a platform for students to showcase their talent in 24 different programmes, ranging from technical competitions such as Tech-Chronicles, Robo-Soccer, Drone Racing, Float-On, and AI Doodle War, to non-technical events like Shark Tank, Ad Mad Show, Junkyard, Chess, and Room of Dilemma etc. The highlight of the event was an immersive interview with Lt Cdr Bijay Nair (retd), a decorated naval officer and six-time TEDx speaker, who shared his expertise in Defence Technology with everyone.



The event concluded with a valedictory ceremony and a vote of thanks by the core committee members, followed by a concluding address and a presentation of a comprehensive event report, encapsulating the success and achievements of the event.

Technicia 2024's success reaffirmed Amity's commitment to excellence in education and research. The festival served as an ultimate launchpad for innovation, fostering a space where ideas could take flight, nurture talent, and boost innovation.

# Pocket it!

From the crack of dawn, technology stirs us with its reliable alarms, and caresses us with the cooling breeze of our ACs as we drift off to sleep, weaving its wonders into our everyday lives. GT pays homage to this silent saviour that simplifies and enhances our existence with a brand new series, unwrapping A to Z of iconic tech pieces, one letter at a time. Here's presenting the **M** in this series that changed human life as we know and live it.

> Verushka Choudhary AIS Navi Mumbai, IX B

The tech: Mobile phone The inventor: Martin Cooper

#### How was it invented?

The journey of the mobile phone began in 1973. It was invented by Martin Cooper, an

American engineer with the objective of making wireless communication accessible for all. It was when AT&T aimed to build a cellular architecture to enhance its carphone service that Motorola started its own urgent project to create a cell phone, placing Cooper in charge, as it didn't want them to have a monopoly over mobile business. Cooper believed a cell phone should be portable and not limited to a car. As a result, the DynaTAC (Dynamic Adaptive Total Area Coverage) phone was born.

#### When did we get to know it first?

Martin Cooper demonstrated the first handheld cell phone on April 3, 1973. The first mobile phone which could connect to the mobile phone network independently and could be handled by the user was the Dyna-TAC, a nine-inch tall and 1.1 kg portable phone. DynaTAC 8000x became the first commercially available mobile phone, launched in 1983. The phone was a success even though it was priced at 3995 USD.

#### Why do we use it?

A mobile phone is the liaise of communica-

tion. Without it, being in touch with near and dear ones would become slow and inefficient. Indeed, mobile phones are essential to communicate, but they're used in more ways than one. It houses social media applications such as Instagram, Facebook etc. which help one stay abreast other than keeping in touch with people from across the globe. Additionally, phones are also utilised to find information on a plethora of subjects just at the tip of our fingers.

How has it helped our lives? Moving away and advancing forward from



**Fun fact:** The fear of being detached from mobile phone connectivity is an actual phobia and is named 'nomophobia'. The term is a combination of the phrase 'no mobile phone phobia'.

the times of snail-mail, mobile phone has proven itself to be one of the most worthwhile invention. It has made communicating with people from across the globe effortless. Tasks such as connecting with someone far away, be it over a voice or a video call, or sharing videos and pictures, can now be completed in a matter of a few taps. However, it comes with its own shortcomings. Mobile phones have caused addiction in teenagers and adults alike. Their eyes are glued to the screen, causing wastage of time and acting as a huge distraction. Thus, the onus of making the most of a tech device rests on the user. In essence, mobile phone's impact is vast, transforming our lives in multifaceted ways. Its significance extends beyond communication, shaping our behaviours, habits, and how we navigate the world around us. GI

#### The science of it

Water molecules absorb colours having longer wavelengths like green, red etc., but blue has shorter wavelength, making its absorption less and scattering more, which is why the sea appears blue.

#### abhi baaki hai...!

Just as the Molecules were about to celebrate their victory, a voice roared behind them. It was Master Blue, the gangster cousin of the Colours family, who was feared by everyone. The Molecules decided to use the same tactic on him, but alas! He was not like his relatives. He was faster; in fact, he was faster than the Molecules collectively. Before any of them could harm him, he had taken the lead, attacking them all and winning the war. And so the terror of the Colours family continued on the Water kingdom, with Master Blue painting the water world blue as he pleased.

# **THE BLUE SIDE** Kyu Blue Hai Paani, Paani, Paani, Paani, Paani...?

#### Parichaay Mittra AIS VKC Lucknow, X A

nce upon a time, in the kingdom of Water, lived a happy family of Molecules. Mr and Mrs Molecules lived with their little tally of various children, and together, the family remained happy and chirpy. Well, except for whenever the Colours family came into town. The Colours family, comprising Mr Blue, Mrs Blue, their son Master Red, and his cousins, was an evil family that lived in the town of Sky. Though they seemed to have no business in the kingdom of Water, the Colours loved scrolling through the kingdom, just for the sake of bullying the innocent residents.

However, when Mrs Molecules got to know that the lot of Colours was on their way, she decided enough was enough. She could not let her children live in a world where bullies won. "Since we're faster than them we should take advantage of that and tire the Colours out. Once they are tired, we can beat them and scare them into never coming back," Mrs Molecules announced and everyone agreed. As expected, the Colours family came into the kingdom, all

smug and rude, kicking up a storm. Once they had reached the kingdom, Mrs Molecules shouted them to stop. "You think you can come into our home, terrorise us and we won't stand up for ourselves? Well, no more! Now you will pay for what you have done!" she yelled, and signalled for the attack.

On cue, the Molecules family along with the other residents ran out, teasing the Colours family. Getting angry, the Colours ran after the Molecules, only to realise that they weren't as fast. They got tired soon enough and when they did, the Molecules came and

attacked them. Mrs Molecules was very happy thinking of her safe home, *par picture* 



### I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream For...

# ...lce cream

#### Naavya Lodh, AIS Pushp Vihar, XI D

**Narrator:** Hello, hello, hello! The wait is finally over. The fantastic ice cream teller is now in business. Answer one simple question and he'll guess if you're amazingly awesome or blatantly boresome. Yes, you simple lady, come in and know thyself. *The lady, shy and scared, steps into the secret room filled with ice cream paraphernalia. From posters of colourful scoops to machines that churns on their own, the room is majestic. Amidst it, sits a mysterious man who urges the lady to take the seat in front of him.* 

**Ice cream teller:** Oh, clear lady, tell me the flavour your heart desires. What ice cream will soothe your stomach's fire?

#### The lady: Vanilla!

Ice cream teller: Oh, no, not a vanilla enthusiast When so many unique flavours exist Set on boring vanilla, why are you so? Don't you know it is the flavour of the old? It says that you, too, are just as bland With nothing fun ever in your hands Now, go and ruin someone else's mood That's expected of you, vanilla-loving brood. *The lady runs out of the room in tears, as a college student enters.* College student: I'll have a mint chocolate.

**Ice cream teller:** Isn't brushing enough for you Now you want to eat toothpaste, too? This flavour is for the ones with no taste buds

So with weird taste their mouth they flood You have no sense of right or wrong Nobody wants you to ever come along Either eat mint, or eat the choco I swear, vou make evervone loco. The college student exits; a small child enters. Child: I want chocolate with extra chocolate syrup. Ice cream teller: Alas, the pain of teeth is ignored Because kids do not know that diabetes is not cured "Mumma final baar," you chocolate-lovers claim But I know your obsession can never be tamed So much sweetness and so much sugar rush Rotten teeth, fixed by no toothpaste and brush But I know it can help put the sadness away So, eat it, only when your mumma says. The kid leaves; an Instagram influencer enters with their DSLR and phone ready to capture every minute of the 'exotic' experience. Influencer: So, guys, today, I will order watermelon sorbet. Stay tuned to find out what happens.

Ice cream teller: Call the lady, student, or child But I cannot deal with this request wild Sorbet is not even a type of ice cream If you like it, you're not a part of the team You are the Brutus, the one disliked by all You'll be the reason for your own downfall Nobody will like you wherever you go Which is why on Instagram you find hope. *The day was finally over; so the ice cream teller packed up his tent and left for another town, ready to terrorise another set of ice cream choices.* 

### Whose life is it anyway? U, Me aur Hum

# WRITING THE RIGHT WAY

### Unravelling The Narrative Of Paper

#### Pranav Manoj AIS MV, Alumnus

From journaling to jotting down to-do lists, writing serves as a method of expression, storing information and passing the same through generations. Let's journey back to ancient Mesopotamia and delve into the origins of writing and the materials used to convey thoughts.

#### Birth of the script

In Mesopotamia (3500 BC), as temple officials struggled with tracking temple goods and wealth, they devised a reliable way to do so. They used wet clay lumps marked with rudimentary drawings, which were hardened in the sun, and inscribed using reed as a writing implement.

#### The Egyptian papyrus

The Egyptians crafted papyrus from the pith of the papyrus plant in 3000 BC, revolutionising the writing surface. Papyrus spurred the demand for scribes, enabling more fluid inscriptions compared to those on plaster.

#### Bamboo books

In 1500 BC China, bamboo emerged as a medium well suited for the vertical columns of the Chinese alphabet. Bound together with threads, bamboo strips formed books, facilitating communication in the empire despite linguistic variations.

Wax, leaves and wood In fifth century BC, various mediums were used for writing. Wax surfaces were useful as they could be used multiple times, while palm leaves and birch bark served as documentation materials in ancient India. Romans utilised wood-based tablets when papyrus was scarce.

#### Vellum and parchment

In second century BC, an expensive alternative for papyrus was used. Made from animal leather, parchment allowed writing on both sides, enabling extensive manuscripts and illuminated texts. Due to this, Vellum became synonymous with prestigious manuscripts.

#### The discovery of paper

In 105 AD, the discovery of paper in China marked a significant milestone. Initially made from rags, mulberry fibres, laurel, and Chinese grass, paper offered a thinner, more flexible, and easier to produce alternative to parchment or papyrus, eventually spreading to the West.

#### The rotary press

In 19th century, the rotary press, invented by Richard March Hoe, revolutionised the printing industry, printing 8,000 pages in one hour. This increased paper demand led to innovations in production, with wood pulp becoming a primary source, meeting mass market needs.

> Pranav Manoj is currently studying computer science at Rice University United States of America



#### Editorial

# Nurturing Martial Arts



Learning martial arts helps children to develop both physically and emotionally. This rigorous discipline not only teaches them self-defense, but also instills a sense of selfawareness, discipline, confidence and leadership skills since the mentorship dynamic herein fosters a sense of responsibility and leadership in younger practitioners. These, and many other positive outcomes, motivated me to make karate and taekwondo an integral part of learning at Amity since

1994. Having been myself conferred with Black Belt by Japan Karate Federation, I ensure that all schools have experienced and professional coaches and dedicated infrastructure, wellequipped with mats for practicing kata & kumite and sparring. Over the years, more than thousand Amitians have achieved National and International Black Belt (from Japan). Karate and taekwondo teams are sent regularly for various national and international competitions and have won numerous accolades. For instance, Sweekriti won the silver medal in Singapore in 2010; Moulika Jain clinched the gold medal during the Open Karate Championship in Malaysia in 2023; and students like Dhruv Grover, Bhasker Sen, Ankit Gupta, Ojas Gupta and Shresht Srivastava are all international level players.

#### It's time to say Hip Hip Hurray

AIS Mayur Vihar has been declared as the ATL School of the month by Atal Innovation Mission and Niti Aayog for March 2024. The award is in recognition of various activities that foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination in young minds. The school has also nurtured young innovators who have won accolades during ATL Marathon, Youth Ideathon, Inspire MANAK etc.

## Choose wisely



It's a heartening thought that over the past few years, environmental awareness has seen a significant improvement. It's no longer just on Earth Day, which we celebrate on April 22, that institutions, activists and governments come together to create a better Earth for all, but now the approach towards sustainable living is visible all through the year. In fact, I have noticed many such ongoing efforts, one being that several delivery apps give customers the

option to choose no-plastic bags. A food delivery app ensures green packaging by using materials and manufacturing techniques that diminish energy use. Then, there is a food joint that uses cutlery made from sugarcane waste, and many clothing brands have even done away with plastic tags.

All this could not have been possible without an aware customer, and this has been the real change in recent years. Many consumers have become conscious of their carbon footprint and if more and more of us can make similar choices, imagine what a world of difference it could make. When it comes to mother Earth, the source of our existence and sustenance, it is imperative that we make better choices, whether it is the food we eat, the clothes we wear, or the mode of transport we use. So, ask yourself, am I willing to implement the 5 Rs of sustainability - reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink, and refuse – on a daily basis to live a more environmentally friendly and conscious life? As humans, we have been endowed with the wisdom to choose wisely, what is required urgently is the will to do so.

# One nation, one poll

## A Step Towards A More Streamlined Democracy



#### Prisha Verma, AIS Noida, XII I

ne nation, one election' 6 is the proposal doing the rounds this election season and simply put, it means that all Indians will vote in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections - to elect their central and state representatives - in the same year, if not at the same time. This proposal was submitted in the form of a report to President Droupadi Murmu by a committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind. Set up in September last year, the committee took into cognizance 'best practices from other countries' and also consulted as many as 39 political parties, economists, and the Election Commission of India. Of course, the report also mentions categorically that to put this proposal into practice, a legally sustainable mechanism must be put in place before the existing electoral cycles can be altered.

According to the supporters of this

#### Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'Through the Time Machine' published on page 9 of the GT edition dated April 15, 2024. As a science fiction enthusiast, I've always been fascinated by the concept of time travel. What truly captivated me about this particular short story was the protagonist's unique perspective. Unlike many time travel narratives focused on returning to the present, this character embraced their unexpected situation and actively sought to make a positive impact. The idea of using time

path-breaking proposal, the biggest merit would be huge financial savings for the nation as conducting each election, whether for the Lok Sabha or the state assemblies, sets the nation back by thousands of crores, due to the deployment of poll officials and security forces. As per official estimates, approximately 3,500 crores INR were spent in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. It's a nobrainer that this number would be even higher in 2024. Another argument is that under the current system, the country is in a perpetual election mode. In certain states, given that there are multiple elections for panchayats and local bodies, in addition to assembly and general elections, as many as 200-300 days in the year could be consumed by polls.

Also, when there are elections throughout the year, the code of conduct remains in force frequently, which affects the roll-out of welfare schemes, whether by the Centre or a state. Not to mention the fact that the slows down due to elections and all policy decisions are put on hold till the newly elected establishment is in place. The net result is that the nation slows down due to multiple election speed breakers. Further, a one-time election will not only save time and resources, it will also improve voter turnout, which, at present, varies from state to state, even for the general election.

industrial and business machinery

The move, however, would require multiple changes – from standardising of electoral rolls to amending the Constitution. Also, a widespread political consensus will be required for the same, which might be difficult to achieve as critics are already opposing the move saying this could marginalise regional and local concerns. Having said that, maybe it is time to move away from personal and political prejudices and move towards a progressive solution. 'What is good for the nation must be done' is the line that must be followed.



travel not just to explore the past, but to foster peace and harmony, challenged my preconceptions about the genre and opened my mind to the broader possibilities of time travel.

I found the story's simple language and fast pace to be engaging, making it a thoroughly enjoyable read. Overall, the story was a refreshing take on the time travel trope, leaving me with a lasting impression and a newfound appreciation for



the power of peace-making. Vandita Sharma AIS Saket, X B

Muse

The ethereal and enigmatic underworld of the Mariana Trench is home to some of the strangest species on Earth. Not only are these species peculiar, but they're also among the toughest animals on the planet. Let's follow Praneel Praval, AIS Gwalior, IX A as he shines a little light so we may take a closer look at some of these deep-sea creatures.

**e**Rthe

### **Dumbo Octopus**

Scientific name: Grimpoteuthis Size: 12 inches Depth: Up to 13,000 ft About: They may look cute because of their long Elephant ears, but they can

easily swallow their prey whole. Interestingly, the ears help them navigate through the deep sea. They fall under the category of umbrella octopuses due to their webbed tentacles.

### **Zombie Worms**

Scientific name: Osedax Size: 2 inches Depth: 10,000 ft About: Even after their unexpectedly small size, they feed on dead and decaying bones of some of Earth's biggest animals, including whales, with the acid it secretes, hence giving them the name 'zombie'. It keeps itself alive by taking in oxygen through its feathery branches.

### Seadevil Anglerfish

Scientific name: Melanocetus Size: 8 inches Depth: 13,000 ft About: It is indeed a bizarre creature with a misshapen body, razor-like teeth, and a cold death stare, but that's not all. In an odd evolutionary twist, the males of this species coalesce themselves into the females, as their fins, teeth, and eyes disappear, along with a few of their internal organs.

### Benthocodon

Scientific name: Benthocodon Size: 2 inches Depth: 2500 ft About: Unlike other

jellyfish which are usually transparent, it has an opaque reddish colour. This helps the Benthocodon to protect itself as it dines on small crustaceans and foraminiferans, the tiny unicellular organisms with a bioluminescent glow. This jellyfish has an estimated 1,500 wispy red tentacles.

**Octopus** Scientific name: Amphitretus pe-

Telescope

lagicus Size: About 10 inches Depth: 500-6500 ft About: Its cellophane-like body is so clear that it seems transparent. It gets its

name due to its tubular protruding eyes which also rotate, granting it wider peripheral vision to spot its predators and prey alike.

Illustration: Praneel Praval, IX A & Aadya Thota, X B, AIS Gwalior

MOSAIC Senior

# The quantum café

#### Laavanya Verma AIS VYC Lucknow, X A

mid the vibrant energy of a busy town, between tall buildings and brightly lit streets, stood a peculiar place, known to the people of the town as the Quantum Café. Its entrance attracted people walking with promises of an extraordinary experience, adorned with shimmering lights that pulsated with an otherworldly energy. The café's design blended seamlessly with cosmic wonder and polished modernity, radiating an ethereal glow. Its elegance was what attracted people from all walks of life. It was a haven where reality and imagination intertwined in an infinitely creative dance.

Theo, a young man in his twenties helmed the responsibilities of the café as its head barista. He, along with his team, aimed to make beverages and cuisines that were an experience that transcended the ordinary. Rather than being just like any other café that had a place to sit and eat, Quantum Café possessed the ability to manipulate time itself, welcoming individuals into a realm of quantum cuisine. While the café didn't look any different from other cafés, a closer look revealed its true nature - this café was unbound by the limitations of everyday existence. Upon entering, one was immediately struck by a captivating view that defied the laws of quantum physics and mechanics. The menu offered experiences



beyond imagination. Every item on the menu had a legendary name, granting customers the opportunity to dine alongside historical figures like Van Gogh, Marie Curie, Princess Diana, Freddie Mercury, and many more who would come alive for a conversation with you.

Jennifer, a young physicist fascinated by the secrets of the universe, was one of the regulars. The cafe's exceptional coffee wasn't the sole reason for her visits; she also enjoyed striking up discussions with the While the café didn't look any different from other cafés, a closer look revealed its true nature - this café was unbound by the limitations of everyday existence.

legendary personalities who graced its space. One day, Jennifer arrived with her colleague, Daniel. Both, being masters in physics, engaged in a conversation regarding the mysteries of quantum physics. Deeply engrossed in scientific conversation, they missed the subtle shift in the café's atmosphere. The café's walls sparkled with iridescent light as the other customers watched in wonder.

Suddenly, Jennifer and Daniel found themselves transported into a surreal dream world where the laws of physics were dancing to an unreal beat, suspended in multicoloured tints. That was the moment they realised that Quantum Café was far more than simply a coffee haven featuring historical figures; it was a gateway to endless possibilities within the vast universe. It was a portal gate. That is when they both began to map out routes across unexplored lands of wonder and investigate the secrets of the universe and galaxies. When they eventually returned to their own world, they not only carried memories with them but also the mysteries that lay within different universes. They understood that life's true magic lay not in finding solutions, but in the captivating questions that propelled them towards the unknown.

The Quantum Café was more than just a place that offered meals and beverages; it was a place fostering connections that transcended the boundaries of time and space, a world unknown to the people outside.

# The fate of the planet

Avni Munjal, AIS Gurugram 43, XII D

None knows how the world was created What came first, all remains a secret The creator made each and every creature Humans, animals, trees and creepers

Every tiny part when he made them Hoped we'd live together in content Gave the humans auxiliary wisdom To help create a united kingdom

And so years passed, all went well But a bug in human made them ill Trees cut down; animals hunted Every inch of the planet dominated

Slowly, steadily their empire grew But a grave danger began to brew Trees beheaded, soil was out of bounds Their harmful actions polluted grounds

When all of this together came

Seasons behaved like strange men Sun shone bright on the salty snow Monsoon clouds had no rain to bestow

They exploited all the resources Humans still never got enough Planet filled with greenhouse gases

Living here had become so tough

It was not long when humanity died Each falling like block of dominoes Became very late for them to realise The repercussions of actions they chose

Then what, you ask? Life ceased And this beautiful planet decayed No one was left to breathe out and in We don't know of that world today

But we may meet this fate very soon If we keep saying there's nothing to do Earth will be another planet to perish Because of the creatures it cherished.

Read Play and Reading your favourite GT can fetch you a prize too. Complete all the boxes below. Click a picture and send it to editor@theglobaltimes.in or submit your responses by visiting The Global Times website (http://theglobaltimes.in/readplaywin/). Three lucky winners will win a prize every week! 0.1 Who is the author of Q.3 Name any two Q.2 What is the name of the article on page 1? creatures that live in the café mentioned in the Mariana Trench. story on page 8?

Ē			
0	Q.4 Technicia 2024 was organised by	Q.5 Who is the inventor of mobile phone?	Q.6 Which recipe has been featured on page 9?
	<b>Q.7</b> What is the headline of the autobiogaphy on page 5?	<b>0.8</b> What was the cause chosen by the team of AIS Gur 43 for YP 2022-23?	Q.9 Tanzania has recalled cough syrup.
	Name:	Class:Sch	1001:

Results of Read Play & Win-50: Abeer Rastogi, AIS Noida, IV H; Raj Chandra, AIS Vas 1, IX B; Reyaansh Alok Mishra, AIS Saket, II C



n 43, XII D

Monsoon clouds had no rain to bestow They exploited all the resources

# **Spaced** out



#### Shlok Sharma AIS Saket, IX B

t was just another day in the park. I was taking a stroll, with the cool breeze touching my face gently. Ten minutes into my walk, I felt that my body was slowly drifting upwards. Slowly, the park faded away from my sight. I had studied in class about our planet being round, but this was the first time that I had found real proof of this fact as I levitated above the Earth.

With my heart in my mouth, I tried singing a song to calm me down, but nothing seemed to work. My heartbeat slowed down and I was sure I had died and was on my way to heaven!

I cautiously opened my eyes to check if I was still alive. I was! I was startled to see a small man in a greenish attire. He had an abnormal body just like 'Groot' from 'Avengers'. I was a bit baffled, so I decided to ask his name. 'I am GROOOOOOOOOTT!' he said in a high-pitched voice.

When I looked around, I found myself in space, but of a totally different kind. Every planet here had a name tag on it like Oscar, Titan etc. I realised these were just like the planets I had seen in 'Avengers' and Groot was truly real. Since he hardly spoke, Groot asked me to check my pockets. And there, I found a letter from 'Marvel' which said, "After Tony Stark's demise, we sent many of

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our heroes to Earth in search of the new 'Iron Man'. We wanted a young and active person, hence we only visited parks in search of such children. We had almost given up before we came to know about you! You may not know this Jacob, but you have the superpower of flying and becoming invisible. Thus, we have chosen you!". I couldn't believe my eyes, but soon I was being led by Groot to planet Oscar. Standing right in front of me were Captain America and Captain Marvel. "Welcome Jacob, here is your Iron Man suit," said Captain America, "and now you must prepare yourself for your first mission." My mission, I was told, was to save the Earth from the new monster, Danos, who was Thanos' step-brother. Half dinosaur and half-human, he was marching towards the Earth with his **mammoth** army. 'I am ready to save the planet!' I screamed. Everyone nodded and smiled at me. "Jacob, wake up. You are getting late. Don't you want to wear your Iron Man costume for the school competition today?" GT

So, what did you learn today? A new word: Mammoth **Meaning: Extremely large** 



#### Jaivardhan Singh Sisodia, AIS Gur 43, IX B

#### Ingredients

All-purpose flour200 grams	Vanilla essence1 tsp
Baking powder 1 tsp	Oil100 ml
Baking soda1/2 tsp	Milk100 ml
Curd1/2 cup	Cocoa powder1-2 tbsp
Powdered sugar1 cup	

#### Procedure

◆In a bowl sieve all-purpose flour, baking soda and baking powder together.

- ◆In another bowl, add curd, sugar, vanilla essence, and oil and whisk them together. ♦ Now, add dry ingredients into
- the mix and combine the batter using a spatula.

Add milk to adjust the consistency of the batter. Make sure there are no lumps left.

♦Next, divide the batter into two parts and add cocoa powder in one of the batches.

◆Pre-heat the oven at 180-de-

grees for 10 minutes.

♦Now, take a baking tin and grease it using oil.

◆Take both batters and pour them alternatively to form a marble effect. Use a toothpick to make strokes from the last layer of the batter to the center. (see image for reference).

◆Bake the cake in oven for 30-35 minutes.

◆After the baking is done, keep it aside for 15 minutes.

♦Once it has cooled down, demould it on a plate. It's time to grab your delicious Zebra Cake!



**KNOW ME** My name: Myra Jain My Class: I C My school: AIS Vas 6

HARMONY

My Birthday: January 14

It's Me

# **Empowering seniors**

## Navigating Health, Security, And Engagement For The Elderly Community

**T**outh Power is an annual social leadership programme organised by The Global Times, where different teams from Amity schools engage in varied social causes in several stages. One of them is 'Panel Discussion' where experts from different walks of life discuss several aspects of the chosen social cause. Here's presenting **Part** X of this exclusive series, based on the panel discussions organised by YP teams in 2022-23, and a host of opinions as experts debate on 'Helping the Elderly', the cause chosen by the YP team of AIS Gurugram 43.

#### Alert elderly for **cybercrime**

#### **Panellist: Ms Suman**

**SHO, Harvana Police** "Recently, cybercrime involving senior citizens has become alarmingly widespread, with them falling victim to scams through lucrative calls asking for passwords, OTPs etc. We must exercise utmost caution regarding our online activities and the individuals to whom we divulge sensitive information. To mitigate the risk of fraud, we must refrain from sharing personal data on social



media. In situations where senior citizens encounter fraud or mistreatment by their family or society, the Senior Citizen Cell can provide timely help. By taking these precautions and seeking appropriate help, we can work towards safeguarding our elders against cybercrime."

#### Make them technology savvy

#### **Panellist:** Dr Manisha Kaushik

#### Genetic engineer, entrepreneur, TEDx speaker, social activist, philanthropist author, editor

"Our elders too can benefit from technical knowledge. Teach them digital skills so that they can become technologically proficient and independent. I taught my grandfather how to use Facebook. It was a very little thing and he learnt after trying mul-



tiple times. But when he learnt and helped his friends to open their FB accounts, the sense of pride he felt was out of this world. He could reconnect with his batchmates from all across the globe. No one is ever too old for technology."

#### Nourishing the body for health

**Panellist: Anu Sahdev** Nutrition consultant & founder, Herb Club India and Suyash Foundation

"The significance of vitamins and minerals cannot be overstated in old age. Nutrients like Vit D, C, and E are important. A well-rounded diet for seniors encompasses carbs, proteins, and healthy fats. Fat aids the ab-

sorption of Vit A, B, E, and K. In-creasing the

#### Part X

#### Journey of compassion

#### **Panellist: Jas Kalra** President, Earth Saviours Foundations

"Tragically, some children resort to deceit, manipulation by falsely claiming their parents have passed away to seize their property. Many elderly on the streets are victims of this deception. Often, we encounter senile individuals in dire physical and mental health. When their condition improves, we



consumption of greens, nuts, seeds, omega-3, and sprouts is advisable. Pay special attention to calcium and zinc intake, as poor iron absorption affects zinc assimila-

to weak ened im-munity."



collaborate with the police to reunite them with their families. When we ask parents whether they desire their wealth or their children back, their answer is resolute. The joy that comes from reuniting a family surpasses any material wealth."



**Bond and share** with your elders

#### **Panellist:** Shammi Ahlavat Senior citizen

"Spend quality time with your elders, sharing both joys and concerns. Open up about your problems and allow them to offer their wisdom and insights. Family thrives on the essence of sharing, be it time, ideas, or challenges. As children grow, their perspectives evolve, and seeking guidance from parents or grandparents becomes invaluable. Em-



brace their life experiences and tap into their knowledge on friendships, education, and navigating life's complexities. Let's bridge the generation gap by recognizing the wisdom our elders possess. This small effort can help one achieve so much more in life '



#### Expert Speak Watch for the red flags

#### Panellist: Dr Namita Maharana

Medical officer, Park Hospital, Palam Vihar "Our grandparents hold the wisdom of ages, and it is our responsibility to care for them. On the medical front, numerous age-related issues arise, like the gradual depletion of amino acids leads to dementia and memory loss. As blood vessels thicken. diabetes and hypertension also become prevalent,



leading to increased BP and the risk of stroke. Proper nutrition plays a vital role in preventing these conditions; adequate intake of essential nutrients like calcium and amino acids is important. By prioritising nutrition, we can help our elders."

**Gratitude - a virtue** 

Celebrating Gifts Of Life At Senior Annual Day



glimpse of the 'Aabhar - Zindagi Ka Aadhaar'

#### AIS Gurugram 43

he school organised its 18th senior annual day for Class VI-XII on April 5, 2024. The occasion was graced by chief guest, Hitesh Kumar, additional deputy commissioner and district citizen resources information officer Gurugram; Presiding chief guest Ravindra Kumar Tyagi, chairman and managing director, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF along with heads of various institutions of Amity Education Group. The cultural evening commenced

with school principal Dr Anshu Arora sharing the commendable achievements of students in the field of academics, sports and extra-curricular activities. The achievers of academic session 2023-24 were also felicitated during the event. The Late Baljit Shastri Shield, was awarded to Mansha Rapria, Vedvati Vidyalankar Shield was given to Avni Munjal, Europa India Foundation Cup was given to Manish Yadav

and Dhananjay Mohan Cup was given to - Aarush Bhat and Ayushi Jain.

This was followed by a captivating ballad, 'Aabhaar-Zindagi Ka Aad*haar*', also the theme of the day, which showcased the transformative power of being grateful and hence being resilient amidst adversities through dance, drama, music, yoga, and taekwondo. It exhibited India's rich culture and heritage through folk dances. Chairperson lauded the live renditions and powerful acting by the students. GT



School Lounge

Manifesto writing session in progress

## **Understanding elections**

#### AIS Vasundhara 6

Wassup

he Electoral Literacy Club (ELC) of the school organised a simulated session on manifesto writing on April 2, 2024, to apprise students on its importance. A manifesto is an important document that goes a long way in upholding the democratic principles of a country while also showcasing the future intent of political parties. Members of the ELC, along with

their classmates, drafted manifestos for their respective parties to generate awareness and develop the spirit of critical thinking and responsible citizenship. Students were told that a manifesto is a public notice, a statement of beliefs, aims, policies, intentions and opinions and a pledge that the parties and their candidates take. It also forms the basis of a campaign and hence, written in a persuasive style fortifying the core of democracy.

# **An AT(a)L excellence**

#### AIS Mayur Vihar

IS Mayur Vihar was declared as the ATL School of the month by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Niti Aayog for the month of March 2024, having previously received the same award in October 2023. The award was conferred upon the school for conducting activities that foster curiosity, creativity, and a spirit of innovation in young minds. Notably, the school has nurtured several young innovators who have won accolades in ATL Marathon, Youth Ideathon, Inspire

MANAK etc. Every month, the ATL award is given to a school in recognition and appreciation of conducting and participating in science and innovation activities. Under the visionary leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of schools and RBEF, Amity Group of Schools have been consistently bagging this award for the past one year including AIS Noida in August & December 2023; AIS Vas 6 in July & November 2023; AIS Saket in May 2023 and AIS Gur 46 in August & December 2023. **GT** 



Young innovators at the ATL Lab of the school



### **Cyber security address**

#### AIS Gurugram 46

talk on cyber security was held for Class VII and VIII on April 8, 2024 by Dr Rakshit Tandon, a veteran cyber security expert and consultant, Safe Surfing Campaign at Internet & Mobile Association India. During the session, students were briefed on various aspects of cyber safety, including prevalence of fake social media accounts on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, the legal age restrictions for creating social media accounts, safety measures such as cautious clicking on links, careful sharing of personal information, and vigilance while using public Wi-Fi networks. This was followed by a Q&A round in which students actively participated. The session served as a valuable platform for students to learn practical strategies for staying safe in the digital world and equipped them with skills to stay safe online.

## **Towards** a healthy world

#### **AIS VYC Lucknow**

he school organised a special assembly on April 7, 2024 to celebrate World Health Day which also marks the founding day of WHO. The assembly was hosted by Viddhit and Anika of Class V. Students from primary and middle school showcased the importance of nutrition and healthy diet through placards. An evocative poem recital on the importance of healthy life was done by Ziva Yadav and Anushka Singh of Class V. A medical health check-up camp in collaboration with Saraswati Dental College and Hospital was also held for the students. Doctors examined the children and gave helpful tips to them about healthy lifestyle.



# Guilty as charged...

## ...Yet Too Embarrassed To Confess

#### Yatika Khatter, AIS Saket, XII E

**Bag Pack** 

I f you have checked your refrigerator multiple times, only to see if the contents have gone from boring *dalchawal* to yummy cheesecake, then you are not alone. Truth be told, there are several silly things many of us are guilty of doing. Nodding in disagreement? We bring proof.

Referring to someone as 'bro' because you forgot their name. He introduced himself just yesterday and yet all you could come up with as you extended your hand was, "Happy birthdayyy...bbrrrooo!"

Taking a break from screentime on your computer, only to browse through your phone instead. You decide to give your eyes a quick break, only to find yourself scrolling endlessly through your mobile.

Reading instructions on a food packet, tossing it in the bin, only to retrieve it again...because, well, you forgot. You thought you will be able to remember exactly how many teaspoons of sugar you will need? Well, you are not the only one.

**Ignoring a text for weeks, and finally responding with "Oh! I don't know how I missed this."** There is only one word for this – laziness. We've all been there before.

**Ruffling the entire house to find your phone that was in your hand.** And let's not forget that you used the flashlight of the same phone to look under your bed.

Lowering the stereo volume, while driving so that you can see better. You may think that turning down the volume, will help you focus on the road. But that's not how it happens. Eyes and ears have always been different worlds. Always.

**Practicing our thank-you speeches in the bathroom.** Always dream big, they say, but that doesn't mean these have to happen in the bathroom!



**Detonating the microwave time bomb.** It's amazing how we want to stop the microwave at 0:01 seconds every time we use it. It's as though we've just completed our mission by defusing this time bomb at the last second, saving hundreds of people!

Liking an expensive item but pretending you are still considering it. Now, what

would the salesperson think of you if you behave any differently.

Guilty! Guilty! Guilty! We know you've nodded in agreement to most above, but if you still want to disagree, that's okay, because that's again something many of us are guilty of doing, but will never admit.

## MOVIE REVIEW

Movie: Cruella Directed by: Craig Gillespie Released on: May 28, 2021 Genre: Crime comedy

**Synopsis:** Estella is a young and ingenious swindler who is determined to make a name for herself in the fashion industry. She embarks upon this journey to fame with a couple of bandits who admire her penchant for mischief, and together they create a good life for themselves on the streets of London. Nevertheless, when Estella befriends the renowned fashion icon Baroness Von Hellman, she fully embraces her evil side and becomes the wild and wicked Cruella.

Why is it watch-worthy: The movie brings a brand new perspective to how a fairytale villain thinks and behaves! It's not your regular "I hate the villain" or "I feel sympathy for the villain" type of story. The film's storyline is unique, the music and cos-



tumes are mesmerising, and it has an amazing star power of accomplished actors like Emma Thompson and Emma Stone. With its lively plot and intense drama, it keeps the interest alive through every scene. Estella's bewildering wit keeps you in splits and glued to the screen! Iconic dialogue: "It's not Estella. That's the past. I'm Cruella." Rating: 4.5/5 Review by: Bulbul Verma AIS Gur 46, XII B

### **GT Travels to Maharashtra**



Samaira Lalwani, AIS PV, V D poses with her copy of The Global Times in front of Gateway of India, Mumbai. Completed in 1924, the monument was built to commemorate the landing of King George V and Queen Mary at Apollo Bunder on their visit to India in 1911.

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