

INSIDE



A cadet's note, P3



Warriors of India, P7

AMITe poll

Do you think India's monthly trade deficit touching 18.51 billion USD will bring good news for the GDP of the country?

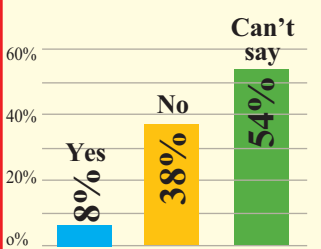
- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Can't say

To vote, log on to www.theglobaltimes.in

POLL RESULT

for GT issue April 11, 2022

Do you think that Will Smith's reaction of slapping Chris Rock at the Oscars was a justified act?



Results as on April 17, 2022

Coming Next

Treble in paradise

Saviours of the planet

While governments are doing a lot to raise environmental awareness, individuals and organisations are also leading by example. The GT Network, reports on the same!

Every year, to commemorate Earth Day on April 22, events and activities are held globally to highlight environmental problems, and to mobilise people to do their bit to save the planet. The theme of this year's Earth Day has been declared as 'Invest In Our Planet'. Now, that looks like the government's job - creating plans that contribute to save this planet, for what else can the common man do apart from following the three Rs in their own backyard! Fortunately, there are many heroes who think otherwise, and prove that the onus of providing a better future lies not only upon the government, but on all of us collectively.

Meaningful movements

Remember reading about the Chipko Movement in your history book? This rather well-known conservation movement was initiated not by a government, but an individual - Sunderlal Bahuguna in Uttarakhand. The main objective was to protect trees on the Himalayan slopes from the axes of forest contractors. It took just an individual's persistence to inspire the village folk to tie sacred threads around tree trunks and hug the trees, hence the name - Chipko. Equally well known in Southern India is Save Silent Valley Movement, which was led by poet and activist Sugatha Kumari. Silent Valley is an evergreen tropical forest in Kerala which was in danger of being destroyed by a hydro-electric project. The efforts of this leader paid off when the project was cancelled by the central government, and in 1985, PM Rajiv Gandhi formally inaugurated the Silent Valley National Park. Similarly, the Singbhum district of Bihar has been home to the Jangal Bachao Andolan where the tribals came forward against the government's decision to replace natural sal forests with teak.

Art attack

Art is known to impact the collective consciousness in more ways than one can imagine. Artists around the world have been using this medium to make a differ-

ence, like Delhi-based artist Vibha Galhotra. Every year around Diwali, pollution level in the capital reaches alarming levels, and this is what inspired her to raise her concerns. She staged a performance where she stood at several polluted areas - landfills, road intersections, or industrial areas - wearing a respirator mask and holding a net to catch a volume of air. Her contemporary, Gigi Scaria raises the same concerns through paintings which depict uncontrolled urbanisation and its side effects. Environmentalist, Ravi Agarwal speaks of the deteriorating condition of our rivers through his various exhibitions. In one public art programme, he created a 24-foot-high fountain installed with a filtration tank on the Yamuna river front to draw public attention to the sorry state of the river.



Healing homes

Let's look at the remarkable efforts made by housing societies to achieve sustainable development in India. The Matoshree Pearl Society in Mumbai is one of the many high-rises in the area where the waste produced is

managed in such an efficient manner that it can be later used to grow its own organic fruits and vegetables. It boasts of a self-sustaining waste-management procedure that recycles kitchen waste into organic compost. Moreover, in 2016, this society replaced all tube-lights and CFLs with LED lamps, thereby conserving energy. In Pune, Greenland 2 complex has installed a rainwater harvesting system which has helped to save almost 24,000 litres of water per day. The Twin Star Cooperative Housing Society in Mumbai has managed to cut off eighty-three percent of electricity charges by investing in a solar power generation system. These communities continue to inspire housing societies across India to opt for such eco-friendly procedures.

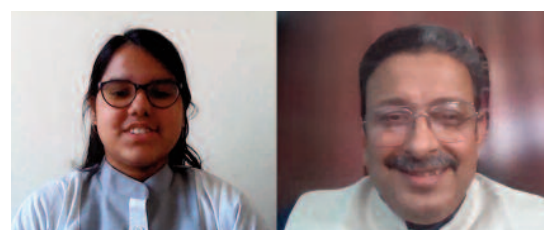
Voluntarily vocal

Mother Earth is a giver, but are we reciprocating? Our voluntary organisations and NGOs definitely are! The Tropical Research & Development Centre (TRDC) aims to preserve natural resources and make them available for all without discrimination. They work by involving younger generation and farmers in their efforts. Sankalp Taru Foundation, on the other hand, exemplifies how the digital medium can be used towards achieving national plantation drives. This NGO is active in 21 states and has planted millions of trees since 2013. Chintan Env. Research & Action Group is at the forefront of promoting equitable growth by encouraging responsible consumption. Their endeavour is to reduce surplus waste and facilitate better waste management, the end goal being to provide resources for the vulnerable and underprivileged sections of the society.

Undoubtedly, a lot is being done by people who are driven by their passion and commitment to give us a better future. It's time that each one of us also become a part of the change we seek!

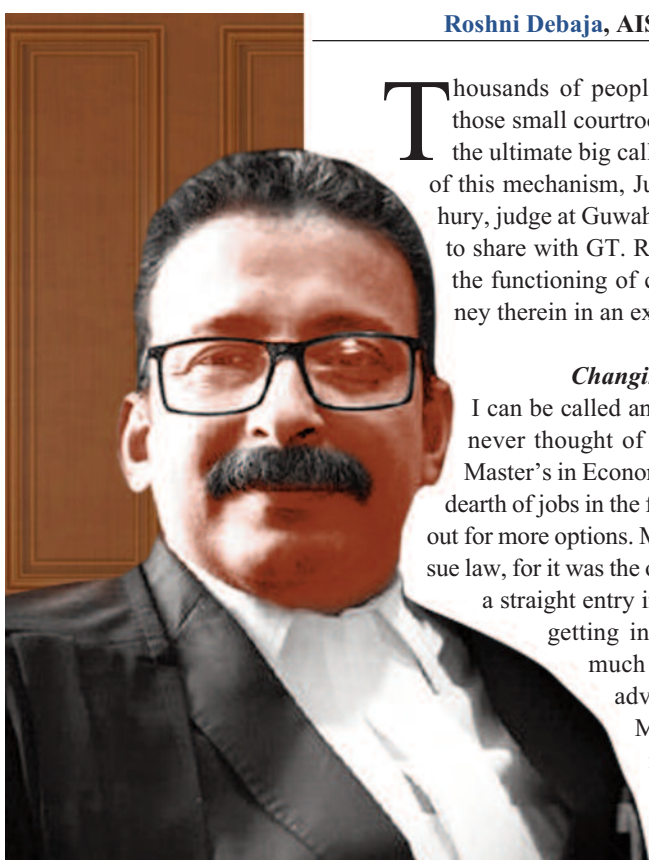
Journey of a justice

Justice Arun Dev Choudhury Discusses Law, Life And More



In conversation with Justice Arun Dev

Roshni Debaja, AIS Noida, X A



Justice Arun Dev Choudhury

Thousands of people are granted justice in those small courtrooms where a judge takes the ultimate big call. And as an integral part of this mechanism, Justice Arun Dev Choudhury, judge at Guwahati High Court, had a lot to share with GT. Read on as he talks about the functioning of courts and his own journey therein in an exclusive interview.

Changing professions

I can be called an accidental lawyer, for I never thought of pursuing law. I did my Master's in Economics, but considering the dearth of jobs in the field, I was forced to look out for more options. My uncle suggested I pursue law, for it was the only degree that provided a straight entry into the profession. After getting into it, I discovered how much I enjoyed being a legal adviser. Surprisingly, my Master's played a pivotal role here, for it enabled me to have a wider perspective on various subjects as is required in the law profession.

Confronting challenges

I am a first-generation lawyer since nobody in my family was a lawyer then. I started my practice with a senior advocate named Braja Mohan Sharma in 2001, and everything was going well for the initial two-three years, but his sudden demise in 2004 made things hard for me. It was then that I decided to not join any other Chamber and start independently. I got tremendous support from my family and friends, but the journey was still full of challenges. Since, apart from the principal seat of the Guwahati High Court, it has three outlying benches for Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram, I had to travel a lot to survive in this field. I was simultaneously engaged as a tending council by several corporations and departments - Assam Education Department appointed me as an additional standing counsel, and Mizoram hired me as an additional advocate general for the state. I continued there till I was finally elevated as an additional judge in 2021.

Comparing bar and bench

Lawyer and judge are two sides of the same coin, and require each other for the functioning of the justice system. When you are a lawyer, you have to serve both your client and the court, because not only is the fate of your client in your hands, but also the responsibility to be honest to the law. Conversely, as a judge, you have access to both sides and must make a decision for justice. So, though your responsibilities increase as a judge, a lawyer's job is always

more stressful. However, things get tough for both when media comes into the picture. We have all seen several media trials take place where they already decide who's guilty even before the courts do. This kind of media reporting should not be encouraged.

Conveying justice

India has a population of over 1.40 billion, and with a population of such magnitude, disputes are bound to happen. The number of litigations filed daily are high, too. So, even though justice delayed is justice denied, as of now, almost four and a half crore cases are pending before all the courts in India. While most of these cases can be settled through a mediation process between the parties, the situation will improve in the days to come as the honourable apex court, the several high courts, as well as the parliament, take several initiatives to lessen this pendency.

Conferring wisdom

I feel students need to be made more aware of CLAT, the national level law examination that takes place, just like the other examinations such as NEET, JEE, etc. In fact, their parents, too, need to understand and explore professions beyond engineering for their kids. Other than that, hard work, continuity, consistency, and passion for whatever you do would take you a long way. Remember that success is a continuous process, so you have to work hard in order to achieve what you seek to attain.

Some corals produce a fluorescent pigment that acts as their own sunblock and protects them from harmful effects of sunlight and UV rays.



Around The WORLD

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



SCOTLAND

COP26 for carbon cutting

According to the discussions and analysis presented at COP26, the world might only see a two degree C or less increase in temperature this century if the carbon-cutting promises and pledges at the event are followed. The study presented stated that if all the countries implement the pledges "in full and on time", there might still be hope for humanity to help the planet, but the main goal of the meeting was still to keep the global temperature rise under 1.5C, which seems nearly impossible.

RUSSIA

Nokia quits Russian market

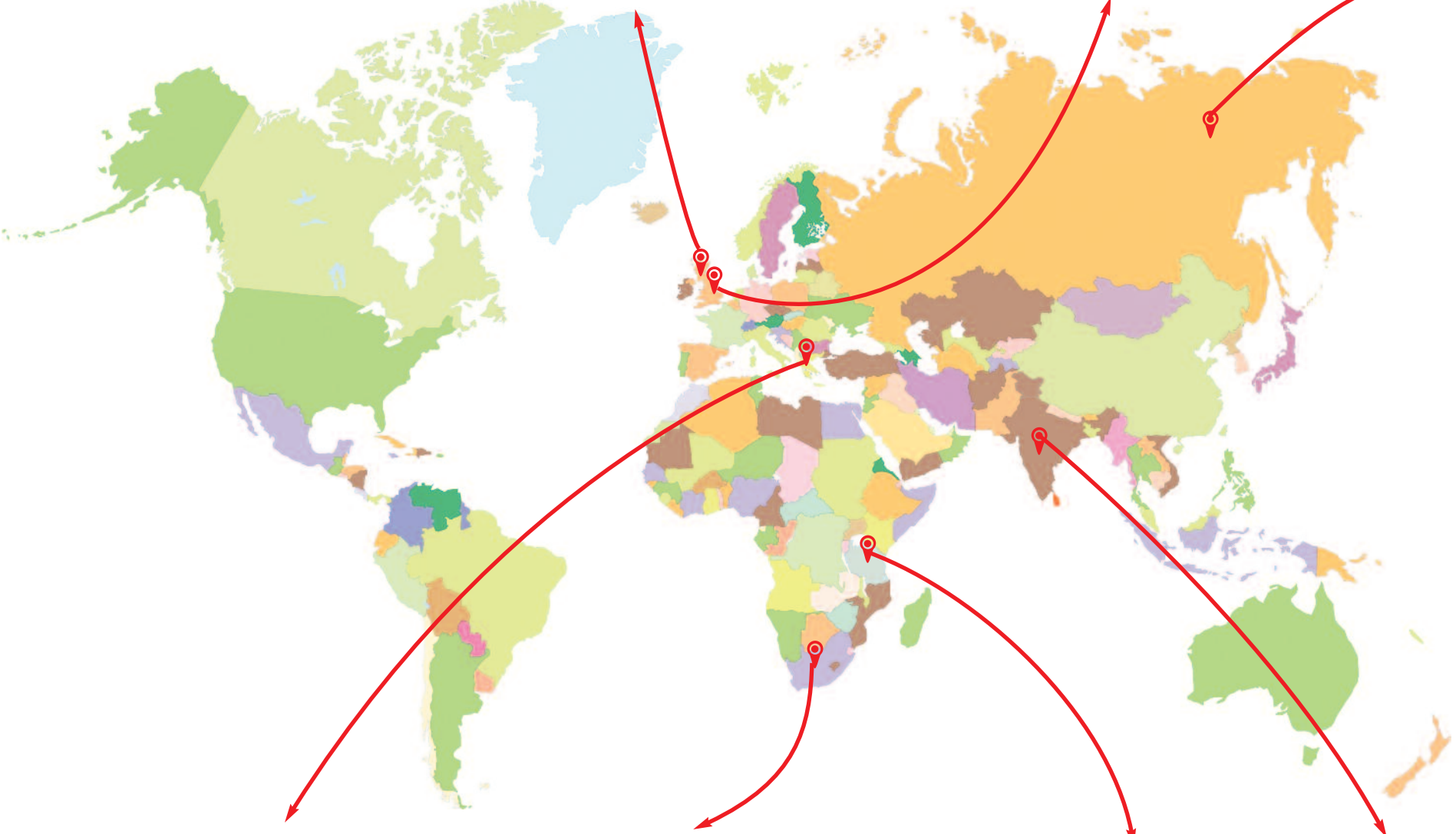
The Finnish multinational telecommunications company, Nokia, has decided to pull out of the Russia market completely, laying off more than 2000 working staff in the country. The company had stopped deliveries in Russia since early March, and after the suspension of activities by Ericsson, Nokia has announced the same due to the country's invasion of Ukraine. The move will result in a provision of 108.6 million USD in Nokia's first quarter.



ENGLAND

More sanctions for Russia

The British government has announced that they, in coordination with European Union, will be slapping more sanctions against the pro-Moscow separatists in Ukraine and on Russian oligarchs. 178 Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine and six oligarchs, their families, and employees will be sanctioned. The decision comes after Russia's continuation of targeting civilians in their neighbouring country.



GREECE

Restrictions lifted for tourism

The officials of the country have stated that all pandemic-related restrictions like wearing masks indoors, social distancing, and COVID-19 certificates, will now be lifted throughout the summer tourism period. With minimal number of cases right now and 72% of the population being fully vaccinated, the country has said that it will consider reinstating the limitations after the summer tourism peak is over, i.e., September.

SOUTH AFRICA

Flood in Durban

A flood has wreaked havoc in the Durban area of the country and has claimed around 300 lives till now in addition to destroying property. Called a 'catastrophe of enormous proportions' by president Cyril Ramaphosa, climate change is being cited as the reason for the flood. The officials are carrying out search and rescue operations in the area and expect the death toll to rise higher; the national government is also working on declaring the province to be a 'disaster area'.



TANZANIA

100 years of founding father

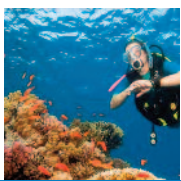
Various events were carried out to celebrate the marking of 100 years of the birth of Julius Nyerere, the founding father of the country. The main events were held in Butiama, his ancestral village, where people remembered him as a just leader. He is known to have unified all Tanzanians from different backgrounds, and who made Swahili the official language of the country. The officials stated that new elements would be introduced in school curriculum so students could learn more about him.

INDIA

Made in India civil dornier flies

The first-ever 'made in India' civil dornier has taken its first flight to provide connectivity to remote towns of Arunachal Pradesh. The 17-seater dornier aircraft that will prove services between five remote towns is said to be a great move for the Indian aviation as it will further boost connectivity of the northern region with the rest of the country. To support the same, Ministry of Civil Aviation has also approved a scheme to promote connectivity and to develop infrastructure for betterment.





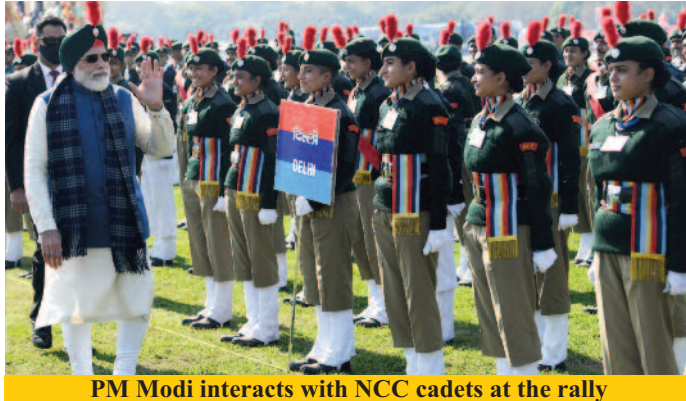
The Antarctic ice sheet is the largest block of ice on earth which covers more than 14 million sq km and contains about 30 million cubic km of water.

A cadet's note

On Being A Part Of The NCC Prime Minister's Rally 2022



Aishita with officers and other NCC cadets at the event



PM Modi interacts with NCC cadets at the rally

Aishita Gusain

AUUP, BA (H) Eng, Sem IV

After a year of hard work in NCC, I got the privilege to be a part of NCC Prime Minister's Rally 2022, on the occasion of 75th Amrit Mahotsav of Independence during the Republic Day. It was a dream come true because lakhs of NCC cadets work hard for this day, and only a few make it to the final event. It was the best moment of my life, something that introduced me to many new and exciting experiences.

The rehearsal sessions were indeed the most exciting part as the 17-day camp was full of enthusiasm, hard work and infinite memories. The training started from January 13, 2022, at NCC Headquarters, Safdarjung Enclave. All the cadets used to get up at 5 am and start practicing immediately after getting ready and having breakfast at 7 am. Anyone who did anything wrong in the camp



Aishita Gusain at the PM Rally

was punished, so everyone tried to perform well during the practice sessions. At the camp, we also met many officers who used to evaluate our rehearsals and helped us improve. One such evaluation by the officers changed our performance completely. They did not like what was being prepared by us because there were some stunts which could not be performed in front of the Prime Minister due to

security reasons. There was only one day left and we had to change the entire performance. It was a very difficult time for everyone. Nonetheless, all the suggested changes were incorporated. We practiced the entire day till 3 am and again after a break of two hours at 5 am. And finally, we performed on January 28 at PM Rally, and everyone did a great job. During his speech, PM Narendra Modi appreciated all



the NCC cadets and said that NCC youth are the future soldiers of the country.

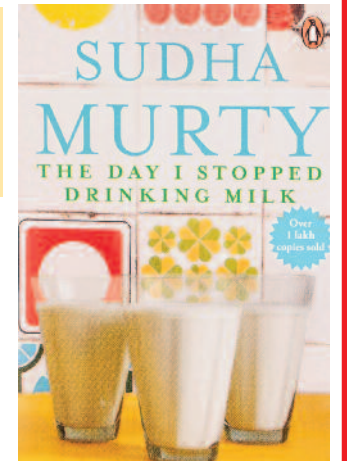
Well, there is no denying the fact that the world of NCC is full of hard work but at the same time, it has enhanced my life and work style. Wearing the uniform properly, taking care of cleanliness, maintaining endurance and enthusiasm, etc., has become an inseparable part of my life now.

I feel proud that I am a student of Amity University, as the institution gave me a chance to become part of NCC and do something for the country at such an early age. In the near future, I would surely want to join the Indian Army and do my bit. Jai Hind! 🇮🇳

Book Review

Rake in that review

Name of the book: The Day I Stopped Drinking Milk
Author: Sudha Murty
Published in: 2012
Genre: Non-Fiction



Synopsis: The Day I Stopped Drinking Milk is a book full of heart-warming experiences of the author herself, Sudha Murty. The book is written as she wanders away on the roads of rural and urban India and aspires to become the voice that many never had. There are 23 stories in the book, and each story has a different focus. As the book moves on and the stories are narrated, Murty confronts the social issues we come across in our society through fluent and persuasively-written tales. Her tales move through time and reveal some interesting and thought-provoking lessons, like the story of Vishnu or Venkat. From a young girl who takes a train journey that changes her life forever, to a village woman who provides bathing water to many in a drought-stricken land, this book contains story of many who teach us something or the other with every page turned.

Why is it worth reading: Sudha Murty is one of the few authors whose coherent writing style, purity of thoughts, and simplicity have inspired millions around the world. Since wisdom gathered over the years has been shared in this book, it

provides useful insight to the readers. It inspires us to be aware of our surroundings, not to draw harsh conclusions till we know the other side of the story, and continue learning from our fellow beings. The readers will surely be hooked till the end of the novel for this one. She beautifully weaves the everyday life of men and women in India into short stories, and it is almost magical how each story has a unique takeaway that one can never really forget. The emotional quotient of the book is high, and the writing style is simple yet joyful. Plus, the book is not voluminous and gives quick food for thought.

Iconic quote: "Time is precious. If you don't do your work on time, it is as good as not doing it."

Rating: ★★★★★

Review by: Kanak Verma
 AIS Gurugram 46, VII D

The Homeschooling Adventures We Encountered During The COVID Pandemic

MUTE UNMUTE



Shrey Srivastava, AIS Gur 43, VIII C

"M'am, you are on mute!" "Can you unmute yourself and answer the question?" "Am I audible?" "I have uploaded the assignment on teams, please check!" "Please switch on your cameras!"

After living with these dialogues as a part of our daily schooling, we are finally back in our classrooms with our teachers in front of us and our friends sitting beside us. No more internet issues can help us escape, but thankfully, we are no longer a part of the COVID-19 homeschooling system (let's hope the virus doesn't come back again)! This phase of studying online, sitting at our home, not meeting friends and our teachers, was indeed a tough time, but we are finally coming back to the school building we all missed so much, and it is no less than a dream come true. But as we see all these happy reunited faces, a question looms large – "did you guys even learn anything during the pandemic?"

The pandemic batch went through a lot in the past two years – from adapting to the new normal to understanding how the MS Teams works, from getting laid back to listening to everyone's taunts of 'the pandemic batch will get free marks in their exams anyway'.

But then the glass isn't always half empty. A little shift in perspective, and some might even say that we ended up learning way more than any other batches might have. Not only did we learn our syllabus, but also how to adapt to se-

vere changes in life. Experiencing some of the most challenging scenarios (ones we wish to never see again), we learnt a lot more than the lessons of our textbooks.

In our homeschooling days, we learnt the importance of human lives, and how we should not take any minute or any person for granted. For a fact, we understood the importance of cherishing and being grateful for each and every good thing that happens to us. Each day we were grateful for our well-being, for continuing to study even though it was online, as many students in rural areas were deprived of the same. We encountered mass death and the pandemic-hit situation of our nation as well as the globe. We saw people losing their jobs, salaries cut off, people weeping and begging for hospital beds, and people losing their family members.

So, yes, the pandemic batch did learn a few things, and not just from the textbooks, but the world around. Even our teachers had to get acquainted with the new technology in order to make the process of learning easier and more adaptable for us. Our parents made sure to give us space and utter silence so we could attend our classes and study in peace. Even when we had no opportunity to go out and play, our parents and teachers came up with various fun activities for us to stay active and continue learning while staying at our home.

Now that the vaccines are coming out and situation is getting better, everything is reopening, so we are going back to school. But us, the pandemic batch students, will always remember the lessons we learnt in these testing times. We will definitely incorporate the learnings of the pandemic period, and let's hope no other batch has to face this ever again!

The seafloor and water contain at least 150 trillion USD worth of gold, enough to give every person alive a share worth 21,000 USD.



Ding dong Dugong

Rivers, lakes, and wetlands are indubitably amongst the most biodiverse places on earth, but the diversity that dwells in them is often overlooked. As such, despite being vital for communities, economies, and ecosystems alike, scores of fish species today are heading towards extinction; fisheries that trade in them and provide employment opportunities to millions across the globe are increasingly shuttering down withal. Being mindful of the same, the United Nations has designated 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture to make us au courant with the catastrophe that awaits these marine miracles and ensure their continuity for the foreseeable future. Aiming to make this vision a reality, GT presents a brand-new series, wherein each segment will either cover an endangered fish species on the verge of extinction or a renowned fishing village in any part of the world in need of immediate human attention.

Avni Munjal, AIS Gurugram 43, X D

Illustration: Adamyia Munjal, AIS Gurugram 43, IV

Meet me, I am: Dugong

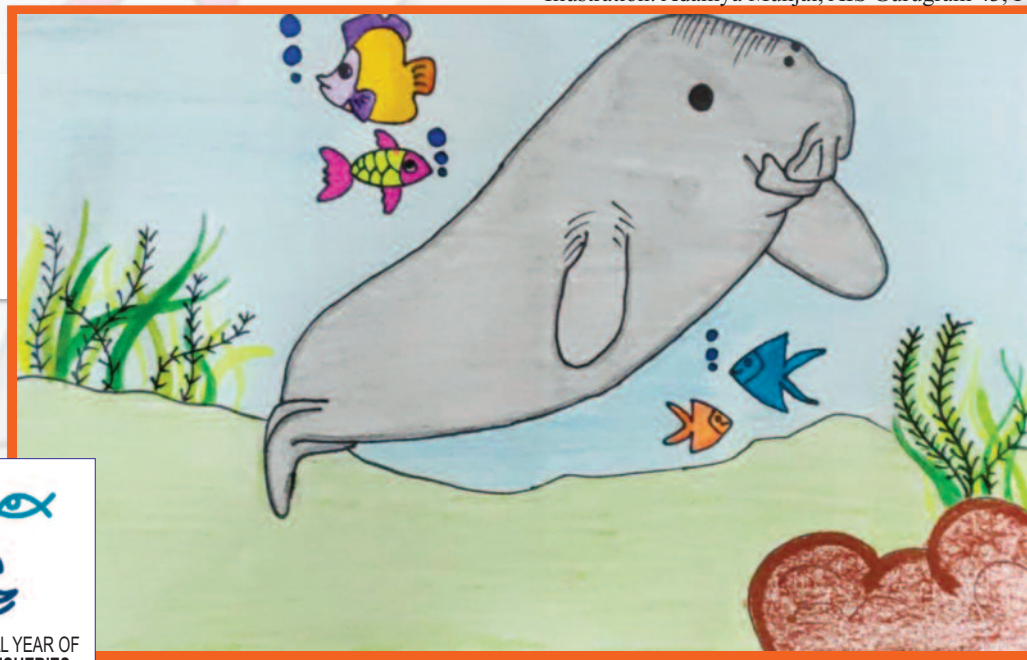
My taxonomic name: Dugong dugon

I am native to: Northern waters of Australia between Shark Bay and Moreton Bay; Persian Gulf; Red Sea; Gulf of Kutch

My life expectancy: 70 years or more

About me

- I am a marine mammal, and one of the four living species of Sirenia order.
- I am the only living member of the Dugongidae family.
- I span the waters of around 40 countries and territories throughout the Indo-West Pacific, but I am also restricted to the coastal habitats because I am largely dependent on the seagrass communities, specifically for my well-being.
- I have a fusiform body but no dorsal fin or even hind limbs, and I also have a dolphin-like tail.
- I am usually hunted for my meat and oil.
- I am also the only herbivorous mammal that has become completely aquatic.
- I am known by various other nicknames like sea



cow, sea pig, sea camel, balguja, etc.

■ I can grow up to three metres long and weigh about 300 kgs.

■ I also feed exclusively on seagrass and can eat up to 40 kg of seagrass in a day.

■ My age is estimated by the number of rings that I have on my tusk, just like trees.

■ I can breathe in oxygen through my nostrils and

can hold my breath for up to 11 minutes and can dive up to 33 metres deep.

■ My mouth is placed way below my head, which makes it easier for me to eat grass from the seabed.

Why I am in danger

I have been hunted for thousands of years for my

meat and oil, which has taken a huge toll on my population as my reproduction is a very slow process. The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists me as a vulnerable species close to extinction, and even the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species bans the trade of my products. Though a lot of countries have started taking steps to protect me, my numbers keep declining because of anthropogenic habitat degradation, hunting, and fishing-related incidents. Just in the last 90 years, my population has declined at least 20% in the entire world. There were times when I could be found in areas like Hong Kong, Mauritius, Taiwan, Cambodia, Japan, Philippines and Vietnam, but today, my population there has completely dried out. Research on me is also struggling because in many countries, my numbers have still not been surveyed.

How I am being saved

It is important that 95% of adults must live at least up to one year for my numbers to be stable, which is why various human efforts have been made to help me. Even local and national authorities are taking steps to help me. Kenya has passed legislation banning my hunting, and Mozambique also has laws that has been protecting me since 1955. France, UAE, India, Sri Lanka, Japan, China, Palau, etc., also have rules and regulation that aim to slowly but surely increase my numbers.

The champion wins

All About The Immune System, Our Shield In Disguise



Anika Joshi, AIS Vas 1, XII

“Achoo...” went Liberty for the umpteenth time, as her 6-year-old sister tried diagnosing the cause behind her uncontrollable sneezing fits and rising temperature. “What could the matter be? Should I ask papa to take her to the nearby infirmary?” mumbled the helpless sister to herself. “No, kid, that would be completely unnecessary,” whispered someone in a strange, unknown voice. Taken aback at first, the sister tried locating the source of the voice. To her utter surprise, it was coming from within Liberty. “Yes, you heard me right. You won’t need a doctor. An unwanted virus entered Liberty’s body as she shook hands with one of her sickly friends yesterday, and we are currently functioning to shoo it off before it makes her ill!” retorted the still unknown someone.

“But who’s this and how are you inside my sister?” asked the younger sibling at once, all perplexed. “I am Mr Immune and I am present in each and every animate being that there is, even you. Guess who protects you from all the harmful and deadly microorganisms!” The little sis-



The science of it

The immune system of the body is its natural defense against infection or disease. It is made up of a network of cells, molecules, tissues and organs that work together to protect the body, like B cells, Phagocytes, regulatory T cells or Lymphocytes, antibodies, skin, etc.

ter was blown away by this new piece of information. “Inside me, too?” her curiosity rose. “Yes, along with some hundred thousand other organs,” he responded with a giggle. Little did he know this would trigger the nosy parker in her. For now she wanted to know everything that there was about him. But Mr Immune was quick too, he left the task to his team. Thus, to apprise the little girl, the Immune squad began with the introductions. Mr Leukocytes, aka White blood

cells, was the first one to step forward. “I am a watchperson. I scan the various tissues and organs of the human body for any suspicious signs. I am the one who informed my team mates when Liberty shook hands with someone ill,” he elaborated. “Sorry, I could not help much. The antigen was too strong for me to restrict it from entering,” tacked on the largest human organ, Mrs Skin, who was now a little upset with her incapacity to carry on the immunity task. “Ahh, that’s under-

standable! On being intimidated about the possible threat, I went ahead to fight off the intruder myself and while at it, gathered all the information about it. It was too strong to be restricted like that,” surmised Mr Phagocytes. “And yes, I did forward all that I gathered to Miss Lymphocytes too. She ain’t here though.”

“Wh-where is Miss Lymph... you know who?” inquired the little girl, breaking in on the conversation. “Umm, she is searching for all the infected body cells in Liberty’s body in an effort to destroy them,” replied Mrs B Lymphocytes, “while I am busy preparing the antibodies.” “But who are you exactly? And what’s an antibody?” the sister inquired further. “I share the same relationship with Miss Lymphocytes as you do with Liberty. And by building antibodies, a special type of protein, I am only helping my busy sister neutralise the effect of the multiplying antigens.” All this made the younger sister tear up, for until now she had no idea as to what goes into protecting the human body from this evil, germ world.

“And it was a success,” yelled Miss Lymphocytes as she completed her task a few moments later. “B-but Liberty’s still a little hot,” added the younger sister. “That’s part of the process, she will be fine!” responded the champion, Mr Immune. 🇧🇪

The new space DISCOVERY

Sara Seager is known for her work on extrasolar planets and their atmospheres

Ruchita Nair, AIS MV, X D

If you have heard theories about life up above in the clouds, it may not just be a fantastical tale. We are referring to Venus, the planet that is closest to Earth. Sara Seager, a Canadian-American planetary scientist and professor at MIT, along with her team, has proposed that there’s a high possibility of life amidst the clouds of Venus.

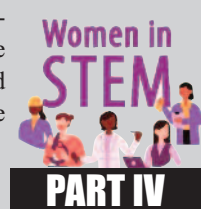
It was proposed for the first time that the only way life can survive indefinitely is with a life cycle that involves microbial life drying out, as liquid droplets evaporate during settling, with the small desiccated ‘spores’ halting at

and partially populating the stagnant lower haze layer in Venus’ atmosphere. They called this layer a ‘depot’. The spores eventually return to the cloud layer by upward diffusion caused by mixing induced by gravity waves, act as cloud condensation nuclei, and rehydrate for a continued life cycle. However, the journey to this mesmerising space has had its ups and downs. Seager has



often spoken about the time when a fellow researcher had stolen all her data. Despite that she continued her research and went on to develop an equation, called the Seager Equation, to estimate the number of habitable planets in the galaxy. Seager has received several awards for her research and writings on the discovery and explanation of exoplanets, the latest being the Los Angeles Times Book Science and Technology Prize for her memoir, ‘The Smallest Lights in The Universe’. No wonder then, her extra-ordinary life has led NASA to dub her ‘an astronomical Indiana Jones’.

Our takeaway: Keep your head high, believe in yourself, keep working hard and you can always reach the stars.





The Pacific Ocean is wider than the moon, as the expanse of the ocean is 12,300 miles across, five times the diameter of the moon.

How to tell the perfect lie

Disclaimer: We Bear No Responsibility Of The Outcome



Siddharth Kishore

AIS Gurugram 43, XII A

the camera switches on and zooms in on the host

Well, hello, friends! I know that none of us in the 21st century are the children of Sancy, now are we? We have all lied our way out of various situations, so no need to keep that goodie-two-shoes act up in front of me. I am not here to judge you; in fact, I am here to tell you the absolutely foolproof recipe to whip up the perfect lie, so let's start with this *délicie exemplaire*. Let's say you went to a concert with your Friend A and B without telling or taking permission from your mother, and now that you are standing on your threshold and your mom is enquiring you about your whereabouts, what should you say?

Step 1: Laying the setting

Laying the base for this delicacy is like laying the foundation of a building meant to last (which isn't forever but the viewer ain't supposed to know that yet). You'll have to knead the dough of deceit delicately yet precisely to make the setting used utmost convincing if you're gonna **try** and fool the mythically smart being, the Birthgiver (locally known as "MOM"). Even before going to the concert, be prepared with the

excuse you will be using in the future and inform her beforehand.

"Mom, tonight I will be going to Friend A's house to study!"

Step 2: To share or not to share

Once the dough is set crackling near the fire, we prepare the toppings, i.e., the details to throw in from the freshly picked yield from Deceit street®. Throw in stuff that the target will buy easily. Capitalism of sorts, we've all been there. Tell her vague details to ensure your lie's authenticity, but don't tell her the exact time frame or specific details that might land you in trouble.

"Yes, mom, Friend B was also there with us and we studied all evening!"

Step 3: The surprise element

Once the dough has been topped off with the divine tasting elements, a dash of truth with a garnishing of a casual attitude at the end is the grand finale. The dish, thereafter, is ready to be served fresh to the target. The scent of this final coating throws them off from the base lie itself, even further from the truth being hidden. Like a dream within a dream! Oh what sublime references! **chef's kiss**

"...And then Friend B tripped and fell face flat. Of course, they were bound to in those

five inches heels! Hahahaha!"

And we are finally done with the perfect dish to tell the spotless lie! Now, let's see how it turned out...

the camera quickly transitions from chef to the mother's face

Mother: "Why exactly was your friend in five inches heels when you all were just at home studying?"

Chef: Heels? No, no, I mean *chappals!*

Mother: Uh huh! And if you were "studying", why are you in your favourite sweater and jeans, styled like you are about to walk the runaway?

Chef: Me? This is just my everyday street fashion, mom! **smug face**

Mom: Really? This is your "everyday fashion" and you just happened to be wearing this on the day your favourite artist is playing a concert near our house?

Chef: ...conc...concert? What concert? What even is a concert?

Mother: The same thing you are coming back from right now!

Chef: Wh-what-ho-how did you know? This is impossible! I followed every step of the recipe! This was supposed to be THE perfect lie! How...how did you...

the camera abruptly cuts and the screen goes static



Stamped!

I Am More Than A Paper



Madhav Sharma

AIS Vasundhara 6, X D

I am a stamp paper, a foolscap-sized blank paper, a blank paper with a revenue stamp and a note of 10 INR or 500 INR or maybe even more. But what am I? Just a piece of paper with figures and facts printed on it? Or do I actually hold any value? Do I even have any existence to the general public? Or am I just another well-known yet hardly known thing?

Well, I have been recognised since the Indian Stamp Act of 1899 was announced, and I have been endorsing authenticity to official agreements since then. From lease agreements to buying or selling of properties, from loan agreements to mortgage, I have seen it all and I have felt it all. You humans need me in almost every official work you get indulged in. I've always been a part of legal happenings, be it for documenting daily businesses, or executing an agreement for any future ventures. I am indispensable, yet somehow still forgettable for the masses. Students are taught about me in their school books at a very early age, yet many of them are unaware of my looks and usage.

With years of existence, I have developed a variety of usages, and hence I also have different types and developments to make my usage easier and more accessible. I have metamorphosed into a better and more useful being. I span both areas, judicial and non-judicial. Of course, I can't be perfect.

Much like every other thing in the world, I, too, have my limitations; my viability in courts depends on the circumstances and the needs of a person. You heard it right, sometimes even the judicial side of me can't be presented in proceedings of the court or continuing legal procedures and so on!

Even though the older days weren't ideal, I did use to get the recognition I deserved, at least to the point where people considered me more authentic and reliable than an unstamped piece of paper. But now, with the IT revolution in full swing, I am being swept away. E-stamp papers have become more accessible and comfortable to the new generation. This may not sound like such a big deal, but this puts up a huge question mark next to my existence, so much so that now I even fear that it may not take long for me to go extinct.

You may be wondering why a simple stamp paper is acting so hurt? Well, it is because I am yet to get my due of sincerity and respect from the common masses. I know all of you have seen me somewhere or the other, maybe in those unrealistic courtroom drama films or maybe in passing, but nobody ever gave me a real thought. I am sure many of you reading this right now might still consider me just a piece of paper with a rupee on it. But just think, am I just a piece of paper with things printed on it or do I really have the power to conduct and control many vital things and happenings round the globe?



ALBUM REVIEW

Rake in that review

Name of the album: Reputation
Artist: Taylor Swift
Released on: November 10, 2017
Genre: Electropop, R&B
Record company: Big Machine Records

Theme: Showing her most carefree side in this album, Taylor sings about what happens to your identity when you step back and stop defining yourself by how strangers see you. Taking inspiration from her personal life thus, part of the album is about how media has always presented her as a villain acting

like the victim and her defiant clapback at all the people who undermined her throughout her career, while the other part is about what all happened in her life when she stepped back from the spotlight, which she does in all her albums as she says that her songs are her diary that she shares with her fans.

Why is it worth listening: The album is full of takedowns, love stories, and too many chart-topping catchy songs to count. The adrenaline rush that the songs give when you listen to them makes you feel like the protagonist of your own movie and makes you want to dance on the spot. It is



the perfect album to bop to and uplift one's confidence. Go give it a listen right now!

Favourite songs: Though it is hard to choose one, but if I still have to, I'll say, 'Getaway Car' and '...Ready for It?'

Rating: 4.8/5

Review by: Ananta Taneja
AIS Vasundhara 1, XII

12 people have travelled to the surface of the moon, but only three people have been to Mariana Trench, the deepest part of the world's oceans.



Ecosystem of happiness



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

When I embarked on my journey as an educator with Amity schools, I had only one dream – to create a space that nurtures young children as holistic human beings. I wished for our Amity universe to be known not only for its academic excellence,

but also for its resolve to put students' happiness above everything else. To distinguish Amity from the rest of the schools, I ensured to create a vast ecosystem made up of not only books, playgrounds, and teachers, but also the emotions of love and care for self, peers, parents, teachers, society, nature, nation, and the world. To achieve this, we give great importance to critical, analytical, and problem-solving skills in our Amityans through our specially-designed package of healthy competition, and encourage them to reach their best potential through hard work and discipline. At the same time, we are equally mindful that while taking part in all these activities and competitions, they nurture qualities like respect, kindness, compassion, and selflessness. As these are the virtues that go a long way in giving young, impressionable minds a road map for a happy future life that is full of the triumphs they truly deserve. When children grow up to be successful, holistic human beings, they become the backbone of equally happy families, communities, nations and, indeed, the world. Thus, Amity's ecosystem has been meticulously thought over, designed, and innovated over the years to ensure that children enjoy every moment of their time while imbibing the wealth of knowledge that lies unexplored in front of them. Happiness is thus, the soul of Amity's ecosystem. Every time I read or write about the various achievers from the Amity family, I find that their ideas, innovative solutions, and creativity are the reflections of this ecosystem as they are always aimed for the larger good of the society. 🇮🇳

Be the change



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

It's Earth Day again, and we are all lauding the efforts of those people and communities who are working hard to save the planet. There are messages galore on social media about what each one of us can do to pitch in. And yet, the air-conditioning in my room runs continuously, a neighbour's speaker blares at full volume, a friend shares with me pictures of her latest Tupperware collection, and the garbage collector heaps up piles of black, white, and blue polybags in his van. Amidst all this, I am forced to wonder if we are really concerned about observing Earth Day in its truest sense. Or has Earth Day been reduced to just one day of voicing concern?

Indeed this is a question we must all ask ourselves, as over the years, we have built a non-sustainable world that is destroying planet Earth. This is not to imply that commemorative events are not important, as these make us aware of how critical the situation is. What I am hoping for, instead, is that everyone introspects about their personal life. Our irresponsible behaviour, whether it is unplanned construction, felling of greenery, or mindless consumption, has already taken temperatures to unbearable limits. We have seen the hottest March in 72 years! Does it mean that we have lost the war? I would like to believe not. It was an unfortunate calamity like COVID-19 that taught us lessons in how to appreciate nature and use resources wisely, but now we must imbibe this wisdom in our daily routine. Reducing usage of electricity, choosing fresh and local food over packaged products, sharing vehicles or taking public transport more often - there are so many ways to do our own bit. Maybe, this Earth Day, we will choose to become part of the change that will help Earth to heal, slowly but surely. 🇮🇳

The Planet We Live On Belongs To Everyone On It...

...Not just humans

Avikshit Upadhyay, AGS Gur, X

Animals and birds are a vital part of our world. They have made and caressed our planet into the home we live in today, and continue to maintain its beauty and wonder. And yet some of these benevolent creatures may not exist in the coming years.

A look at the numbers, and one realises the gravity of the situation. According to the red list propounded by the IUCN, nearly one quarter of the mammals are already extinct or are on the verge of extinction. Of the 5487 currently identified mammals, 1219 of them are on the red list. Of these mammals, 188 are critically endangered, 448 are endangered, and 505 are vulnerable. Given that the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species is the most comprehensive inventory of conservation status of biological species, we have every reason to be alarmed.

It's not just mammals, the birds, too, are increasingly becoming a reason for worry. The same list also states that 12% of birds are facing extinction, and 70% are facing population losses due to a myriad of man-made

reasons. Though there are several birds that are staring at the barrel of the gun because of us humans, the passenger pigeon makes for a glaring example. Once famed for its massive migratory flocks that would darken the sky for days, the passenger pigeon was hunted to extinction in the early 1900s. The last known passenger pigeon, named Martha, died on Sep 1, 1914, in the Cincinnati Zoo in USA. While extinctions are always multifaceted, the extermination of some species can almost be directly linked

to the insatiable greed of modern humans. Through the expansion of our cities into wild territory by encroaching upon the natural habitats of the indigenous specimens, we have paved way for their downfall. We break the forests, seas, lakes, rivers, and oceans, all for materialistic gain while leaving no thought or concern for sustainability. Pollution over harvesting and the introduction of foreign species into isolated ecosystems has permanently damaged the balance of our earth, but we can prevent further damage. The

earth's ecosystem is comprised of many creatures and all of them are vital to preserving the delicate balance of this planet.

These reports are alarming, to say the least, but this issue isn't new. It has been acknowledged for several years, and yet no significant action has been taken. The ex-chairman of the IUCN has asked for the world to recognise this list as a red flag and for action to be taken. Scientists tell us the best way to protect endangered species is to protect the places where they live. You could go the cliché way of blaming authorities and governments and shrug off the responsibility. Or you can take the onus for being a stakeholder in this damage and do

your bit. Get involved by volunteering at your local nature centre or wildlife refuge. Take public transport, minimise air pollution, and give birds a cleaner sky to fly in. When travelling, go the eco-tourism way to ensure that you are not disturbing others' habitats. So, you see,

there is a lot that can be done to help the planet, or a lot that you can do to make things better. After all, in 40 years from now, if your children don't remember you for your efforts to save the world for them, how will they remember you? 🇮🇳



Meeting poles apart

Two Sides Of Self-Service Greet Each Other



Vanalika Maini, AIS Gur 46, XII

A shady room fills the cold preparedness of able or even adroit debaters. Both the candidates take their seats on the stage with intimidating spotlights blinding them. Don't be fooled by their professional smiles; they're not friendly in the slightest. Greed and Curiosity may be the two sides of the same coin, but they don't seem to agree with each other's ways.

"It's because Greed has evil intentions, the world we see today has inclined more towards selfish gains," Curiosity makes the opening statement. "Oh, give me a break," Greed groans and takes the floor, "I have led people to wonderful things! Take the making and breaking of the enigma machine. Power-hungry Nazi Germany created a machine that changed

the face of cryptography. And how can you be so ignorant about the invention of watt steam engine. If I wouldn't have sparked the mind of the creator, Boulton, then the world would have never known what a steam engine was. And it wouldn't have been one of the driving forces during the Industrial revolution!" "And where did industrial revolution take humans in the longer run? They don't even have fresh air to breathe today. And the 'spark' that you just spoke of was me, not you. And I sparked not just the creation of the steam engine, but many more innovations around you."

"Excuse me!" Greed interrupts, "What do you mean it was you? Let's just put credit where it belongs," he says with an arched eyebrow. "Speaking of credit, it is me who urges humans to look beyond. Where do you

think science came from? It was the yearning for knowledge that led humans to study the universe, their own environment, and even their own bodies," Curiosity retaliates.

"You say that as if no one had ulterior motives. I channel people's desire, sometimes 'you' as well, and make them focus on what is the most important thing - achieving their goals," Greed jeers.

Curiosity glares at Greed, fuming. "When you look at the world through biased eyes, it will always come out in your favour. The pros to these events make for good stories, sure, but they don't stray from the fact that you have, and always will, lead to the downfall of mankind."

Greed laughs, "Curiosity, you forget, a hero is nothing without their villain. Remove the villain, and the hero becomes irrelevant. You might not agree with my ways, but understand, I am a necessary evil. I and Selfishness, together, drive individuals to fight for themselves. Without me, the curiosity to invent disappears."

"So, you're saying that even though I plant the idea in someone's head, you fuel it and makes them pursue it? And what do you've to say about the punishment mentioned against you in Christianity? Let me help you recall - boil alive in oil. Does this ring a bell?" Curiosity asks. "We both are important, no matter how bad the other seems. Together we evolve the human society," Greed concludes and calls for a truce. 🇮🇳



Issue: Page 4, April 11, 2022

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'The super fruit' published on page 4 of the GT edition dated April 11, 2022. To begin with, this article was one that immediately caught my eye due to the nostalgic tagline 'An apple a day indeed keeps your diseases away'. I'm sure many readers would agree that this phrase has been ingrained in our memory, so it was an added point to definitely read this article. The article was very informative, with a long list of the benefits that even though we are well aware of, we often forget about. Not only is apple rich in vitamins and antioxidants, but it also helps in cancer prevention, maintenance of cholesterol levels, protection from pollution and UV rays, and lowering blood pressure. This information encourages the readers to eat apples as a snack, persuading many with the mention of its low-calorie count of only 95. I appreciate GT and the writer for promoting healthy eating in such an intriguing manner.

Vania Sodhbans, AGS Noida, XII



Melted sea ice water is more drinkable than normal sea water as the freezing process pushes salt out as the water is formed.

The braveheart Chandragupta

The human heart has always been stirred by tales of valour and adventure, and whenever we hear such stories, we cannot help but look up to those heroes who have chiseled their names onto the stone of history with the weight of their accomplishments. Such legends deserve to be celebrated and remembered for their bravery and all that they have done in the past to make the present better. Here's presenting the saga of one such warrior, **Chandragupta Maurya**, who changed the course of history for the better.

WARRIORS of INDIA Part 10

Name: Chandragupta Maurya

Born in: 340 BCE

Died in: 297 BCE

Position held: The founder of the famous Maurya Dynasty

Noteworthy achievements: He was instrumental in expelling the Greeks from Indian soil, and is credited with setting up of the first pan-Indian empire, aided by his mentor and minister, Chanakya or Kautilya.

Biography to watch/read: Chandragupta Maurya and His Times, by Radha Kumud Mookerji

The roots of a warrior

Chandragupta Maurya was indisputably the first emperor of ancient India. While describing this legendary ruler, the word 'kula-hina' is often used, which means not descended from a recognised clan or family. The origins of Chandragupta seem to be obscure and humble. A few theories suggest the possibility that he was born to Mura, one of Nanda's wives. There has also been a debate regarding his varna (caste), questioning if he came from a Shudra or Kshatriya background. Buddhist texts claim that he belonged to their lineage and descended from the same noble family as Gautam Buddha.

Chandragupta received education and aesthetic art training under his guide Chanakya who brought him to Takshashila (in modern day Pakistan). It was Chanakya who first spotted potential in Chandragupta and therefore assisted him in his ascent to power by overthrowing the last Nanda ruler, Dhanananda, and acquiring the Magadha kingdom (present day Bihar). Several literary works hold testament to the glorious period but much like his lineage, they vary in detail.

The ideal bureaucratic model and functioning of his empire is mentioned in Arthashastra, a Sanskrit treatise authored by Chanakya and inspired from Chandragupta's rule. Megasthenes, the Greek ambassador of Seleucus I Nicator, has also described in great detail his visit to the Mauryan capital, Pataliputra, and the court of Chandragupta in his travel accounts.

The sword of a warrior

India at the time of Chandragupta was divided into numerous kingdoms and republics. The foremost among them was the Magadha kingdom in eastern India which contained a good part of central, eastern, and north-eastern India. When Alexander The Great invaded India in 326 BCE, much of north-western India was thrown into severe political chaos. Chandragupta, who is known to be ambitious, found in this the perfect opportunity to extend control over the crown.

The Ceylon Chronicles indicate that Chandragupta's reign began in 321 BCE. His conquests of territories have been the most expansive of all rulers in Indian history. On withdrawal of Alexander's empire and his death in 323 BCE, the Greek presence along the Indus weakened considerably. Chandragupta's position in the east strengthened during this time when the Northern kings were busy with local politics. Taking advantage of the situation of the ongoing disintegration of the northern kingdoms, Chandragupta was able to conquer these kingdoms and annex their territories.

Once Northern India had been successfully occupied by the Mauryan emperor, he directed his attention towards expanding his dominions. The Mauryan armies reached as far as the western coast of India and southern India, particularly the present-day state of Karnataka. According to the Roman writer Pliny, Chandragupta possessed an impressive 600,000 infantry, 30,000 cavalry, and 9,000 elephants. The chariots were estimated at 8,000.

During Chandragupta's reign, great emphasis was placed on the training of men and animals.

The king and princes were expected to display courage and they often personally led their armies and participated in the defence of forts. The navy created by Chandragupta mostly performed coast guard functions and guarded the empire's vast trade being carried on the waterways.

The Mauryan empire at this time included the present-day states of Bihar and good portions of Orissa and Bengal, but also western and north-western India, and the Deccan. In the north-west, they held sway over certain areas which were not included even in the British empire. However, the extreme south and north-east India were not part of the empire.

As part of his acquisition strategy, small-scale attacks were launched against villages in outlying areas. Chandragupta's idea of conquering the outer parts of the Nanda empire before covering the centre coupled with the strength of his armies helped him build an enormous empire. Once he had secured his empire, he went on to establish a system of governance based on that of the Persian Achaemenids and the artistic text Arthashastra written by Chanakya.

The legacy of a warrior

In view of some historians, Chandragupta's plan to achieve India's unity was built on a meticulously devised strategy. A unit like this could only be kept together through a well-designed machinery of administrative and military forces since there was no national consciousness at the time. He built the largest empire in the Indian subcontinent by taking note of this fact. As described in the Arthashastra, Chandragupta established a vast centralised empire that had all the qualities of sovereignty: the king, the minister, the country, the fort, the treasury, the army, and the friend. The Sanskrit drama Mudrarakshasa (The Ring of Rakshasa), written by Vishakhadatta somewhere between the 4th to 8th centuries BCE, gives vivid details of this time.

Chandragupta came into conflict with Seleucus I Nicator, Alexander's heir in the east - the idea being the reduction of Greek power and gaining strength in own territory. The war ended in 301 BCE by the signing of a treaty. Chandragupta obtained the areas of Arachosia (Kandahar area in present-day Afghanistan), Gedrosia (southern Baluchistan in present-day Pakistan), and Paropamisadai (the area between Afghanistan and the Indian subcontinent). 500 elephants were given to the Greeks. Legend maintains that Seleucus handed over his daughter Helen in marriage to Chandragupta but historical evidence does not support it. It was also decided to appoint a Greek ambassador and as a result, Megasthenes came to the Mauryan court at Pataliputra. He wrote about the Mauryan administration, and though his work Indica is now lost, quotations of it survive in the works of several subsequent Greek writers. The book suggests that Chandragupta developed a flourishing bureaucracy which controlled the state's economic affairs. Most of the power was concentrated in his own hands, and he was assisted in his duties by a council of ministers.

From what we know of the Mauryan period, it is indicated that the society had become a multicultural one, as Chandragupta was also quite open to various religious beliefs. He followed Brahmanism and Buddhism during his lifetime and towards the end of his reign, he adopted Jainism as well. Soon after abdicating the throne in favour of his son, Bindusara, he went to Sravana-Belagola in Mysore with Bhadrabahu, a Jain saint, where he died the orthodox Jain way, by renouncing all materialistic worldly pleasures and fasting to death. Chandragupta, thus, left behind a legacy that has survived in the pages of the Arthashastra. Not only did he build an empire by his own efforts and dedication, overcoming all obstacles, but he also set up sound principles for its governance and worked tirelessly for its growth and development. These achievements are surely proof enough to count him as one of ancient India's most formidable, powerful, brilliant, and successful rulers we have ever had in our glorifying Indian history.



An iceberg holding 20 billion gallons of fresh water could meet the needs of a million people for at least five years.



The tall man



Storywala

Suhaan Malhotra
AIS Vas 6, X

I rang up my grandma in order to speak to her and tell her how sorry I was for not calling earlier. It had been a few days since my grandpa passed away and yet I hadn't had the courage to face the fact and offer my condolences. So, as I did now, the phone continued to ring in a loop until it disconnected. I tried again as I believed grandma hadn't heard the call. The phone rang again for a few more times and just when it was about to get disconnected, someone picked up and spoke, "Hello?" I recognised the voice immediately; it was my dear grandma. I spoke with her and told her that I was sorry for not being able to make it to the funeral. It wasn't that I didn't want to, but I was forbidden by my grandpa himself. He insisted that I never returned

to their house, and his reason to do so was quite sinister in nature. When I was a kid, I loved spending my vacations at my grandparents' house. The village they lived in was surrounded by forests and a quaint stream ran through the middle of the hamlet, making it the ideal summer house. One day, when I was about 10 years of age, I was playing near the forest with some of the children from the village. As it was getting dark, the girls insisted that they had to go home, so as a group we began walking towards the village. As we were walking, I realised that the number of footsteps didn't match the number of people walking beside me. Confused, I turned back. What I saw next, horrified me to death. A tall dark figure was following us. It was so tall that I first thought it might've been a lamppost but there was no mistaking his face, blank and empty with sunken eyes filled

with malice. I screamed at the top of my lungs and yelled at my friends to run. It didn't take them long to realise what was happening and they started running with me. We ran with all our might, but I could still hear the creature following us. Its heavy footsteps getting closer still, its loud breath giving out a strange noise, "Huuurrr, Huuurrr, Huuurrr". As we neared the village, some of the villagers heard our commotion and they ran to meet us, holding pickaxes and hoes as weapons. My grandpa looked especially worried when I told him about our ordeal. In response, he told me something that I'd never forget. "My dear child, the forest surrounding our village is ancient and might hide many horrors within. I know it was a frightening experience for you, but I promise you that I shall never let anything happen to you!" he said. And after that day, grandpa sent

I was reminded of everything great about my grandpa and my gratitude for him knew no bounds.

me back home to my parents and forbade me from ever coming back to the village. He and my grandma would come to visit us in the city, but I was never allowed to visit them in the village ever again. Even for his funeral, he left strict instructions with my parents to not bring me along. Reminiscing with my grandma on the phone as such felt nice. I was reminded of everything great about my grandpa and my gratitude for him knew no bounds. "Grandma, I hate the idea of you living in that house alone. Please come live with us," I implored her next. "Ah my child, I'm too old to go anywhere now. Why don't you come and stay with me?" she chuckled. I was surprised for my grandma would never joke about this. "But I have to honour grandpa's instructions even if he's gone," I said. "I know that, but don't you think it's time you forget ride of the fear of the tall man? He's very friendly and really wants to see you!" she said in a weirdly pitchy voice. I froze, for I couldn't believe what I just heard. "Who's this? Where's my grandma?" I yelled into the phone. But the only sound that greeted me was the spine-tingling rhythmic tune that has haunted me for over 10 years, "Huuurrr, Huuurrr, Huuurrr".



Eggless plum cake

Tushika Prasad, AIS Vas 1, X

Material required

Refined flour.....	1½ cup	Butter.....	½ cup
Raisins.....	2 tbsp	Condensed milk.....	¾ cup
Black raisins.....	2 tbsp	Cinnamon powder.....	A pinch
Tutti frutti.....	2 tbsp	Nutmeg powder.....	A pinch
Walnuts (chopped).....	2 tbsp	Cocoa powder.....	½ tsp
Almonds (chopped).....	2 tbsp	Vanilla essence.....	½ tsp
Cashews (chopped).....	2 tbsp	Orange juice.....	6 tbsp

Procedure

- In a bowl, add raisins, black raisins, tutti frutti, and all the other nuts.
- Now, pour some orange juice to the bowl and let the nuts soak for at least three hours.
- In another bowl, sieve the flour, baking powder and baking soda, and keep aside.
- Next, in a bowl, whisk milkmaid and butter until the mixture turns creamy and smooth.
- Add the sieved, dry ingredients into this mix and gently combine the batter.
- To this, add cinnamon powder, nutmeg powder, cocoa powder, and vanilla essence.
- Now, add the soaked dry fruits to it and stir properly. Make sure there are no lumps.
- Transfer the mixture in a greased 8" aluminum doughnut tin and bake it in a preheated oven at 180 degrees for about 35-40 minutes.
- Once done, take the cake out and let it cool completely on a wire rack.
- Lastly, brush it well with sugar syrup or orange juice and let it rest for about one hour.
- Your flavoursome eggless plum cake is ready to be served!

WORDS VERSE

My idiosyncratic nature

Ayden Sharma
AIS Gurugram 46, XII

Here I am a teensy-weensy bird
With ecstatic and chirping sound
Gliding through the forest I fly
My eyes contemplate all around

Where is the little red cherry?
That I left on the green ground
Guarded by the tulips I saw
Like Queen Elizabeth's crown

It must have been the squirrel
Who lives on the oak around
She is never really satisfied with
Berries hanging next to her house

Forget it! I say to myself aloud
Let's see all my friends around
All of them are out and about
Preening feathers like coat of scout

From maple, I flew to daffodil
Where bees suck nectar to will
Right next is the lovely oak tree
Branches spread, huge and free

I rest on ledge of chestnut round
Gazing forest, my eyes sticking out
How beautiful as I think of it aloud
I see many tiny creatures all around

All the stellar flowers steal the show
Sweet-smelling nectar and petals glow



Everything distinct and individual though
Blends nicely with a blooming bough.

A school without teachers

Vidhi Vivek, AIS Noida, Alumna

A school without teachers
Oh, what a dream come true
No boundaries, no restrictions
To make tremendous hullabaloo

A school without teachers
Is what we always wanted
No classwork, no homework
Yet the thought had me haunted

For in a school without teachers
From where will our solace come
Who will solve our math problems?
Turning thundering mayhem mum

A school without teachers

Is assuredly a hoodwink utopia
With no order but chaos
That is distant from euphoria

A school without teachers
Is a holy temple without priests
A hospital without its doctors
Like a tree without its leaves

For in a school without teachers
Human atoms of education are lost
Making it an absurd institution
Where the prodigal sons boast

Hence wasting no more time now
Let's tell them they make us whole
For a school without the teachers
Is a mere building without soul.



CAMERA CAPERS

Hiya Sharma, AIS Gurugram 43, Alumna

Send in your entries to
cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in



The potter and the clay



The sparkling brook



The road not taken



More than 70% of all volcanic eruptions occur underwater, and most of the volcanoes are found along the belt that encircles the Pacific Ocean.

The incident

Short Story



Tanvi Bansal, AIS Noida, X

It's been two years since 'the incident'; my journey to the door of heaven. Everything was serene for a while, until I woke up with my ears filled with whirring of machinery and gears, sounds which I didn't quite expect to hear in my afterlife after years of living by a construction site. At first, I thought that it was a mechanic who had died and found a place in heaven as my neighbour. But soon, I came to realise that the sound was coming from within, from my stomach! The weirdest part was that I was seeing dishes overflowing with food and drinks inside me! Then it struck me, I had transformed into a

fully functioning...refrigerator!
As I exercised the grey cells of my brain, I came to know that some Lewis family had just bought me from an electronic store and I was dirt cheap. Apparently, I didn't have enough features to be a priced commodity! But being a refrigerator had its benefits. Have you ever eaten plate after plate of delicacies for a living? Yeah! That's my life now. Oh! How my ice melted to water every night, thinking about the marvelous food that I would be home to the next day. Not every day was sunshine and rainbows though. My nose often got a whiff of tuna and once I even got treated to an oatmeal kale sandwich. Talk about nausea! I did not even have the

Sometimes in anger or disappointment, they slammed my door or they left me open for a long time, causing trouble in my machinery.

liberty to throw up! Guess every job has its good and bad days after all. My bosses did give me incentives from time to time though. Obviously they'll have to if they want to keep me. I'm not the sort to work for scraps, no sire! On birthdays they started stuffing me up to the brink of dawn with cakes, pizzas, muffins, and delicacies you could only wonder about in your dreams. Oh! How I wished to devour them and relish every bite. But as soon as the clock struck five in the evening, I was looted by hungry kids. They ate like wolves, they did!

Those Lewis people weren't very careful though. Sometimes in anger or in disappointment, they slammed my door or they left me open for a long time, causing trouble in my machinery. I got bruised and scratched frequently. So, one fine summer day, Isabelle, the youngest of the family and the most notorious Lewis, spilled some water inside my control unit. I thought I would be repaired as usual, but the technician who came to see me gave me some grave, grave news. The damage in my system was so extensive that it would cost a massive amount to repair me and Mr Lewis couldn't seem to afford that. So, he decided just to dispose me off and buy a new refrigerator (so much for being an irreplaceable employee!) That day was the most **forlorn** day of my short life. As I was being shipped to the garbage dump, I pondered if getting a new job was even a possibility in old age. 🙄

So, what did you learn today?

A new word: **forlorn**
Meaning: Very sad



Rainbow lantern

Saksham, AIS MV, VI

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- A4 size sheets in different colours – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet, white
- Scissors
- Glue
- Ruler
- Ribbon

Procedure

- Take the red coloured A4 sheet. Fold it into half along the length. Now seal the open side along the length using a glue stick.
- You will have a long rectangle like a structure which is open along the breadth on both the sides.
- Leaving a five cm margin from the top (the side that was stuck using glue), make marks along the length of the rectangle that are spaced one inch apart with the help of a ruler.
- Cut along these marks. Make note that you will cut from the bottom (the side that was folded).
- Repeat this with all the other six colours.
- Now take the white A4 sheet and roll it along the length to make a cylinder. Secure the open side (breadth) with glue to make the cylinder.
- Take the violet fringe you had made and paste it along the diameter of the cylinder such that you are pasting the glued side on the roll and the fringe side is left free (refer to picture). Paste the violet strip at the top. Make sure to leave a little space from the top as you do so.
- You can cut out any extra portions of the sheet if you are still left with some after covering the entire roll.
- Repeat the process with other colours, pasting them in the order of the rainbow from top to bottom, one below the other.
- Once you are done, it is time to create a loop/handle for the lantern. Staple the ribbon on one side of the lantern.
- Staple the open end of the ribbon on the opposite side so it creates a loop (refer picture).
- If you wish to decorate it further, you can put strips of coloured paper around the bottom of the lantern.
- Add colour to your room with this beautiful lantern.

POEMS

My people

Mehar Abrol, AIS Gurugram 43, VII

I am here to introduce my friends
They bring me happiness that has no end

I have a loving and caring mother
Who always guides me further

I have a brilliant and generous father
Whom I introduce as an avid reader

I also have one cute little brother

Who is as brave as Harry Potter

I have a very sweet grandmother
Who narrates tales of wonder

I have a supporting teacher
Who helps me be an achiever

On weekends we all sit and gather
And spend quality time together. 🙌



Back to school

Ayyaan Talwar, AIS Gurugram 46, VI B

Back are my school days
Happiness in so many ways
Meeting friends new and old
Teachers with a heart of gold
The morning hustle at school
Sitting in a vibrant classroom
The field trips are so much fun
Lunch time chatter has also begun
It's time to be merry and cheer
Stepping to a great academic year. 🙌



Riddle fiddle

Ananya Gupta, VII & Aradhya Gupta, IV
AIS Vasundhara 6

1. What belongs to you but others use it more than you?
2. What gets wetter the more and more it dries?
3. If you have one, don't share it; if you share it, you don't have it. What's it?
4. What goes up but never comes down?
5. You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat?

Answers: 1. Your name
2. Towel 3. A secret
4. Your age 5. An ear of corn

It's me

Know me

My name: Sujoy Kapoor
My Class: IV
My school: AIS VYC Lucknow
Born on: September 14, 2013

My favourites

Teacher: Ms Sunita Pangtey Ma'am
Subject: EVS
Game: Cricket
Cartoon: Peppa Pig
Food: Dosa
Mall: LuLu Mall
Book: Pinocchio

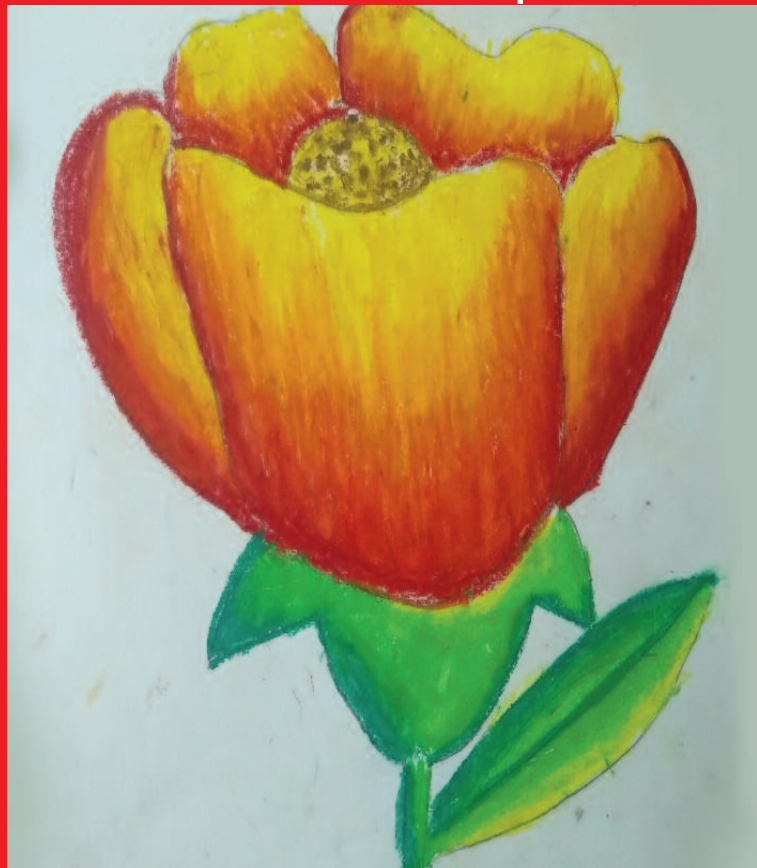
My dreams and goals

Hobby: Art and Craft
I like: Playing
I dislike: Fighting
My role model: Our PM Narendra Modi ji
I want to become: The Prime Minister
I want to feature in GT because: I really like GT!



PAINTING CORNER

Siddhran Mukherjee
AIS PV, III



The biggest waterfall on the planet, the Denmark Strait Cataract, exists underwater and flows at 123 million cubic feet per second.



Writing is an art and there's no better platform to exercise it than your own beloved GT! To unleash the writer in you, GT brings you a new topic every time and asks for your views on the same. Here are some intriguing responses from young writers at Amity for the prompt...

"Human life cannot function without the resources which Mother Earth provides us like sunshine, vegetation, water and oxygen. However, at present, all these resources are extremely limited, and we need to protect and invest in them. We need to put an end to all the activities driven by selfishness and start thinking about the planet. We shall adopt ways to control pollution of land, water and air, in order to maintain the ecological balance of the Earth."

Anandita Sen, AIS MV, VIII B

"The most important thing that we can all do for our Mother Earth is to conserve water, and plant more and more trees. We can also save the peels of fruits and vegetables we eat in order to prepare manure as a plant fertiliser and put an end to the use of chemical fertilisers. Other than that, we should all switch to paper bags. At an individual level, I would like to invest in the planet by planting a tree on my birthday every year. I would also like to conduct awareness programmes in my society to help people understand the need to save our planet."

Lavanya Verma, AIS VYC Lucknow, VIII A

"There is a great saying – 'We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.' As someone concerned about my generation just as much as the future generations, I plan to invest in saving our planet at this crucial time when the smallest of actions matter the most. I would like to contribute towards reducing plastic pollution – a growing threat to our environment. Also, I would like to raise an awareness campaign to inform people about how one can reduce and reuse plastic, and I plan to lead a rally and run clean-ups to discourage single-use plastic use and save our planet Earth."

Lakshya Narula, AGS Gurugram, VIII

"Entering the year 2022 has made us realise that we only have eight years to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, but we still have a long way to go to make them a reality. Therefore, we need to lobby for and support people, businesses, and governments who initiate active steps to protect our environment, and fight against those that don't. As per our individual investments, we need to advocate for climate education and ignite an educational revolution to save our planet. We should stand against deforestation, organise community clean-ups, calculate and reduce our plastic consumption, demand green power, and switch to reusable bags."

Avni Munjal, AIS Gurugram 43, X D

"The birthday of our Mother Earth, Earth Day, is just around the corner, and it reminds us that we need to participate in the function with much enthusiasm to reduce global warming. In order to keep our earth healthy, we need to invest in our planet. The very first step of our plan should be to stop the disposal of plastic effluents into soil, water and land. Secondly, we need to focus on plantation drives to help increase the greenery in the world which will eventually lead to the gradual reduction in global warming. All of these are small and simple steps, yet every effort matters when it comes to saving our planet."

Hori Gupta, AIS Gurugram 46, X F

"If we talk about one investment that should be done to save our planet, I would say it would be to increase forest area by planting trees. Over the years, we have been losing the forest cover due to rapid deforestation for high rise buildings as well as fires caused by extreme heat. As a result, we are losing the fresh air and breathing polluted air, causing several breathing problems and taking away the lives of people every year. Therefore, each one of us should aim to invest in planting trees in order to breathe fresh air and curb air pollution. The more trees we plant, the more healthy our planet will become."

Ishika Agarwal, AIS Vasundhara 6, VIII D

With theme of Earth Day 2022 being 'Invest in our planet', what kind of investment can you make as an individual to save the planet?

The prompt

BOX

"We can invest in our environment by choosing sustainable living, because when we focus on sustainability, the entire world gets to live in clean and healthy conditions. So, think twice before shopping; boycott products that endanger wildlife; pay attention to labels, for instance, if you love coffee, look for 'shade grown' coffee which is grown while keeping forest habitat intact for migratory birds and other species; and drive green. In fact, choosing sustainable lifestyle will make you feel more fulfilled and happier knowing that you are investing towards a better world and future."

Shruti Tiwari, AIS Jagdishpur, X

"There is a lot being done by people on an individual and collective level to create awareness on the factors leading to deterioration of the planet and its resources. However, not much change has been witnessed in the attitude of people because there is only a handful of population that consciously opts for environment-friendly alternatives in day-to-day life. So, the real investment should be done in changing the attitude of people towards environment. If people change their attitude, then only we can save our planet."

Divyaansh Seth, AIS Saket, XII A

"As an inhabitant of this beautiful planet, my efforts would be directed towards reducing climate change. And since one of the major causes of climate change is energy consumption, this can be achieved by reducing energy use and investing in energy efficient appliances. Therefore, I will bear in mind the need to switch off electrical appliances when not in use. Additionally, I will bring in use those appliances which are highest rated in their energy efficiency. For I believe that these relatively simple steps will contribute greatly to combating climate change and offer a sustainable future for our future generations."

Mariam Fatma, AIS VKC Lucknow, X B

"A long-term investment to save the planet would be to incorporate environmental studies as a practical subject and not as a theoretical one in schools and colleges. The reason being - we all have been studying about environment and the factors leading to rapid degradation of the same. But there are no practical projects being offered to put the theoretical knowledge into use. I think the practical applicability of theory is very important, and once it happens, the young minds will become more conscious about their decisions and the impact of the same on the planet and environment."

Yashwini Seth, AIS PV, XII E

"Fluctuating temperatures and scarcity of natural resources are few of the evident catastrophic changes taking place in our surroundings. If we intend to change the situation at hand into one which yields the profit of a clean earth, it is imperative that we invest our time and effort into the planet by contributing individually and working together. Investing time and effort in our planet by stopping purchase from non-ecofriendly companies and monitoring the usage of resources in our house has the potential to make a significant difference. Planting saplings around us, adopting efficient waste management systems, or even planning a simple water reusing system are some investments we can make to save our planet."

Prisha Gangwar, AIS Noida, X D

"Investing in our planet doesn't exactly mean putting money on it, but putting best efforts to make our planet a better place for future generations as well. For the same, we all should start doing small investments in day-to-day life like carpooling, using energy efficient light bulbs, segregating waste into different bins, avoiding use of single plastic items, turning off lights and appliances when not in use, using paper wisely, etc. These investments in near future will transform into big savings, something that will be enjoyed by future generations as well."

Devdath Sreekumar, AIS Vas 1, XII C

"Good environment is an important aspect for the survival of human beings on the planet. However, over the years, we have turned the good to bad by taking away more and more resources to fulfil our needs. We did not make equal amount of investment to create a balance. Therefore, with very less time in hand, we should now start investing in our planet by taking simple steps such as planting trees, switching to electronic mode of transport, reusing and repurposing waste items around us, judiciously managing the usage of water in daily life, etc. Also, while using resources, we should keep in mind, 'Resources on earth are for everyone's need and not for everyone's greed.'"

Akash Pal, AIS Gwalior, XII

Next prompt: In a recent announcement, Russia has proposed to sell oil to 'friendly countries' in any price range. According to you, what impact will the decision have on world dynamics?



The Bloop, one of the loudest sounds ever recorded, came from an icequake when seismic activities caused a break in frozen ground.

ATL Marathon

The Young Scientists Run Up To The Top

AIS Vasundhara 6

Two young scientists from AIS Vasundhara 6 got selected among Top 30 winners at the national level of ATL Marathon 2020, held from July 23, 2021 - December 23, 2021. Ishita Mittal (X) and Agamy Jain (X) bagged a spot in the top 30 for their Prototype (Eco-friendly bicycle). Problem statements of ATL Marathon 2020 were aligned with the 17 goals of '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' (SDG) adopted by all the United Nations Member States and rested on the pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat namely economy, infrastructure, system, demography and demand.

The opportunity to participate and innovate at the prestigious platform was given by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF who envisions to nurture innate inquisitiveness and innovation skills of young minds at such platforms.

Ishita's and Agamy's project won under the infrastructure category. They were first shortlisted in top 100, thus, qualifying to at-



Principal Sunila Athley with the winners and their mentors

tend a 10 days Internship program named 'She Codes 1.0' under DELL Technologies. They got an opportunity to attend sessions on Design thinking, Entrepreneurial Mindset, Internet of Things and Patenting.

Thereafter, they applied the skills and learnt to refine their project which was then presented to a

panel of experts. Their project was then selected in the top 30 innovations at the national level, qualifying them to attend the training program 2.0 under Dell Technologies where they further learnt about how to pitch the project, essentials of innovation and sustainability, and added few more features in the prototype bi-



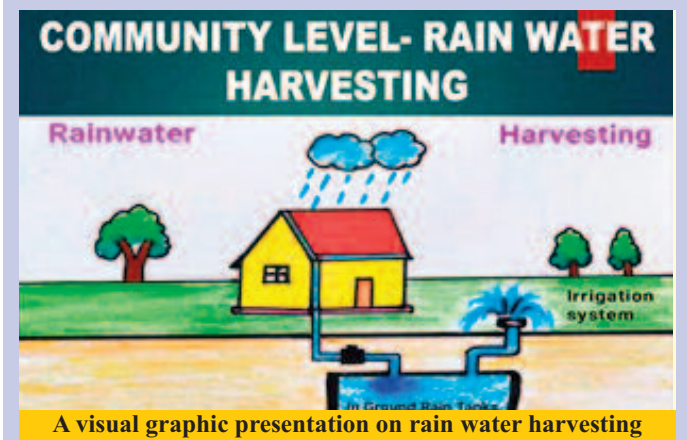
Young innovator Agamy Jain



Young innovator Ishita Mittal

cycle, improvising it further for the futuristic utility.

Both of them were awarded the certificates and prizes from AIM and Dell Technologies under the 'She Codes 2.0' Program. 🏆



A visual graphic presentation on rain water harvesting

Virtual PYP exhibition Being A Conscious Being

AGS Noida

The school hosted its first PYP exhibition based on the theme 'A Quest-Being a conscious Being' virtually on March 31, 2022. The exhibition which sought to initiate action for change, protecting Mother Earth from damaging human activities was held under the visionary guidance of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF.

It was a significant event wherein the learners of grade P-5 used their knowledge, understanding and communication skills to design and share the actions which could be taken to solve issues pertaining to Mother Earth. The learners of grade P-5 explored and documented their understanding of a few real-life issues related to saving earth close to their heart, and incorporated the essential elements and values of the PYP to show how their small steps can make a big impact.

They identified a local problem that also relates globally and shared about those and the probable solutions with the entire learning community comprising their peers, educators and parents. A few global real-life issues chosen by the students were: air pollution, water crisis and its pollution, deforestation, gender equality and population crisis. They demonstrated their research work and solutions they designed using digital tools like padlet, google, slides, pie-charts, bar graphs etc. The presentations became more impactful with the eloquence and assertion in their speech which reflected their heartfelt concern for saving their planet.

Overall, the PYP learners exhibited the essential elements of PYP, which they have been developing through the year. They also demonstrated their desire to make a difference in the community or world through their actions on their chosen global issues.



An action dance on fitness



Yoga the key to holistic fitness

Staying fit

AIS Gwalior

An assembly on the theme of 'Fit family, healthy family' was held in the school auditorium for the students of Class II-IV and Class VI-IX, on April 4, 2022.

It began with the traditional lighting of lamp following which Vaishnavi Gaur (IX) shared the thought of the day and Adwithiya Puri (Class VIII) presented the news. The stage was brought alive by some fabulous yoga

asanas performed by Class VI after which, Naira Raj (VII) delivered a speech on the importance of fitness in life. The students of Class IV shared inspiring messages on fitness and performed a mesmerising action dance depicting the relevance of fitness. School principal Manju Singh in her address emphasised upon having 'Fit family, healthy family' for building a fit nation, after which the assembly concluded with the school song and the National Anthem. 🏆

Checkmate



Chessmaster from AIS Vas 1

AIS Vas 1 & Vas 6

Little chessmasters of Amity won laurels at the 2nd Ghaziabad Open Inter-school Chess championship 2022 organised under the aegis of Ghaziabad Chess

Sports Association from March 26-27, 2022. The tournament saw 160 players from 40 schools from Delhi/NCR and Meerut participating in 5 age categories. AIS Vasundhara 6 won the first place and lifted the coveted winner's trophy with 18 points and AIS Vasundhara 1 won 2nd runner up trophy for the best school at the tournament.

From AIS Vasundhara 6, Shalvin (VI) won all his 11 matches and bagged the first and third prizes in under-13 and under-11 categories respectively. Ridhi Aggarwal (IV) bagged the second prize in under-9 category; Pranshi Nigam (I) also the youngest of the lot got the second prize in the girls under-7 category; Arnav Nigam (IX) secured the seventh position in under-15 category



Chess champs of AIS Vas 6



Chessmasters test their wits

and Arnit Gupta (III) bagged the eighth position in under-9 category. The young chessmasters of AIS Vasundhara 1, Aanvika Prasad (V) secured the second position in under-11 girls category while Priyansh Chauhan (II) secured the fourth and tenth positions in under-7 and under-9 categories respectively getting a medal and a trophy for the same. The little chessmasters of Amity proved their prowess and passion for the game which involves great deal of mental awareness and reasoning. 🏆

Pariksha pe charcha

30 Amitians invited to interact with PM

Amity Group of Schools

The fifth edition of *Pariksha Pe Charcha* by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi proved to be a unique experience for some Amitians as, 30 students from Class X & XII and 3 teachers of Amity Vasundhara 6 participated physically in the event held on April 1, 2022 at Talkatora Stadium on invitation by the PMO (Prime Minister's Office). Apart from them, 400 students from AIS Pushp Vihar, 150 students from AIS

Mayur Vihar, 150 students from AIS VKC Lucknow and 24 students from AIS Mohali from Class IX-XII attended the event virtually with their principals, mentors and teachers at their respective schools.

In the much-awaited annual event, Prime Minister responded to questions related to exam stress and related areas posed by students in his uniquely engaging style. He motivated them to identify their strengths and interests and fix their goals in life. He also encouraged students to find

out what makes them happy and indulge in activities they enjoy, to keep up the spirits. While interacting with the children, he advised parents to foster an environment where the unique individuality of each child is celebrated, encouraged and allowed to express to its fullest.

At the event, terming this public movement as a connect with the student community, the Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan stated that the 1000 selected students who participated in the offline event were selected



Students and teachers of AIS Vas 6 at the 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' event

through competition on the website mygov.in.

All the participating students have been presented with a certificate of appreciation and a special *Pariksha pe Charcha* kit which

includes a book titled Exam Warriors, written by the Prime Minister himself. Now that the exams are shifting back to offline mode, this interaction proved to be a much needed inspiration for all

the students, their teachers and parents. For students who had the privilege of seeing and listening to their PM live, the memories of this heartfelt interaction will stay with them forever. 🏆

The water pressure at the bottom of the ocean is around 8 tonnes per sq in, which would feel like holding 50 jumbo jets.

All top *Aadya Duggal, AIS MV, VII A*



Warriors of old

Flipping through the pages of history, one finds innumerable tales of courage and valour. These tales have been scripted by warriors who single handedly decimated their enemies; sometimes in the quest of annexations, strengthening their mighty empires, or defending their prestige on other occasions. While each warrior deserves to be scripted in gold, there are some who carve their name in stone. A look at some of the most enduring warrior castes through history.



Knights

Origin: Knighthood finds its origin in the Greek and the Roman cavalry. They were particularly popular in the European countries of England and France.

Active during: From the High Middle Ages to the Late Middle Ages in Europe. Modern knighthood is an honorary title.

Arsenal: Longsword, morning star, lance and shield, and halberd. Knights were heavily armoured for

battle, which would include a chainmail undershirt with a steel plate armour.

Relevance: The rank of a Knight had become associated with the ideals of chivalry and code of conduct for the perfect courtly Christian warrior. They were the embodiment of purity of soul and righteous fury. A Knight would often serve as a personal bodyguard for the king or lord he is supposed to serve, and carry his banner in battle.

Samurai

Origin: Samurai were the hereditary military nobility and officer caste; and well-paid retainers of the daimyo (the great feudal landholders). They enjoyed high prestige in the society and special privileges such as wearing two swords.

Active during: They were active during medieval and early-modern Japan from the late 12th century to their abolition in 1876.

Arsenal: Katana, yumi bow, naginata polearm and kanabo club; Samurai wore a form of lamellar armour.

Relevance: They cultivated the bushido codes of martial virtues - indifference to pain, and unflinching loyalty. During times of peace, they would act as chamberlains for their respective daimyos, gaining managerial experience and education.



Viking

Origin: They were skilled seafaring people primarily from Scandinavia (present-day Denmark, Norway and Sweden). It is rumoured that it was a Viking, not Christopher Columbus, who discovered America first.

Active during: From late 8th century until the late 11th century AD.

Arsenal: Longswords, axes, spears and shields. Their primary armour would be chainmails and iron helmets.

Relevance: Vikings were mostly explorers and raiders that travelled far and wide in order to make a living. They were expert shipbuilders and merchants as well. They were warriors at heart, as they believed that the only way to achieve Valhalla (Norse Heaven), was to fall in battle.



Spartans

Origin: Spartan hoplites or Greek hoplites were citizen-soldiers of Ancient Greek city-states.

Active during: 490 BCE to 31 BCE (estimated)

Arsenal: Long spears and shields, short swords, javelins. A hoplite would wear a bronze cuirass, a bronze helmet and cheek plates, along with greaves as protective gear.

Relevance: Spartan hoplites were especially feared by their rivals as they were only soldiers by profession, unlike other armies where normal citizens would enlist in times of war. They are best known for their Phalanx formation, which was designed by forming a human wall with shields to provide a powerful defensive armour.



Roman Centurion

Origin: A commander of 80 legionnaires, the Centurion was the backbone of the mighty Roman legions.

Active during: The entirety of the Roman empire, from 8th century BCE to 9th century AD.

Arsenal: Gladius sword and shield, axes, pila javelins and scorpion ballista. They would wear plate body armour made from iron.

Relevance: The Roman centurions and legionnaires were the backbone of the Roman army. They were expert builders as well, who would construct bridges, roads and forts with efficiency during times of peace. Their ingenious tactics won them one of the largest empires in ancient history.

