
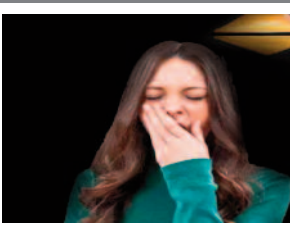


**INSIDE**



Be a linguist, P3



It's too AM, P5

**AMITe poll**

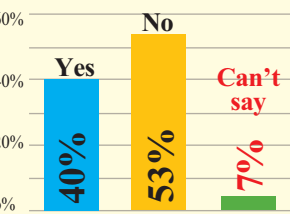
Do you think lifting penalty for not wearing masks in public places in Delhi is a good move?

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

To vote, log on to  
 www.theglobaltimes.in

**POLL RESULT**  
 for GT issue March 28, 2022

Do you think international economic sanctions against Russia would end President Putin's war in Ukraine?



Results as on April 02, 2022

**Coming Next**  
 Prompt box

# Ukraine-Russia crisis

## A Comprehensive Guidebook To The Russian Incursion Of Ukraine

Yashika Aneja, GT Network

As Russia launched a “special military occupation” against Ukraine in the wee hours of February 24, 2022, plausible fears and worries of the world plunging into World War III ran rampant across the globe. However, before one could make head or tail of the rationale behind this sudden resolve, Russian troops rained down a barrage of missiles in and around Ukraine, gunfire and explosions from which could be heard in the far-flung corners of the world. Having thus managed to create quite a flutter across borders, with their latest armed engagement ongoing still, the long term hostility between the two countries that were once tied together by the Soviet Union is still an enigma to the majority of us. Read on as we try and explicate the same through a time-line of key events...

### Preoccupations of the past

**December 1991:** The Soviet Union organised a referendum in all of its republics asking people if they were interested in remaining a member of the USSR or gaining independence. With 93% of the Ukrainians voting in favour of freedom and the subsequent, inevitable fall of the USSR 24 days later, Ukraine became an independent country.

**January 1994:** Ukraine transferred the world's third largest stockpile of nuclear weapons, that it inherited post the dissolution of USSR, to the Russian Federation, acceding to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapon state. A month later, it joined North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) Partnership for Peace, a collaborative arrangement for all non-NATO European countries and post-Soviet states.

**December 1994:** In return for Ukraine's accession to the NPT, Russia, the UK, and the US signed the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances promising to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and to not use force against the nation ever.

**November–December 2004:** In the presidential race between Western-oriented Viktor Yushchenko and pro-Russian candidate Viktor Yanukovich, the latter gets declared as the president of Ukraine. However, soon allegations of vote-rigging about him surfaced. As a con-



shutdown took place when Ukraine was already facing an economic slowdown, it left a huge dent on Yushchenko's popularity as well.

**April 2008:** At the 22nd NATO summit in Bucharest, NATO member states indulged in a debate to reach a consensus on whether or not they should offer Membership Action Plan (MAP) to Ukraine. Countries including Russia voted in the negative, resulting in no membership for Ukraine.

**September 2008:** The European Union and Ukraine began talks on a new “association agreement” in an effort to strengthen their political, legal and trading ties.

**February 2010:** Given the fall in popularity of incumbent president Yushchenko owing to all the economic trouble the nation went through under his regime, pro-Russian presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich got elected as the new president of Ukraine. His “openness” to EU integration in his campaign acted as one of the important factors for his win.

**November 2013–February 2014:**

Contrary to the promises made during the presidential campaign, Yanukovich led Ukrainian government refused to sign the association agreement with EU and instead chose to orient Ukraine towards Russia. This led to widespread protests in Kyiv's Maidan square; peaceful at first, the protests, today known as the Euromaidan Protests, ended up killing 130 Ukrainian civilians, with Yanukovich fleeing to Russia.

**February–March 2014:** Post the protests, pro-Russian forces seized Crimea, a Ukrainian peninsula predominated by an ethnic Russian population. In a major setback for Ukraine, the referendum held immediately after it saw Crimean voters willingly joining Russia. However, the world still saw the annexation of Crimea as “illegal and illegitimate”, and as a result, expelled Russia from the Group of Eight.

Continued on page 10...

# Becoming an author

## Knowing The BTS To The Art Of Writing

Samaira Verma & Ridima Agarwal, AIS Vas-1, X



Vibha Batra, author

Meet Vibha Batra, a Chennai-based author, graphic novelist, advertising consultant, poet, lyricist, translator, playwright, scriptwriter, travel writer, columnist, speaker and creative writing facilitator. Known for her versatile writing style, she has authored 19 books and has worked with brands like ICICI Bank, Aditya Birla Group, Times Group, Murugappa Group, GRT Jewellery, Lotte, Lee, Cavin Kare, to name a few. Read on as she shares her journey in an exclusive interview with GT.

### The writing experience

I think my experience till now has been all – a dream come true, a serendipity, and even an inherited legacy that I am carrying forward. My grandpa was an amazing writer with more than 24 books to his credit. It was because of him that I developed the habit of reading; I read labels on shampoo bottles, newspapers and magazines, terms and conditions section of the brochures, etc. This amazing habit automatically made me start writing, and I started contributing to some

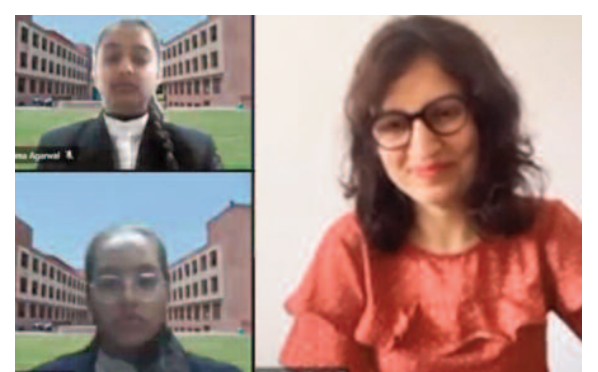
magazines I used to read. I began with short stories and mailed them to the editors of several magazines, but got no reply as internet was not widely available. It was like dispatching your creativity into a big black hole, but did that stop me? No, never. I kept on trying and finally succeeded to become a published author.

### Becoming an author

I was working as an advertising copywriter when I lost my grandfather who was the towering figure in my life and a huge influence. It was then that I decided to translate his book *IshyaVadi Upanishad*. My mother was worried and suggested that I start with something simpler, but I was adamant on it being the book I begin with. I started working on it full-time and announced the same to my friends who motivated me through the process; my colleagues and friends supported me relentlessly by reminding me of my goal, and once the book was published, I realised that I fell in love with the process so I had to keep doing it.

### The challenges faced

On the journey to become a published author, finding a project isn't that difficult but the biggest challenge is to market the book. This is one area where nobody will help you because you're new; the publishers will not do anything even if it is their book. They would not even tweet about the book on their platforms. In fact, when you try to approach any newspaper, they would refuse to cover the



In conversation with Vibha Batra

book. So, dealing with this process of marketing is tiresome but giving up is not an option either. To make place in the market and get the tag of a published author is not easy, something you learn with experience.

### Dealing with writer's block

In my favourite TV series, *FRIENDS*, there is a character named Joey who says, “Don't let them know that you know!” That is exactly my relationship with writer's block. I know I face it, but I don't let it know that I know it is there. If I'm stuck on something and I don't like where it is going, I simply start writing something else. I take a break from it but after a while, I do get back to it. I don't give writer's block too much power so that it doesn't start acting as a hindrance to my writing.

### Message for Amitians

People will say a lot of things about you and will have a lot of opinions. They will try to put you down and make you feel bad, and in such cases, it is important for you to know who you are. My message to all the readers would be to love and embrace yourself with all your heart because we only get to be one person and it's our responsibility to do a wonderful job at that. 📖



The British pound sterling is about 1200 years old, making it the world's oldest currency still in use.



# CUCET: friend or foe?

## Central Universities Cut Ties With Board Results, But Are The Students On Board?

Arpita Chakraborty  
GT Network

On March 22, 2022, University Grants Commission issued a public notice announcing that the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) or Central University Common Entrance Test (CUCET) for the academic session 2022-23 were to be held in first week of July. The commission notified that CUET/CUCET scores would be the only criterion for admission in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across 45 central universities in India. With National Testing Agency (NTA) conducting the exam, the students can opt to give the exam in any of the 13 languages namely Hindi, English, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Urdu, Odia, etc. Waiting for a detailed notification to be released, the Class XII students are befuddled about the new exam and how it shapes their future, so, let's hear it straight from them...

### Figuring out the good

"The decision by UGC for sure is a game-changer. Not only will this take the pressure off the students about scoring 95% above

in board exams, but it will also let them live up to their full potential along with enjoying the last ever year of their school life. According to me, this was a much-needed step for the students struggling to get into the 'topmost colleges' and beating the high percentage bar set by these colleges. Furthermore, I believe that it will be a true test of one's knowledge and a fair play on the admission front."

Harshita Pareek  
AIS Vasundhara 6, XII C

### Figuring out the options

"Students in XII traditionally spend the whole year toiling for the board exams that decide their college, but with the new CUCET format, there will be no weightage given to these marks at all. This means that, on the top of undergoing the pressure of board exams, students must now prepare for entrances to secure their future. Granting admission through CUCET will mean total disregard for lab work and practicals assessed throughout the year. Moreover, it'll complicate the process for students willing to apply in various fields like engineering, medicine, and



### VICHAAR JUNCTION

law as they have to appear for several other entrance exams like NEET, JEE, etc. In fact, many students tend to keep the central universities as their safe option if they aren't able to get through aforementioned exams."

Shyla Basu  
AIS Pushp Vihar, XII C

### Figuring out the syllabus

"The board to secure a perfect score has always been a precondition for a dream college. How-

ever, no longer will it be so! This decision has definitely changed the scenario as the board results will no longer affect the admission into the topmost colleges. Although this decision is highly commendable, now the students also need to focus on general knowledge and aptitude along with domain specifics. Additional practice for aptitude and general awareness will be required. How this plays out in the long run, only time will tell."

Jaya Jha  
AIS Gurugram 46, XII J

### Figuring out the equality

"28 states with 28 different question papers for board exams, vast variation in the standards set for each paper and different checking techniques makes it an extremely unfair, unjust, and grating process for the students to compete for central university admissions. To curb this prevailing state of affairs, it was only pragmatic to implement a common entrance test for central universities like we have for other fields of study such as engineering, medical, law, etc. This will

help in termination of the tyranny of unevenness caused due to diversity and demography. It will offer an equal opportunity to all the aspiring students and not the ones scoring 98%, 99% or 100% for that matter."

Anushka Ramesh  
AIS Mayur Vihar, XII E

### Figuring out the future

"This decision has received mixed reactions from the 1.5 crore students it will impact. With the boards starting soon, students are already struggling to regain the same level of preparation for that they had before the pandemic. Now that the entrance exams hold the only weightage for admissions, they have to focus on studying for them as well.

All this has made it so much harder for students to cope with it, especially since the announcements come so near to the endgame, it is all a little chaotic. With this added pressure and changed rules, how will students perform and secure their way? Will this end up working in their benefit, or will it ruin the future they had planned and have been working so hard for?"

Ananta Taneja  
AIS Vasundhara 1, XII D

## Around The WORLD

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



### USA

#### Anti-lynching bill passed

In a historic first, President Biden, on March 29, signed into law the federal bill that makes racist lynching a hate crime in the country. Named after a 14-year-old black boy whose brutal death roused the US civil rights movement in the 1950s, the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act was passed, putting an end to America's history of impunity by the Senate and the House of Representatives by vote of 422-3 in early March.

### UK

#### Tipu Sultan's painting sold

The painting titled 'The Battle of Pollilur', depicting the historic victory of the sultan of Mysore, Haider Ali, and his son, Tipu Sultan, over East India Company in 1780, was sold for a whopping 6.28 crore INR at Sotheby's 'Arts of the Islamic World and India' auction. Dubbed as 'one of the great masterpieces of the period', the 32-foot-long painting was commissioned by Tipu Sultan himself in 1784.



### RUSSIA

#### Crew of Roscosmos reach earth

US astronaut Mark Vande Hei, along with his Russian colleagues, cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov and Anton Shkaplerov, returned to earth on Russia's Soyuz MS-19 spacecraft on March 30, having blasted off from Baikonur in April last year. The three, having successfully clocked 355 days aboard the ISS, have set new record for being the longest mission.



### SRI LANKA

#### Power cuts in economic crisis

The Public Utilities Commission announced that the nation will now be experiencing daily 10-hour power cuts due to 'fuel shortage and unavailability of generators' induced by a 70% drop in its foreign exchange reserves and the subsequent fall in its capacity to import such essentials. Fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic, badly-timed tax cuts, and historically weak government finances, the country is facing its worst economic crisis, and to curb the same, is seeking financial assistance from the IMF and other global lenders.

### AFGHANISTAN

#### World Bank suspends several projects

As the Taliban administration reversed its decision to allow girls to return to secondary and high schools, the World Bank suspended four major projects worth 600 million USD in the country. The projects were funded by ARTF and on the condition that women and girls will have an equal access to all the services. The bank, however, is willing to resume the same if all the conditions of the projects are met.



### PAKISTAN

#### PM Imran Khan loses majority

As the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), a key ally of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, switched alliance to the opposition party on March 30, 2022, ahead of a vote of no-confidence, PM Khan's ruling coalition lost its majority in the Parliament. It has increased his chances of being ousted from power, making it a great challenge to his rule.







The motto on the first official US coin, also known as Fugio Cent, was “Mind Your Business”.

# Be a linguist

## Mastering The Art And Science Of Human Language

Samaira Verma, X & Anika Singh, XII  
AIS Vasundhara 1

What is that one thing that separates humans from animals, making the former a part of the civilised world and the latter that of jungle? The most basic answer for this is language. Though all species have their own ways of communicating, only humans have truly mastered cognitive language communication. And we didn't just stop there; every day we make great strides towards becoming more and more proficient in each and every human language that there is, and subsequently connecting the world as we know it. Guess who's doing the job for you? Well, linguists a hundred percent. Now, what if we tell you that you can be one? “How?” you may ask. Read on and see for yourself.

### What is linguistics?

Though we have all heard the term ‘linguistics’ on numerous occasions, not many of us are aware of what it actually stands for. Well, for the unversed, linguistics can be loosely dubbed as the scientific study of language - a study that dwells on the structure and development of a certain language, its sound, meaning, function, and the relationship it shares with other languages around the globe. A linguist, thus, is someone who engages in such studies. Intrigued by each and every aspect of language, such as phonetics, syntax, grammar, accents, and dialects, with a keen interest in all the languages of the world, a linguist may have a specialisation in diverse areas such as sociolinguistics,

dialectology, historical linguistics, amongst several others. As such, they work in consulting firms, media houses, sign language cell, research universities, publishing companies, schools, universities, as well as colleges. In fact, the translators, interpreters, or even lexicographers you see everywhere are all linguists as well.

### What are the educational qualifications required for this career?

In order to pursue a career as a linguist, one must have a bachelor's degree in any stream from a recognised university; having managed to secure a minimum of 50% score in which, one can further apply for a master's level degree in applied linguistics. They can also opt for a PhD in the same, in case they get a good score in competitive exams such as GATE, UGC, NET, etc. Professional certificate or specialised training can come in handy too. Apart from this, it is very important for an aspirant to have native-level fluency in one or more languages, sharp listening and speaking skills, powerful writing skills in at least one non-English language, as well as knowledge of various tools and techniques of natural language processing.

### What are the skills required to be a linguist?

Before you commit to this career path, make sure you have good communication skills, be it verbal or written, for it honestly forms the basis of any and every career related to linguistics out there. As to the rest, if one is burning with curiosity to learn new languages; relate a particular language to its social, cultural and historical contexts; deal with

complexities of meaning and social uses of language; critically interpret spoken and written language; and construct and apply theories, etc., this field awaits you with open arms. Work as a copywriter, editor, broadcaster, researcher, professor, publisher or a news reader, the avenues are endless and as fluid as it gets.

### What are the growth aspects for someone aspiring to be a linguist?

As the world is becoming more and more globalised, the need for linguists to step forward, collaborate and communicate with people in different corners of the globe is only growing with each passing day. Be it businesses dealing in export/import of goods and services or governments all over the world forming diplomatic ties, linguistics is the way to go for all. Moreover, on an individual level, as has been proven by many studies, learning new languages also enhances one's analytical, logical and social capabilities. And as far as the remuneration goes, a linguist can easily earn somewhere between five to seven lakh per annum in India. So, what's stopping you? Unleash that linguaphile in you and rule the world!



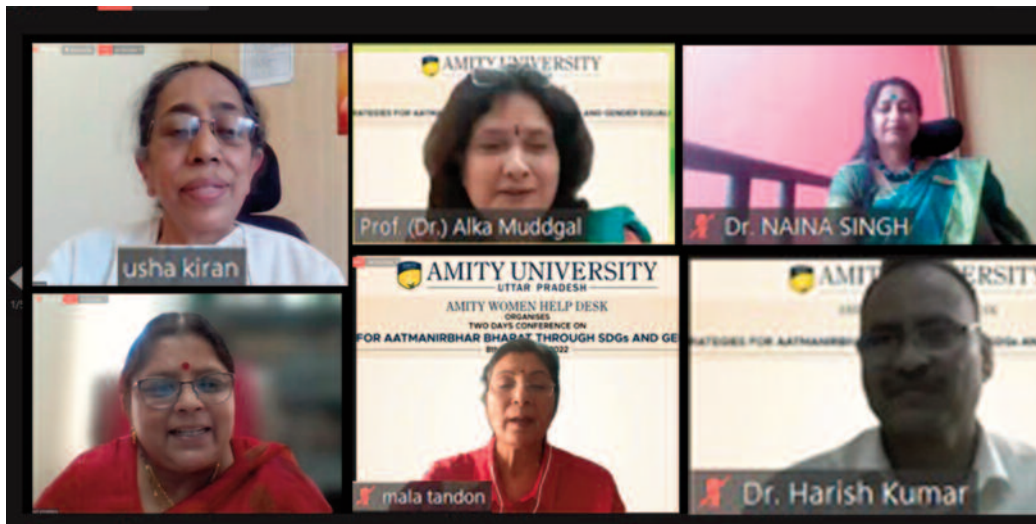
# Empowering women

## The Importance Of Women's Education In Today's Time

AIBAS | AUUP

Amity University Uttar Pradesh celebrated Women's Day by organising a two-day international conference on the theme ‘Strategies for Aatmanirbhar Bharat through SDGs & Gender Equality’. Faculty of Education partook in the conference by organising a virtual panel discussion on the topic ‘Empower Women, Educate the World’ on March 8, 2022, wherein distinguished speakers with expertise in different fields graced the discussion.

Education plays a vital role in conditioning young minds towards the concept of gender. Echoing this, the session chair, Prof Gouri Srivastava, prof & head, Department of Education in Social Sciences, NCERT, stressed on the necessity of identifying the strengths, passions, and commitment that are needed for women's empowerment. She propounded that education and empowerment are entwined, and that empowerment is a result of education. Dr Renu Sehgal, principal, GD Goenka Public School, Greater Noida, mentioned that women should have equal opportunities to develop and achieve their goals. She suggested that the country's female literacy rate must be enhanced, and the gender gap must be narrowed, particularly in rural areas. On the other hand, Dr Usha Kiran, professor and ex-head,



A snapshot of the faculty members present at the event

Department of Cardiac Anaesthesia in Cardiothoracic Centre, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, elaborated that it is education that empowers women and therefore, women's education should not be compromised. She also highlighted the importance of inner strength and said spirituality is a source of inner strength. Anita Nanda, principal, Lala Jagat Narain DAV Model School, Jalandhar, emphasised that women play a very important role in society and that they must be provided equal opportunity to attain long-term goals. The importance of economic independence for women's empowerment, the need for developing skills, and offering vocational training to women were also highlighted. Prof Naina Singh, HoD, The Bhopal School of Social Sciences,



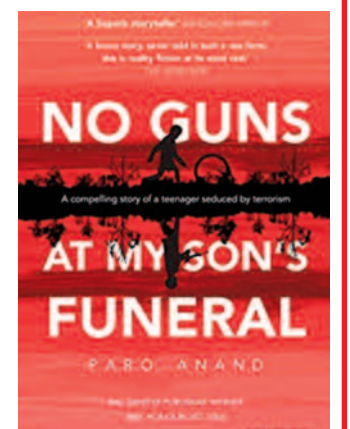
posited the importance of standing up against gender bias. She said women will become more resilient if their socioeconomic condition is improved. To end the panel discussion on a thoughtful note, Dr Harish Kumar, head, Amity Institute of Behavioural and Allied Sciences, appreciated India's efforts on achieving the Millennium Development Goals and mentioned that a lot more has to be done to

overcome the high dropout rates of female students. He also highlighted the fact that as the country boasts of women holding significant chairs in governance and top-notch places in different areas of productivity, a large number of women are still struggling for their livelihoods. The discussion concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Prof Alka Muddgal, head, Amity Institute of Education, AUUP.

## Book Review

### Rake in that review

Book: No guns at my son's funeral  
Author: Paro Anand  
Published in: 2005  
Genre: Fiction



**Synopsis:** The book narrates the splendid tale of Aftab, a young Kashmiri boy who leads a double life. During the day, he is a bubbly teenager whose prime concerns are playing cricket with his best friend Angad, taking a bath in Jhelum, his family and dear friends. However, the night holds the secrets of his other life where he sneaks away to confabulate with Akram and his fledgling group of tear-away terrorists that includes Feroze, Javed and Imran. To Aftab, Akram seems handsome and excited, and he willingly wants to follow up Akram to the end of the earth.

**Why is it worth reading:** Unlike most fiction books, the story picks up pace within no time at all as not many pages are devoted to the introduction of the various characters, and no unnecessary homage is paid to the perfect backdrop of Kashmir. Just as we meet the Kashmiri protagonist Aftab, we realise his innocence as he escapes the comfort of his mother's warm phiran just to meet his so-called friends. Paro Anand also manages to create the perfect villain in Akram who epitomises the idea of a perfect terrorist

leader. He is charming, enigmatic, and entices his recruits emotionally, promising them Jannat as a reward for their martyrdom. As the author introduces us to Feroze, yet another senior member of the combat team in the making, one is bound to feel stifled with his physical restraint, let alone the reason behind it. The story ends on a tragic note, leaving us with mixed feelings for both of them. Reflecting all the emotions of a human being, Anand uses simple language to tell an effortless yet compelling story that manages to leave an impact on all with utmost sincerity.

**Iconic quote:** “A shred, a shard, a tuft of hair, and a flip-flop hung without care. But the dust we scuffed beneath our feet, revealed a blood-red underneath.”

**Rating: ★★★★★**  
**Review by: Sudiksha Sarcar**  
AIS Gurugram 46, XII





# EPIC innovations

## Budding Amities Secured Top Five Positions At The National Level Competition

### Pro@Project

October 12, 2021 will always hold a special significance for the Amity universe. It is when history was made by six Amities who grabbed all the top five positions at EPIC (Empowering Pupil Innovation and Creativity), a competition conducted as part of CSIR's 'Jigyasa' initiative. Held by the CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow, EPIC is designed to inspire youth to develop an innovative scientific temperament. When GT spoke to the winners, it became evident that the root of this success lay in Vasudha, the annual inter-Amity science competition envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF. All the winning entries were incubated at Vasudha and it was from here that these inventors began their journey to epic success. Here's a sneak peek into their world!

**The eureka moment:** A delayed flight, a much-needed toothbrush that was left at home, and the lack of dispensable, hygienic products at the airport is what made Dhruvi envision a safe and disposable toothbrush. She also wanted to find an alternative to the regular toothbrush to reduce the usage of plastic.

**The incubation period:** Dhruvi backed her idea with painstaking research and presented the same at Vasudha. This finally led to the making of Easy Brush, which is made entirely of paper.

**The design:** Easy Brush is a long, thin stretch of paper, which can be interlocked around a finger. The thick central part has a formulation made of baking soda, salt, sugar, cinnamon, clove, peppermint oil and



Winner

The innovation  
**Easy Brush**

Epic winner

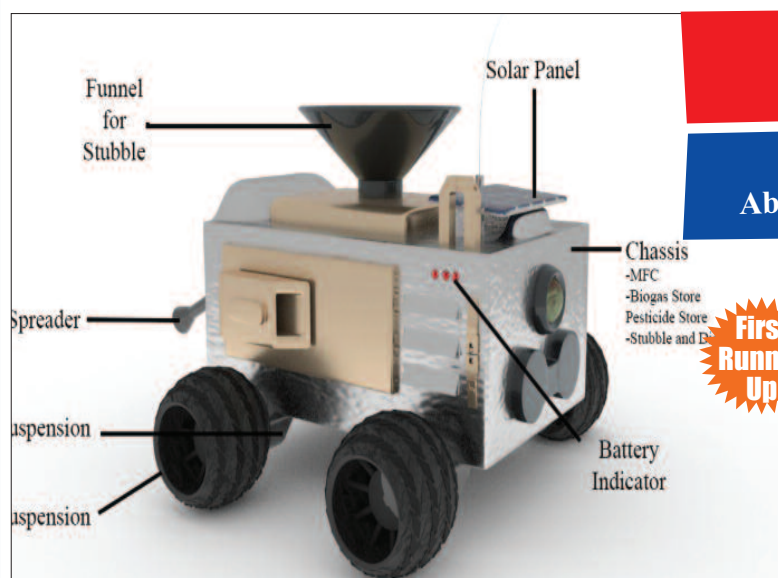
Dhruvi Gupta, AIS Vasundhara 6, X



water. Using a paintbrush, this mix is spread on butter paper, and left to dry. The dried butter paper with toothpaste is then cut into the shape of a paper brush.

**The USP:** The brush can be used by anyone, and is especially useful for soldiers, health workers and astronauts. It is available in different sizes and flavours at an affordable price

with good bristles and a firm grip. **The message:** Dhruvi wants the youth to follow their passion and never stop innovating, for innovation is the key to future.



The innovation  
**Stubby Bot**

Epic winner

Abhinav Prem, AIS Saket, XII

First Runner Up



**The eureka moment:** Every year, Delhi faces the problem of smog around Diwali, mainly due to the burning of stubble in neighbouring states. While studying SDG 7 and researching on sustainable agriculture, Abhinav came across the idea of creating a cost-effective and efficient way of stubble management.

**The incubation period:** The journey began at Vasudha in 2020 when he researched on the concept of microbial fuel cell and the use of bio-gas in agriculture. With the help of mentors at Amity, Abhinav designed Stubby Bot, an agriculture robot.

**The design:** With microbial fuel cell

as its core component, it uses microbial metabolism to generate electricity, bio-gas and organic manure. For 10 kg of stubble, the robot can produce 14W energy, 6 kg manure and 2.2 l bio-gas. He has also created an option for farmers to install a sprayer in the bot which can be used to spray organic manure or pesticide.

**The USP:** The robot comes at an affordable price of 18,500 INR (without subsidies) and 10,000 INR (with subsidies). It is powered by solar energy. Most importantly, it is output-generating compared to other available products which only break down the stubble and do not generate electricity,



manure, bio-gas etc.

**The message:** Abhinav believes that even the smallest idea can make a big and impactful change.



The innovation  
**Suraksha Box UV-C Sterilisation**

Epic winner

Adite Sharma, AIS Vasundhara 6, XI



**The eureka moment:** Though there are many traditional methods to maintain hygiene, most of them are easily reversible and can be rendered ineffective just by a single touch. Observing this, Adite started working on the idea of a holistic but simple and affordable sanitisation kit, which proves effective in the longer run.

**The incubation period:** The project

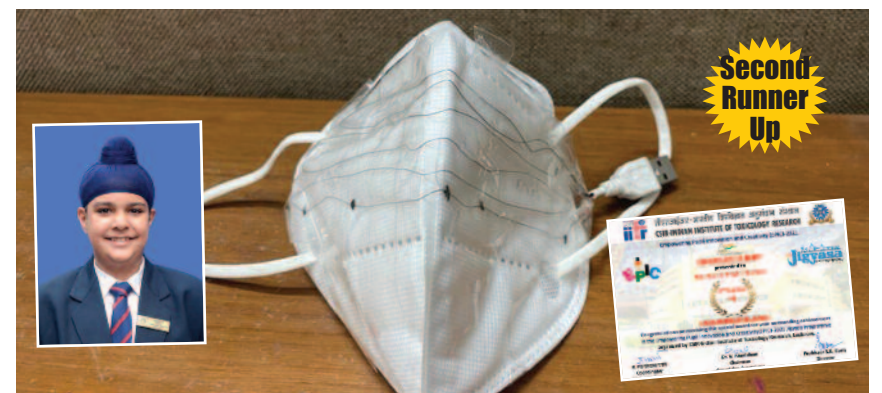
started with Vasudha in 2020 when she designed Suraksha Box, which is effective in killing 99% microorganisms including the SARS virus. This kit works by damaging the cell of bacteria and all nucleic acid (RNA or DNA) in viruses.

**The design:** The kit has a simple control panel with LED display and UV-C, and one can simply put in the

object to be sanitised and select the time for which it needs to be sanitised, and the box does the rest for you. Adite also plans to raise the height of the box, add a 360-degree swivel for rotation of objects, along with side reflective interiors and a solar-panel.

**The USP:** As compared to other similar products, the kit is priced at a minimal price of 2,340 INR. Also, the kit is light-weight and equipped with an auto-cut option.

**The message:** Adite hopes that people understand the message of Steve Job, "Being the richest man doesn't matter to me. Going to bed saying we have done something wonderful, that's what matters to me."



Second Runner Up

The innovation  
**Heat Disinfectant Kit**

Epic winner

Gunek Singh Chaddha, AIS Pushp Vihar, XI

**The eureka moment:** During the pandemic, Gunek observed that N-95 masks could not be reused and cloth masks, though reusable, did not provide the same protection as N-95 masks. So, he decided to create a mask which would offer both protection and reusability.

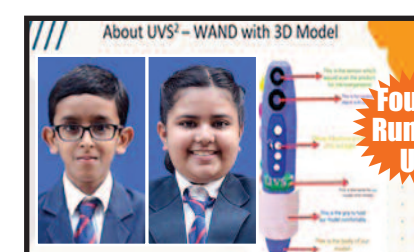
**The incubation period:** Once again, it was at Vasudha that Gunek's idea to create such a mask took a leap of faith and evolved into becoming 'Heat Disinfectant Kit'. In his own words, "Vasudha is a unique and one-of-its-kind platform which gives children vast opportunities to kindle their scientific ideas and shape them into innovations."

**The design:** A combination of protection,

reusability and disinfection, the kit comprises a mask, a cardboard box fitted with nichrome wire (nichrome is a resistor so it heats up fast), and a fan for disinfecting the mask completely.

**The USP:** The kit costs 3,000-4,000 INR compared to already existing players in the market who sell similar products for 12,000-15,000 INR. It is reusable and eco-friendly compared to the plastic kits with harmful UV radiation. Also, the kit takes lesser time to disinfect and heat up.

**The message:** An aerospace and automobile enthusiast, Gunek says that the youth must constantly think and innovate, as every idea has a potential to create a revolution and make desirable changes.



The innovation  
**UVS2 Wand**

Fourth Runner Up

Epic winner  
Yash Wadhwa & Diya Mahalwal, IX, AIS PV

**The eureka moment:** It was during the pandemic that these two youngsters brainstormed to create a safe, portable, and more effective sanitisation UVS2 Wand (Ultraviolet Sensor Sanitizer), which is designed to prevent communicable diseases.

**The incubation period:** Once again, Vasudha became the ground for ideation and motivation, as regular meetings with their teachers and mentors were held every alternate day.

**The design:** The duo created a 3D model prototype equipped with three

main features: a sensor, a sanitiser, and a UV sanitiser. The sensors detect the presence of microorganisms on the surface. While a red light marks the presence of microbes, a green light means it is free from microbes.

**The USP:** It is cost effective at 2,000 INR, made of recyclable materials, can be refuelled, uses UV chips which are safer than lamps, and can sanitise just within a few minutes.

**The message:** While Diya loves sports and Yash is an avid reader, their common message for the youth is to always think out of the box!





The 1849 Double Eagle Gold Coin, worth an estimated 20 million USD, is the world's rarest and most valuable coin.

U, Me Aur Hum

Whose life is it anyway?

# When Laws went Ludicrous

## Here's Looking At Some Of The Weirdest Food Laws From Around The World

Prisha Nigam

AIS Gurugram 43, X

How would you feel if you were told what you could or could not eat, or more absurd still, when and where you could eat? As bizarre as it may sound, there are a slew of laws around the world that govern food. Though these seem to border on sheer insanity, if you dig deeper, you might find interesting stories behind these ludicrous laws. If that piques your attention, here are some of the world's strangest food rules for you to devour without question!

### No ketchup!

In October 2011, France made ketchup illegal in public schools across the country. Authorities in France thought of ketchup as an example of American intellectual imperialism and thus, detrimental to all things French. "We ought

to make sure that children learn French recipes so that they can pass them on to future generations," said Christophe Hebert, chairman of the National Association of Directors of Collective Restaurants and the driving force behind the ban.

### No gum!

Singapore enacted a law in the 1990s that made selling chewing gum illegal in the country. The problem with the gum was not how people chewed it, but how they disposed of it post-chewing. This one is a no-brainer as no gum helps keep our surroundings clean. However, the said law is now a little more lenient than before, all thanks to the Singapore-US Free Trade Agreement of 2004. Due to some of its health benefits, Singaporeans can now purchase chewing gum with a prescription from drug stores. Well, aren't we a lucky generation?

### No forks!

Eating fried chicken using hands is as American a trait as eating hot dogs without spoons or forks at a picnic! So, now you understand why, for decades, one of America's oldest fast-food franchises has been using the phrase 'finger lickin' good' to describe its fried chicken. Gainesville in Florida, on the other hand, went a little further in 1961 by making it illegal to eat fried chicken in any way other than by hand. The bill was passed as part of a public relations drive promoting Georgia as the nation's premier fried chicken eating destination. Well, we have to do as Americans do, when it comes to fried chicken, at least!

### No ice cream in pockets!

Throughout Kentucky, USA, it is illegal for a person to walk down the street with an ice cream cone in their back

pocket. Back when most people got around on horseback, horse thieves would put ice cream in their pocket to lure horses away without being charged with stealing. Luckily, not many people are stealing horses off the streets of Kentucky today, and most prefer to eat ice cream the old way!

### No watermelons!

Rio Claro, Brazil, still has a city law that bans the sale of watermelons. The 'Watermelon Law' was put into force in 1894, because at that time, watermelons were thought to transmit typhus and yellow fever. Though this doesn't explain why watermelon is still banned in Rio Claro, but a law is still a law, isn't it?

### No more than three sandwiches

Funerals are always a sensitive time. With emotional relatives and inevitable

family flare ups, if ever there was an occasion for justifiable comfort eating, a wake is surely it. Not in Massachusetts, USA, though. Thanks to an unspecified but presumably unpleasant historic sandwich experience, funerals goers are nowadays allowed to devour atmost three sandwiches at a wake within the state.

### No posing with ice-creams

If you are in Florence and totally tempted to show off that amazing looking ice-cream topping for your social media feed while standing in front of a church or a public building, just stop. You will be breaking one of the most important laws of this city in Italy. So enjoy your gelato but never, ever pose for that Instagram picture!



Imaging : Pankaj Mallik, GT Network

# It's 'too' A.M.

## The Harrowing Ordeal Of Having To Wake Up Every Morning

Suhane Ranjan &amp; Gurashima Kaur

AIS Noida, XII

Good morn\*yawn\*ing, you! Yes, you, sitting on your unmade bed pretending to have it all under control. We totally relate to the pain you had to so heroically endure to fully wake up and we're here to reveal it to the world, every single yawn of it.

### A shrill monstrosity...

The battlefield, the warrior, and the mighty sword is about to slay the black...trrrriinnngg! The much-hated golden buzzer goes off. Alarms, because every morning should begin with a mini heart attack, right? And so, commences the long process of getting up and out of bed. Denial, bargaining and finally, pretend acceptance.

### Save electricity, please?

Well, some mornings you wake up to the annoying howl of the

devil machine and some days because your dad actually pours water on you. But then there are some mornings that you don't anticipate- you wake up because your evil sister would switch on the lights and forget to turn them back off. Not the eyes, oh, not your sensitive, sleepy eyes!

### Too bad at goodbyes...

Now that you have finally managed to move a muscle, people should immediately move out of your way. No one should talk to you or ask you any questions. No one wants to awaken the sleeping dragon, do they? You finally bid your bed a heartbroken goodbye and begin your day. With each step you take, you question yourself "Why me?"; "Why must the torture of waking up be bestowed upon me? (or anyone)?"

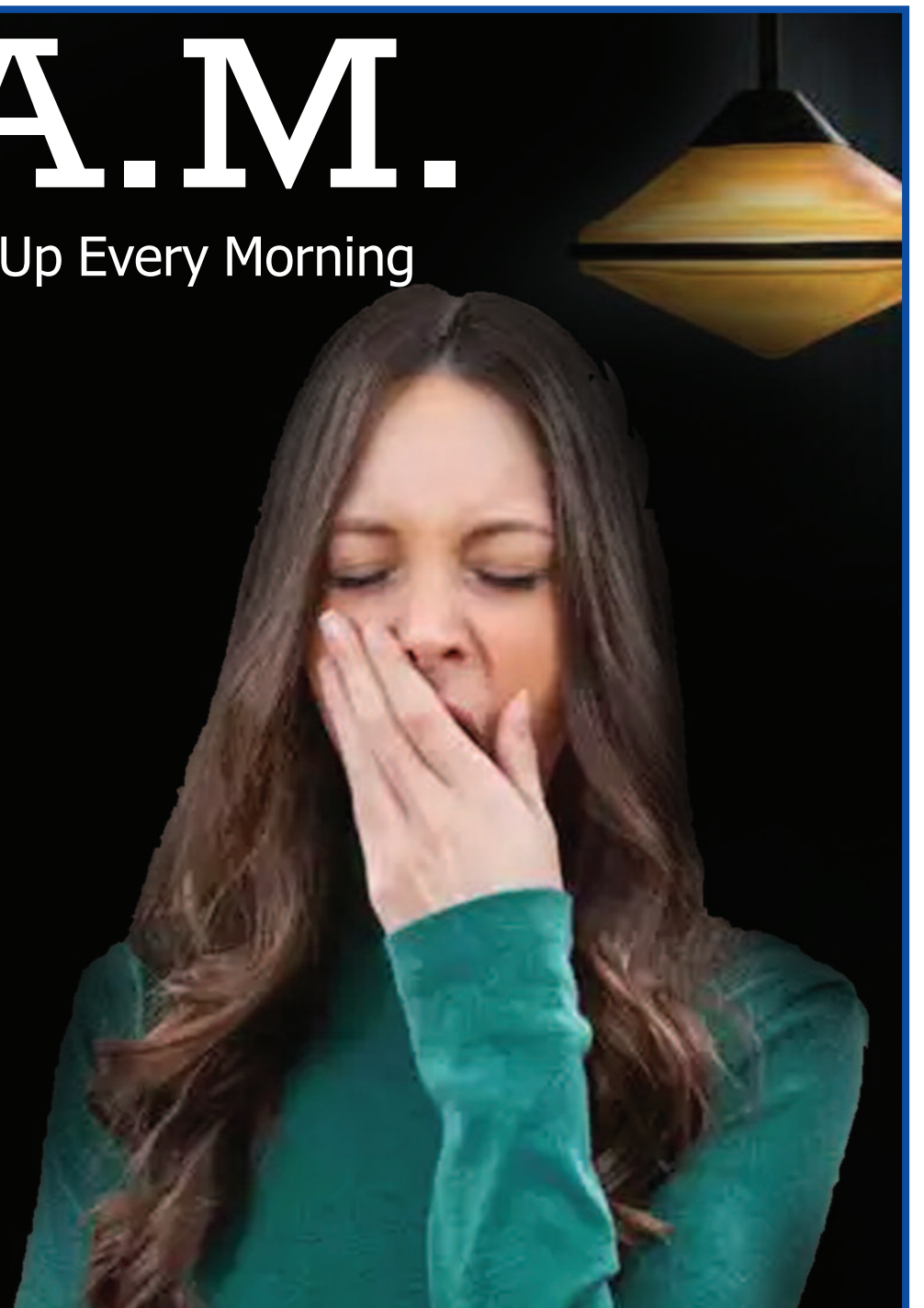
### Kahan se aate hain yeh log?

While you drag your drowsy self across the Earth, your entire family appears to be full of hy-

peractive aliens from another world, because being so oddly active at this ungodly hour and full of some peculiar energy cannot be human. You begin to wonder whether Amazon has started selling human batteries now but somehow you are the only one who hasn't had access to it yet. But then, this, folks, is called life. Wake up with the sun, find your existence and all that jazz.

### If it wasn't already worse...

You make way to your make-shift school table, and plop yourself in front of the screen. Dad comes in for the hundredth time and scolds you for the thousandth time for the cup you failed to transport to the sink. You scowl a zillionth time, "I can't even hold myself up right now, how am I supposed to hold a cup?" "Raj, I hope you are able to at least pick up your textbook." "Yes, ma'am!" Wait, what? Not the mic again, man! "Still on, Raj!" There, there, happens to the best of us.







## Success



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

Excellence is a way of life at Amity and this has been demonstrated, time and again, by our talented Amityans. The latest triumph belongs to Jaisal Kothari of Class XII, AIS Saket who has won the grand prize at the IRIS National Fair 2022

for his research project 'Flikcer' made on the subject of 'Photosensitive Epilepsy'. The young innovator will now represent India in ISEF 2022 (Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair), which will be held at Atlanta in May 2022. This is, indeed, a feat worth celebrating as ISEF is the world's largest pre-college science competition with participation from over 80 countries and more than 1500 applicants. At the same time, we must also applaud the efforts put in by our three other prodigies, Kushagra Agarwal of Class VIII, Shivansh Pande of Class IX, Yashika Priyadarshini and Divya Upadhyaya, both of whom are from Class XI. They, too, deserve a pat on the back as they were able to reach the national finals of IRIS. While Kushagra had designed his project on 'Effect of Neodymium magnets on plants', Shivansh impressed the jury with his medical application called 'Oxylife' that can help in estimating the need for oxygen in a patient. Yashika and Divya worked on a 'PH Based Fertilizer Calculator'. I am extremely impressed not only by the skills of innovation needed for such projects, but also by the fact that these children have addressed complex topics at such a young age. It requires a great deal of foresight and empathy to be able to come up with solutions for such difficult problems. This fine balance between knowledge and commitment towards the larger good is what defines the spirit of Amity, one that motivates and prepares students to foray into uncharted territories and treat the entire planet as their own home. I have full faith that our children will continue to create more milestones on this path of exploration and compassion. 🇮🇳

## Ekey Saadhe, Sab Sadhe



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

Sometimes the smallest of mementos can bring back a flood of memories, and this is what happened to me when I was reorganising my desk last week. Amidst a pile of used notebooks, I found a diary that I used to maintain when I was in school. Unlike most of my friends who wrote a diary as an outlet for their innermost feelings, I was in the habit of writing anything, including popular quotes or my own observations in life, that fascinated me. And, as I turned the pages over, one quote stood out once again. This was a doha (couplet) by Rahim which went, "एकै साधे सब सधे सब साधे सब जाय! रहिमान मूलहि सींचिबो फूलहि फलहि अघाय" (ekkey saadhey sab sadhey, sab saadhey sab jaaye, Rahiman moolhi seenchibo, phoolhi phalhi adhyay)

I remember having noted this down when I was in Class V and realised that its essence inspired me even now. Loosely translated, it means that one must focus on completing one task at a time with complete dedication instead of trying to accomplish multiple tasks simultaneously, as the latter would never bear the desired result. Guru Nanak has also said, "Mann jeejay jag jee". When you are in control of your own mind, one which does not succumb to any external or inner disturbances, you truly become the master of your destiny. When you single-mindedly chase one goal, nothing can stop you from succeeding. When I come across the triumphs of Amityans at different national and international competitions, I find these motivational quotes resonating in each of these achievements. Even with all the disturbances around, these achievers remained focused on their goals and winning the mind (ekkey saadhey) and winning the world (sab sadhey)! 🇮🇳

# Visualising success

## Being Your True Hardworking Self Is The Only Way To Succeed

Harshita Pareek, AIS Vas 6, XII C

\*crowd cheers\* "Can we please invite Ms Hazel Petrova on the stage to claim the youngest achiever award, and say a few words about her successful journey?" \*crowd continues cheering and applauding\* This was it; the moment I had been wishing for was finally happening. It didn't seem like a dream anymore because I could feel the shivers down my spine; the goosebumps and the butterflies were so much more real this time. But it was all fine as I wanted to live every second of that feeling, of just being nervous yet content. I wanted to be there in the present, there and then. Because every second of the day was what I had prayed for, and I was finally at a place where I was meant to be. I took a deep breath, stood up, and started to walk towards the podium. Among all the loud cheers, I could hear my heart thumping. As I reached the stage, the host handed me the microphone which looked exactly like the one I used to make on my own as an aspiring child.

"I uhh umm—" Darn! In my nervousness, I completely forgot the lines I prepared. Suddenly all the cheers stopped and I could hear the murmurs and the whispers, "pfft! How can she forget?" "Ha! Told you they're all



Harshita Pareek

fake!" All the things I was afraid of hearing reached my ears and pierced through my soul. That's not what I imagined! This wasn't supposed to happen, no, I couldn't afford to mess my perfect day. I was so caught up in my head that I forgot that in my imagination I never needed a script to forget in the first place because whatever I said came through my heart and what I believed was the right thing to say at the moment. That's when I gained my composure back and re-

alised that I just had to take that leap of faith and trust my own self.

"Well, I would not start with a 'thank you'. Not because I am ungrateful, but because I am filled with gratitude that a simple 'thank you' cannot cover properly. I have had this scenario playing in my head since I were a kid. Today was everything that I asked for but with a slight variation. Probably because I was trying to portray myself as the Hazel Petrova you would want to see and not the Hazel that I actually

The presented essay won the third prize in the category 'English Story Writing (14-18 years)' at Annual Art Festival organised by The National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti, together with CBSE and in collaboration with Kalantar Art Trust. The competition entailed various sections like painting, writing, music and song, play and nukkad natak, and was spread over a time span of three months. Harshita's entry on the topic 'Be yourself – just do it' was selected amongst lakhs of entries that were sent in for the competition.

am. This is the real me, unapologetic, unfiltered, and proud of myself just the way I am, because success can be yours when you choose to believe and invest your faith and energy in yourself. When you're aware that it is success that needs you, all you need is to be your true self, so thank you!" "Wow! That was truly inspiring. Thank you for the great motivation." Of course, that had to be great. After all, it was me who did the actual talking, right? \*Flips hair\* 🇮🇳

## Nourish to flourish

### Understanding And Cherishing Food Culture



Saryu Sawhney  
AIS MV, Alumnus

They say food is the way to the heart, but the fact that food is also the way to building a society is not articulated so very often. Apart from being the prime need for nourishment since the dawn of humankind, food has evolved to become a ubiquitous element that undeniably contributes to the social fabric, more so as a social adhesive today. And thus, here's an exploration of this massive evolution.

From being a basic necessity...

Since the 1980s, food studies have developed into a distinct field, with increased emphasis on how it strengthens social ties. However, in this era of globalisation, it also bears the onus of transforming traditional cultures. Case in point- McDonaldisation, i.e., a term developed by George Ritzer in 1993, which implies

substitution of nutrient rich food with fast food in this fast-paced world. Sure enough, a burger can never replace the healthy and tasty parathas, but it has indubitably influenced our preferences over time. Something that began as a basic process of hunting and foraging for mere subsistence, the concept of a meal has indeed branched out into terms like starters, main course, comfort food, etc., not to mention how it has also become the foundation of socialisation and interaction today.

To distinguishing cultures ...

What is the best way to understand the peculiarities of a culture? Understand their food. Food culture is suggestive of the practices and beliefs of the functioning of a particular region. For instance, it is believed that Chinese people possess a very ornate style, be it in their architecture or their sartorial sense, and that very thought reflects in their cuisine, too,

which is not only nutritious but appealing as well, and hence, sees a lot of decoration and vibrancy. Likewise, the influx of immigrants to the USA in the 20th century is an astounding reason for the country's cuisine being so diverse. It only highlights the crucial role that food plays in defining the multitude of cultures across the world, while adding a kind of distinctness to each of them.

And reinforcing identities...

Sample this - sitting around a huge table for a grand Thanksgiving banquet in California. Now, imagine eating from a humble banana leaf comprising a cornucopia of about 26 south Indian dishes down Kerala. No doubt, food has always imbued a certain sense of identity in each one of us. While to the former, it is reminiscent of the momentous harvest feast celebrating the welcoming of emigrant Pilgrims to America in as early as 1621, to the latter, it is a commemoration of the return of demon king Mahabali to the God's own country, marking yet another harvest festival but with a different spin. All in all, it is true that along with fetching splendid taste, food is also underscored with a whole another historical or mythical significance alongside.

Whether it is a pizza from Italy or kadhai paneer from Punjab, it's important to remember that as we continue to satiate our taste buds with the plethora of flavoursome cuisines, let's not forget to revel in the layers of knowledge and meaning that food in its truest sense brings with it. 🇮🇳



Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'The big boy Bocaccio' published on page four of the GT edition dated March 28, 2022. Firstly, I would like to appreciate the diligent effort and research done by the author to produce this fruitful article. The article gives ample information about the threatened fish 'Bocaccio', also known as the large Pacific Coast rockfish, that are moderately slow-growing, late to mature, and long-lived. It is an important recreational fish in state water. The NOAA Fisheries and Pacific Fishery Management Council take care of bocaccio fishery on the west coast. With such interesting information, readers likely are propelled to read more about the topic and share the same among their peers. All thanks to GT for introducing this series and making the readers aware of the present condition of these beautiful species and what can be done to save them before they go extinct.

Angad Gautam  
AIS Gurugram 46, X H





The world's smallest gold coin, created in Switzerland, features Einstein sticking out his tongue and measures 2.96 mm in diameter.

# The braveheart Samudra

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, **Samudragupta**, who changed the course of history for the better.

## WARRIORS of INDIA

### Part 8

**Name:** Samudragupta

**Born in:** 290 CE – 320 CE

**Died in:** 380 CE

**Position held:** Best-known emperor of the Gupta Dynasty

**Noteworthy achievements:** Samudragupta was known as the 'King of Kings' because he unified India politically and brought almost the entire country under his rule. His territories extended from the Himalayas in the north to the river Narmada in the south, and from the Brahmaputra river in the east to the Yamuna river in the west. He defeated the Naga kings in the north and humbled several princes in the south. He is also known for introducing seven types of coins and resurrecting fine arts.

**Biography to watch/read:** Yoddha: The Dynasty of Samudragupta by Rajat Pillai; Samudragupta - A Military Genius by Tsathrongla Sangtam; Samudragupta – The Making of an Emperor by Bappaditya Chakravarty

### The roots of a warrior

Samudragupta was born to King Chandragupta I of the Gupta Dynasty in Indraprastha. He grew up to become one of India's finest rulers; his brilliant leadership and valiant victories earning him the title of Napoleon of India. While growing up, he showed great inclination towards art, music, and literature. Samudragupta was a fine choice as the successor of the Gupta dynasty, given his kind-hearted nature and fine training in military skills. And yet when his father anointed him as his successor, there was opposition from many quarters, especially from his own brothers. "Protect ye this earth," with these words his father is said to have urged the young prince after declaring his ascension to the throne. Samudragupta had to go to war with his rival brother named Kacha (believed to be the eldest brother), who was ultimately defeated. Samudragupta finally succeeded his father in the year 335 AD and ruled for about 45 years.

Historians describe the king as a philosopher of melodic expression and polished intellect. He successfully composed many beautiful poems in Sanskrit and was titled Kaviraj for his love of poetry. In addition to being a master of the veena, he played many other instruments. His court was graced with many intellectuals, including the renowned poet Harishena who inscribed stories of the king's bravery on the famous Allahabad Pillar in form of prashastis (praise). The king is also said to have delved deeply into the tattva, or knowledge, of the Shastras, to become worthy of the company of wise men.

### The sword of a warrior

According to the inscription on the Eran Stone Pillar in Madhya Pradesh, Samudragupta was chosen as the successor by his father because of his 'devotion, virtues, behaviour, and heroism'. This inscription also states that Samudragupta brought the 'whole tribe of kings' under his dominion and that his enemies were terrified of him. He is said to have suppressed several revolts during the first few years of his rule itself. Samudragupta vanquished three monarchs - Achyuta Naga, Naga Sena and Ganapati Naga - in his first

war in northern India. Several other northern monarchs were also deposed, and their lands were annexed by the Guptas. In the south, he conquered King Vishnugopa of the Pallava kingdom in Kanchipuram, and then restored him to his throne, along with other defeated southern rulers, in exchange for a tribute. Samudragupta ruled over practically the entire Ganga river basin during the height of his authority, receiving homage from the monarchs of East Bengal, Assam, Nepal, the eastern section of Punjab, and numerous Rajasthani tribes. During his expeditions, he expelled nine monarchs and subdued 12 others. Even though the Gupta empire did not encompass Western Punjab, Western Rajputana, Sind, Gujarat, or Orissa, it was still massive.

Samudragupta fought every battle with smart strategy and great valour. It is said that his body was covered with the marks of a hundred wounds caused by the blows of battle axes, arrows, spears, pikes, barbed darts, swords, lances, javelins, iron arrows, and many other weapons. The army that Samudragupta built could match the prowess of the Mauryan Empire's military that had diminished centuries ago. He is also known for constructing walled towns and restoring border outposts that had been inactive for a long time.

Even though he conquered many provinces, Samudragupta saw to it that he maintained peace and amity among his people. He was on friendly terms with neighbouring kings. He permitted the king of Ceylon to build a Buddhist monastery at Bodh Gaya for the convenience of Buddhist monks. Though personally a Hindu, he extended his patronage to other religions as well, among which one of his chief courtiers appears to have been the great Bud-

dhist philosopher Vasubandhu.

To celebrate his conquests, Samudragupta performed the royal vedic ritual of *ashwamedha*, or horse sacrifice. Special coins were minted to commemorate the *ashwamedha*, and the king took the title of Maharajadhiraja (or king of kings), a title even higher than the traditional ruler's title of Maharaja.

The king is known to have introduced seven different types of coins, and a lot of information about him, both as a king and a person, has been made available through his gold coins. His coins represent him both as a warrior and a peace-loving artist, with relevant suitable titles. They are classified according to the object or weapon the emperor is holding i.e. a battle-axe, veena or bow, or the animal represented on the coin. The archer and battle-axe coin types predictably advertise his physical prowess, while the lyrist type, which shows him playing the veena, represents a completely different aspect of his personality. Samudragupta's coins also depict him as a man of tall stature and muscular physique.

Other than the coins, the Allahabad Pillar also stands to be a great source of information about Samudragupta. The inscription presents him as a compassionate ruler, stating that his 'mind was engaged in providing relief to the low, the poor, the helpless, and the afflicted'. He is also known, through the available tales of the past, to be an effective administrator and ruler who was a strict

disciplinarian, when it came to matters of revenue collection and anything relating to the state.

### The legacy of a warrior

Samudragupta died in 375 AD after a long reign and was succeeded by Chandragupta II, also known as Vikramaditya, his son from Queen Dattadevi. After gaining power, Chandragupta II continued to expand the Gupta empire until the end of his reign in 413 CE. By 395 CE, his control over India extended coast-to-coast. At the high point of his rule, Chandragupta II established a second capital at Ujjain, the largest city in the modern state of Madhya Pradesh. Ujjain remained an important political, commercial, and cultural hub through the early 19th century.

Samudragupta is surely one of India's greatest monarchs. He is eminent among India's rulers as a warrior, a conqueror, a king and administrator, and a patron of art and culture. Through his strategy for conquests, Samudragupta created a model for conquest and governance well-suited to the changed political and economic conditions of ancient India in the 4th century CE. Some consider him the Gupta dynasty's greatest ruler. If the Gupta Age is regarded as the 'golden age' of Indian history, the credit must go to Samudragupta. India would not have seen the political and cultural renaissance that it did if Samudragupta hadn't defeated foes, consolidated authority, united India, and launched an era of peace and prosperity.







# Sparkly the star

## Storywala



Aditi Mishra

AIS Noida, IX K

Once upon a time in the tiny corner of Milky Way, there was a little house that was home to a family of stars. In that family, there was a young mischievous star called Sparkly. Sparkly would always get into trouble, and was famous in the star kingdom for his notorious nature. He would play pranks, tell lies, and would often get scolded by his mother for his rowdy behavior. His mother even warned him that one day his antics would get him in a trouble so big that she won't be able to help him. One day, as Sparkly was thinking of a new excuse to avoid going to school, his mother came running into his room. "Sparkly, you

don't have to go to school today. Moon just reported that the black hole is angry once again. As you know, you're not allowed to go anywhere near the hole. I will tell you when he calms down. Until then, stay in the house." Black hole was the offspring of physics, infamous for his anger and tendency to swallow anything that came in front of him. No one had ever seen him, even though everybody knew where he lived.

Now, Sparkly was happy that he would not have to go to school today but his mother's orders bothered him. He did not like it when anyone told him what to do. After all, his very personality was all about breaking rules and not following orders.

So, as his mother got busy with everyday tasks, he snuck out of

the house and ran all the way to the black hole's place. He was sure that he would be able to curb the black hole's anger and make him happy with his sparkling personality. As he reached there, he knocked on the door, excited to be the first one to face the black hole's wrath. He was already dreaming of the appreciation he would get from the whole kingdom for curbing the black hole's anger. "Go away," said an angry voice from beyond the door. Sparkly being Sparkly promptly ignored the voice and knocked yet again. "Go away or you will regret it kid," shouted the voice. Sparkly got nervous hearing the anger in the voice. How did the voice know it was a kid? Could he see him? Sparkly dared to look through the peep hole and all he could see was

**He would play pranks, tell lies, and would often get scolded by his mother for his rowdy behavior.**

darkness. His heart was thudding in his chest now. "He was called black hole for a reason," thought Sparkly, "of course, he could not see anything inside." Gathering courage, Sparkly knocked once again. This time instead of a scolding, the noise of the door opening came instead. Sparkly nervously took a step back, realising this was a very bad idea. But as he turned around to run away from the black hole, the door was swiftly opened up and Sparkly was sucked in, never to be seen again. 📺



## Deep dish pasta



Ananta Taneja

Ananta Taneja, AIS Vasundhara 1, XII

### INGREDIENTS

Pasta .....	1 cup
Butter .....	2 tbsp
Refined flour .....	2 tbsp
Milk .....	2 cups
Cheese (grated) .....	1 cube
Oregano .....	1 tsp
Red chilli flakes .....	1 tsp
Black pepper powder .....	¼ tsp
Salt .....	to taste
Vegetables (chopped) .....	as per your choice
Readymade pizza pasta sauce .....	as desired

### PROCEDURE

- First, boil water in a large pot with one teaspoon of salt.
- Now, add pasta into the bowl and cook it al dente. Keep stirring it occasionally.
- Heat olive oil in a pan and add chopped vegetables to it. Sauté them for about three-four minutes.
- Transfer the vegetables into a separate bowl and heat the same pan again.
- This time, add some butter and garlic to it, and sauté for about 30 seconds.
- Now add some refined flour and stir until the raw smell of the flour dissipates.
- Next, add milk into the pan and keep stirring it constantly to avoid lumps.
- When the mix starts to thicken, add some grated cheese and pasta sauce in it and mix well.
- Now add oregano, chilli flakes, pepper powder, salt, etc., into the pan as per your taste.
- Finally, add the sautéed vegetables and boiled pasta to it and cook it properly.
- Garnish the mix with grated cheese and sauce of your choice, such as mayonnaise, peri-peri, etc.
- Bake it at 200° Celsius for 16-18 minutes.
- Your deep-dish pasta is ready to be gobbled!

## WORDS VERSE

### A collection of haikus

Arsh Gupta

AIS Gur 43, IX B

A lifeless garden  
Comes a butterfly and sits  
Breathes the life back.

\*\*\*

Into the forest  
I go, enjoying the peace  
Of tranquil nature.

\*\*\*

At the garden's fence  
Stands a cute squirrel holding



An acorn in hands.

\*\*\*

In the night's darkness  
Echoes the wonted sound  
Of an owl hooting.

\*\*\*

The water ripples

As the stream descends from a  
Desolate hill.

\*\*\*

Nature along with  
Its serenity and peace  
Reduces worries

\*\*\*

I wade through stream  
Through its furious waters  
And reach calm coast

\*\*\*

Dragon fly flying  
Swoosh! Goes the fly, all rolled up  
In frog's sticky tongue. 📺

## CAMERA CAPERS

Indranil Majumdar, AIS Gurugram 46, Alumnus



Send in your entries to  
cameracap@theglobaltimes.in



The scent of roasted corn on the cob



The tangy tang of freshly squeezed orange juice



The freshness of betel leaves and areca nuts





The first president to have appeared on a coin was Abraham Lincoln in 1909.

# A spooky tale

## Short Story



Riddhima Sharma

AIS Vasundhara 6, VII D

“Don’t worry! I’m a big girl now,” exclaimed Mia as her parents worried about leaving their 10 year old daughter alone for the first time. “We know, but what if you need something or you get scared of staying alone?” “I won’t, mom! Just go and have fun.” Mia’s parents sighed, but left after telling her to be careful. “Hurray!” she screamed with joy, happy about finally being left to her devices for the first time in her small life. She ran into the kitchen

to grab a tub of ice cream, picked up her favourite doll, Ms Paul, and hopped over to the sofa turning the TV on, switching to Cartoon Network. After a little while, she called up her friends knowing no one would scold her for talking on the phone too long. After two hours of pure fun, Mia finally felt like going to bed. She was sleepy as it was way past her bedtime anyway. As she was going up the stairs, a sudden sound made her pause. “THUD!!! THUD!!! THUD!!!” Mia clutched her doll tightly and looked around nervously, wondering where the sound had

come from. She shouted in fear but soon recalled that there was no one to hear. “THUD THUD!!!” And that noise was near. Frightened, she ran and hid behind the big couch placed in the room she was previously sitting in. “THUD THUD!!!” And that sound was right here! Her fun night had turned into a jaw-dropping horror show. She tried to move to reach for the telephone, but that sound followed her like a shadow. What to do, she thought, trying not to be scared. Shivering and shaking, she crawled bit by bit and

Shivering and shaking, she crawled bit by bit and reached the telephone and called her parents.

reached the telephone. She then called her parents and told them about the sound pleading to come home soon. They consoled and advised her to sit stay calm till they arrived. She was following her parents’ instructions when a sound of something falling came from the kitchen. Shivering in fear, Mia picked up a baseball bat from behind the door and decided to tackle the problem all by herself. She reached the kitchen and turned on the lights nervously. There it was, sitting on the countertop - a kitten. Mia sighed in relief and picked the kitten up, playfully scolding her for scaring her like that. Just then the doorbell rang. Mia put the kitten down and ran to open the door. As soon as they came in sight, she hugged her parents tightly. As they worriedly asked if she was okay, she recalled the whole story to them. Just then the villain of the story came running and Mia immediately picked it up. She asked her parents if she could keep the kitten with her. Her parents agreed after making her promise to take care of it. Mia named it Spooky and whenever someone asked, she’d narrate the tale of how Spooky had spooked her with much enthusiasm. **GT**

So, what did you learn today?  
A new word: Spooky  
Meaning: Ghostly

# Stylus

Dheer Sorti  
AIS Noida, VIII



## Materials required

- Pen
- Copper wire (without rubber covering)
- Small ball of cotton
- Tape

## Procedure

- From your chosen pen, take out the refill so you are only left with the outer body.
- Wrap this outer plastic body in a copper wire, ensuring that the wire is covering the pen from top to bottom.
- Take a small cotton ball and tape it onto the tip of the body of the pen.
- Remember to ensure that the cotton ball touches the wire.
- Place a small drop of water on the tip of the cotton ball so that it is damp. Do not dip the tip in water completely.
- Now your Stylus is ready!

# Riddle fiddle

Mysha Kaiser

AIS Pushp Vihar, III

1. What goes up, down, front, and back but still manages to stay in its place?

2. What is shiny, can be hung on a hook, and if you had a twin, this is exactly how they would look like?

3. It wakes up with me and stays with me all day. I ask her to leave but sticks to me anyway. Who is she?

4. What is easy to get into, but hard to get out of?



5. What lies in the center of gravity as you see it?

6. What belongs to you but your friends use it more?

Answers: 1. Swing 2. Mirror letter 'V' 3. Shadow 4. Trouble 5. The letter 'V' 6. Your name

## It's me

### Know me

My name: Astitva Pandey  
My Class: III  
My school: AIS VYC Lucknow  
My birthday: December 16

### My favourites

Teacher: Twisha ma'am and Sunita ma'am  
Subject: Hindi, English and Music  
Game: Cricket  
Cartoon: Doraemon  
Food: Rice and Dal  
Mall: Phoenix mall  
Book: Fairy tales



### My dreams and goals

I like: Singing, playing tabla, and watching cartoons  
I dislike: To sit idle  
I want to become: A musician  
I want to feature in GT because: I want to spread happiness through it!

## POEMS

# Metamorphosis

Shailain Bose, AIS Saket, VII

She couldn't wait to find her wings  
Cast herself into glamour and grace  
The transformation made her see things  
Other than beauty she should've chased  
These vibrant wings are bound to falter  
And not everything like nectar is sweet  
Elegance is what they expect from her  
And comfort in her own skin is a treat  
How lovely instead it would be to sit  
In the emerald shade of leaves above  
With innocence her eyes would be lit  
Content with her own self to love  
Butterfly life could never fill her  
She'd rather be just a caterpillar. **GT**



## My best friend

Samraddh Vaish  
AIS Gurugram 43, VIII

Whenever I need some help  
You have always been there  
You have made sacrifices  
For my health and welfare  
I want to be an engineer  
I want to be a pirate at sea  
But nothing is more important  
Than being your friend to me  
Sometimes there is strife  
But it always has a happy end  
It is a bond of love and awe  
That we will forever mend  
My lovely amazing best friend  
You make every single day fun  
I will remember you always  
Under this shining sun! **GT**

## PAINTING CORNER

Sejal Pubbi, AIS Gurugram 46, VII







# Ukraine-Russia crisis

Events That Led The World To Face Today's Biggest Conflict!

Continued from page 1...

**April 2014:** To make matters worse, Russian-backed separatists in Ukraine's Donbas region declared independence and gained control over several government buildings across the region, leading to an armed conflict with the Ukrainian government forces.

**September 2014:** As Ukrainian forces tried to claim Donbas back, Russian troops entered the country to obstruct them. Shortly after, the first Minsk Agreement, aimed at ending the fighting, was signed, but it was all to no avail since the two parties involved never reached an agreement.

**February 2015:** Second Minsk agreement outlining 13 steps to end the war, including the implementation of an immediate cease-fire in eastern Ukraine, was signed between both the nations. However, skirmishes along the line of contact continued, and by early 2022, the death toll rose to 14,000, with an additional two million Ukrainians displaced internally.

**July 2017:** Providing a framework for modernising Ukraine's economy and trade, the association agreement between Ukraine and European Union was finally ratified.

**June 2020:** Ukraine was named a NATO Enhanced Opportunities Partner as a nation with deeper cooperation on NATO-led missions.

**February 2021:** The present Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky ordered severe measures against oligarchs, especially Viktor Medvedchuk, chairman of Ukraine's largest pro-Russia political party, in order to defend the country from potential risks at the hands of such defectors. Russia perceived these actions as being anti-Russia.

**April-December 2021:** Russia deployed hundreds of thousands of troops, along with tanks and other weaponry, near Ukraine's borders in what is said to be the largest troop accumulation since Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014. Simultaneously,

Russia demanded a series of security guarantees from the US and NATO; one of which was rejected by the Biden administration - that Ukraine never be accepted into NATO.

## Phenomena of the present (2022)

**January 24:** As the US and Russian diplomats failed to resolve differences on Ukraine, NATO put forces on standby.

**January 26:** Canada announced deployment of some troops to Ukraine, along with a shipment of non-lethal weapons.

**February 8:** Canada, US, UK, Germany, and other NATO allies asked their nationals in Ukraine to leave immediately and issued warnings against any travel to the country.

**February 15:** Russia announced a partial troop withdrawal. The White House disputed the said withdrawal claim.

**February 21:** Putin formally recognised Luhansk and Donetsk, the two breakaway regions together known as Donbas, as independent entities. Biden responded to the same by stating that he would impose sanctions to prohibit any American nationals

from making any new investments in the aforementioned areas.

**February 22:** The Russian parliament authorised Putin to use military force outside Russia. Subsequently, USA, in an effort to hurt Russia's ability to finance its invasion, announced full blocking sanctions on numerous Russian banks and froze the assets of several oligarchs close to Putin.

**February 23:** Following in the footsteps of USA, EU froze the assets of about 351 members of Russia's lower house. Ukraine, conversely, declared a nation-wide state of emergency.


**February 24:** Aimed to "demilitarise" the country and dislodge the "neo-Nazis" ruling it, Russia announced a full-scale invasion of Ukraine and sent units into its territory. Zelensky, on the other hand, declared martial law in Ukraine and officially severed diplomatic ties with Russia. Minutes later, missile and artillery attacks on major Ukrainian cities like Mariupol, Kharkiv, etc., began as citizens took cover in basements or tried to flee. The armed assault has since been met with international condemnation, with Russia's stock market recording an instant 45% drop and the value of Rouble plummeting 35% against the US Dollar between February 20-March 11. As for the casualties, around 1189 civilian deaths and 1901 injuries have been reported thus far (according to the UN); an estimated 6.5 million people believed to have fled the country, the real figures for which are expected to be considerably higher since the war is still far from over.

## Fears of the future

Russia's incursion into Ukraine is thus deemed as the largest military conflict since WWII; its impact on the world economy, already battered by the COVID-19 pandemic, would consequently be massive. Besides, the world, in an effort to chastise Russia and derail its invasive endeavours, resorted to a slew of international sanctions, such as removal of SWIFT international payment system from some Russian banks, limiting the nation's high technology imports,



and restricting its ability to use its foreign currency reserves amongst others, thereby impacting the world's 11th largest economy and one of its largest, most crucial commodity producers. So, though it would be too early to predict the real time ramifications, economists believe that the average rate of growth of the world economy would go as low as 2.6% from 5.5% last year, with the Russian economy recording a sharp 10% contraction and the Ukrainian one shrinking by a whopping 20% withal. And since the world, especially Europe, heavily relies on Russia for its oil, natural gas, and metal needs, the fear of a potential ban on these energy imports would lead to shortages, shipping delays, and inflation. As an early indicator of the same, the natural gas prices have increased by 20% since the standoff, which is six times higher than what it was at the start of 2021. To compound matters further, Russian labour market (dominated by migrant labourers from the Central Asian states of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) is projected to suffer a major blow, making things worse for Central Asia as a whole, that otherwise received remittances worth 7 billion USD from Russia in 2020 alone.

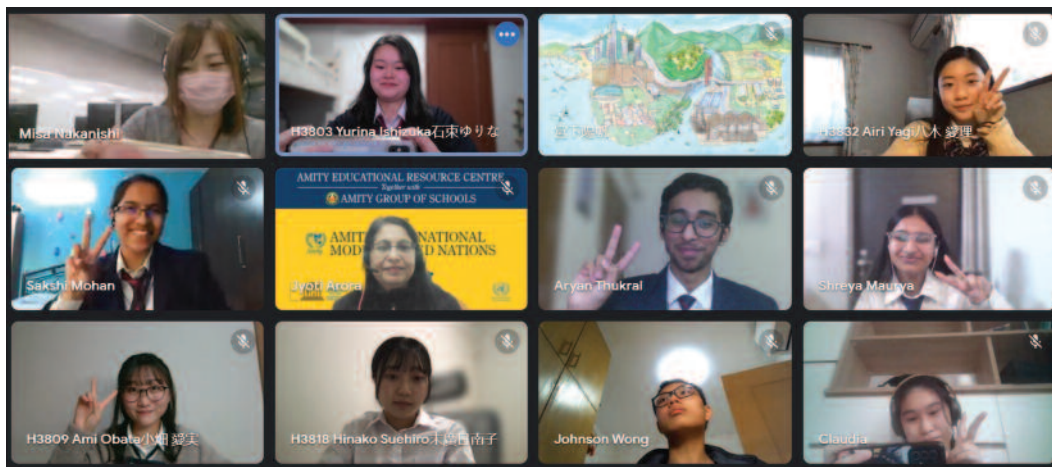
To cut a long story short, this conflict largely traces its roots in Ukraine's post-independence resolve to establish ties with EU and NATO, a course if undertaken (as has already been), and a resolution if achieved (as is in the process still) would drift it away from its "brother nation" Russia. But is that reason enough for war? In fact, is there any justification for it at all? You decide! 



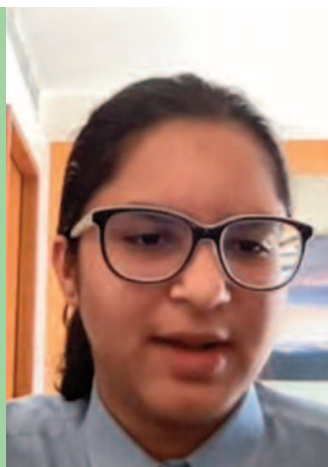




With a diameter of 80 cm, the one tonne Australian Kangaroo gold coin is the world's largest coin.



Students from around the globe reunite to follow up on their plans to build a new world



A student at the event

# IRIS innovators

The Scientists Of Future



Kushagra Agarwal  
AIS Vas 1

Shivansh Pande  
AIS MV

Yashika Priyadarshi  
AIS MV

Divya Upadhyay  
AIS MV

ACSF

Jaisal Kothari from Class XII of AIS Saket won the grand prize at IRIS National Fair 2021-22, held virtually in December 2021, for his research project 'Flicker' on Photosensitive Epilepsy. He will now represent India in ISEF 2022 (Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair) to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, in May 2022. The other four young science wizards of Amity who reached up-to the national finals of IRIS are Kushagra Agarwal (VIII), AIS Vasundhara 1, for his project

'Effect of neodymium magnets on plants'; Shivansh Pande (IX), AIS Mayur Vihar, for his project 'Oxylife app for estimating medical oxygen need'; and Yashika Priyadarshi (XI) and Divya Upadhyay (XI), AIS Mayur Vihar, for their project 'PH based fertiliser calculator'.



Jaisal Kothari  
AIS Saket

**About IRIS**  
IRIS National Fair aims to nurture science and scientific research among young Indian innovators. It rewards outstanding projects and provides a platform for the winners to represent India at International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), the world's largest annual international pre-college science competition held in US.

# RSGF reunion meet

Amitians Meet Their Peers From Around The Globe

AERC

The reunion meet of RSGF 2021 (Rits Super Global Forum) was held on February 5, 2022, wherein students from nine schools in six countries, namely Sweden, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Philippines, Japan and India, met virtually to follow up on the action plans finalised during the seventh Rits Super Global Forum held online from November 9-13, 2021. The theme of global forum was 'Designing a Sus-

tainable Future: Creating a virtual country as a model for possible future action'. It saw active participation of 210 students from 18 schools in 14 countries, namely Nepal, UK, Cambodia, USA, Thailand, Canada, France, Taiwan, Philippines, Singapore, Sweden, Japan and India. The annual event organised by Ritsumeikan High School, Japan, was held under the visionary leadership and guidance of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of

Schools and RBEF, and was coordinated by AERC. This year, after the forum meet in Nov, a reunion meet was also organised to deliberate upon the plans and chalk out the way forward. During the reunion meet, participants showcased several presentations on topics like disaster mitigation and water problems, industrialisation and environmental destruction, disparity in urban areas, and held discussions on the same. A fun session was also organised during which 'Vidya dadati vinayam'

song was played. The participating Amitians at the event were: Hridayanshu (XI), AIS Saket; Suhani Chauhan (IX), AIS PV; Sakshi Mohan (XII), AIS MV; Sara Maheshwari (XI), AIS Noida; Harshita Anand (XI), AGS Noida; Shreya Maurya (XI), AIS Vas 1; Jayantika Purkayastha (XI), AIS Vas 6; Anika Bali (XI), AIS Gur 43; Aryan Thukral (XI), AIS Gur 46; Viwaswan Jha (XI), AGS Gur; Shiven Bhalla (XI), AIS VKC Lko; and Harshi Pandey (XI), AIS VYC Lko.

Amity Educational Resource Centre

# In love with Russia

Celebrating Russian Culture And More



Students dress up in traditional Russian costumes



A student performs dance

Amitians brought home laurels at 'Days of Russian language, literature, and culture 2022' organised both online and offline by the Russian Center of Science & Culture on February 8, 2022. A total of 100 students from all branches of Amity Group of Schools participated in the event,

which comprised an online quiz on Russia, and offline competitions like essay writing, poster making, poetry recitation, fancy dress, singing and dancing, all based on Russian culture, language and literature. The winners of online quiz were Hriyandansh Yadav (XI), Bhavya Goel (XI), Vedaanshi Jain (IX) and Mihika Kumar (IX) from AIS Pushp Vihar; Yashwardhan Jain (XI), Samarth Sachdeva (XI), Vandita Sharma (VII) and Bhuvi Pandey (XI) from AIS Saket; Shreya Chandra (VIII) and Shrey Sati (VIII) from AIS Mayur Vihar. In Russian costume, Saanvi Mohapatra (VIII), AIS Gurugram 43, won first prize while Ishaan Garg (VII) and Niyati Sinha (IX) of AIS Vas 1 bagged third prize. While in Russian dance compe-

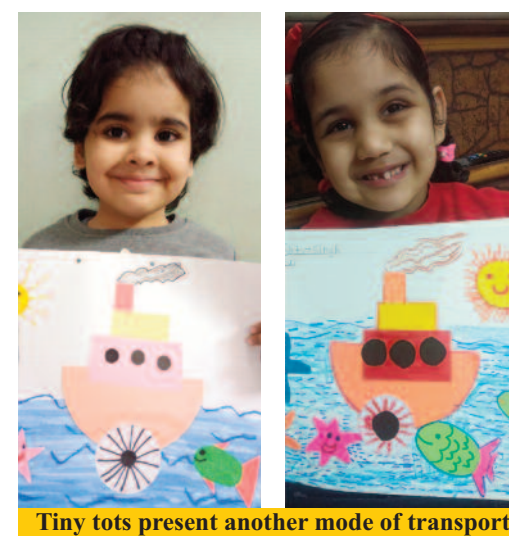
dition, Kirti Ahuja and Oorja Garg (XI) from AIS Mayur Vihar, won the first prize; Sidharth Gujral (VII), AIS Vasundhara 6, and Sania Chandra (IX), AIS Noida, won the second prize; and Shriya Pashricha and Inika Makhija, both from Class VII of AIS Gur 43, bagged the consolation prize. In poster making, Aanvi Saxena (IX H), AIS Gurugram 46, won first prize, with Aaryan Pradhan and Saumya Baral, both from Class VII, AIS Noida, winning second prize. Mannat Bhalla, Simran Joshi, and Ananya Sharma, all from Class X of AIS Mayur Vihar, won first prize in singing. Manvi Yadav (X G), AIS Gurugram 46, and Rishi Garg (XI), AIS Vasundhara 6, won second and third prize respectively in essay writing.



A boy dances to Russian tunes



Students engage in cut paste activity



Tiny tots present another mode of transport

# Transport week

AIS Vasundhara 6

Kids of Nursery and KG participated in various fun-filled activities based on theme 'Transport' from January 31-Feb 4, 2022. They learnt to recognise various

modes of transport and their uses on land, air and water, through mini conversations, circle time, power-point presentations, origami, sticking and pasting activity, etc. They also learnt road safety instructions and how a well-coordinated

transport system plays an important role in the growth of a country. They drew zebra crossing and traffic lights with crayons, sticking and pasting activity, etc. They also learnt road safety instructions and spoke few lines on their favourite mode of transport using props.

# The olympians

AIS Gurugram 43 & AIS Vasundhara 1

Rudraakshi Ganguly from Class IX of AIS Gur 43 secured rank 8 and 9 in CREST mathematics olympiad and CREST science olympiad respectively, organised by Centre for Research and Exams in Science and Technology (CREST) from December 14-21, 2021. She was felicitated with gold medals and certificates for scoring 96.9 percentile in science olympiad and 96.3 percentile in mathematics olympiad. On the other hand, scoring 84% marks, Garvit Sharma from Class VI of AIS Vasundhara 1 also secured international rank 73 at the Unified Cyber Olympiad 2021 organised by Unified Council on December 5, 2021. The competition saw par-



Rudraakshi Ganguly



Garvit Sharma

icipation from students belonging to different countries like UAE, Tanzania, Indonesia, Qatar, Oman, Yemen and Kuwait.



US Mint is the world's largest mint manufacturer, producing as many as 28 billion coins per year.

All top quotes are contributed by Suryansh Rajput, AIS Gwalior, VII



Clinking coins

# Powerful portrait

## A Young Artist Creates History With A Typographic Portrait Of Narendra Modi

Stuti Kalra, GT Network

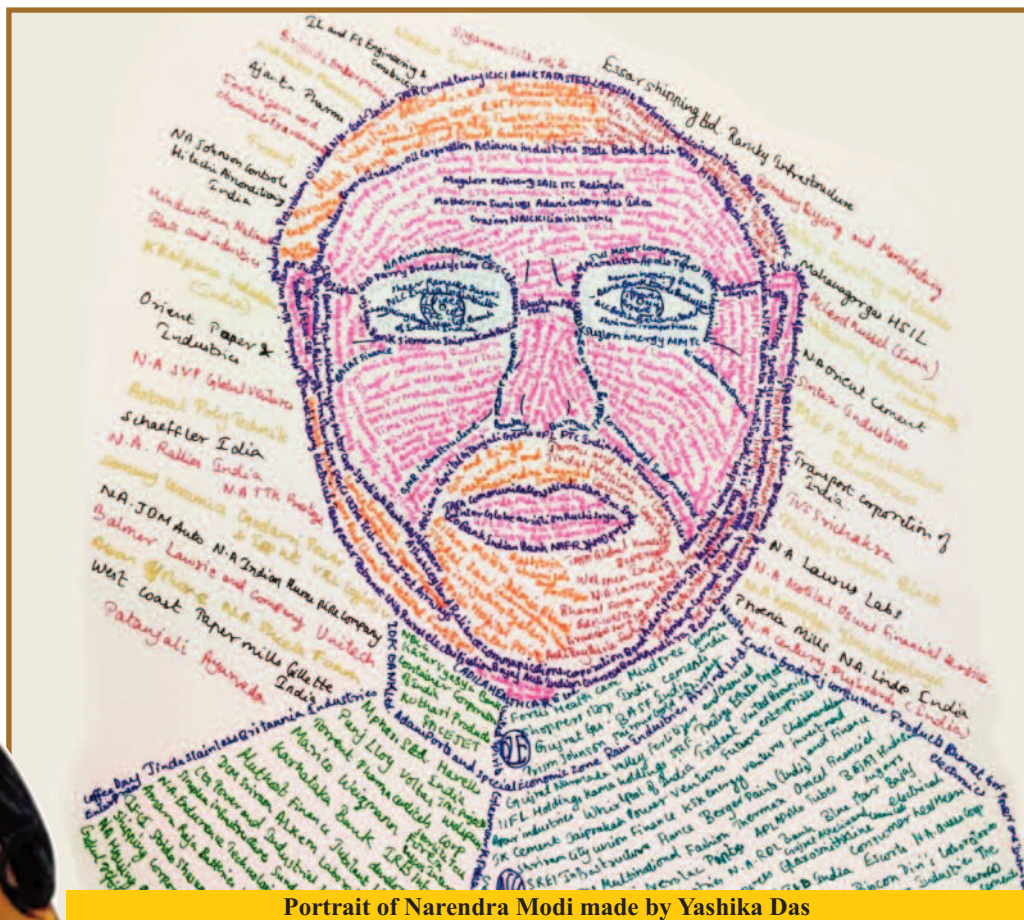
**Y**ashika Das of Class IX, AIS Saket, has made it to the national headlines, as she became the first Indian to make a typographic portrait of prime minister Narendra Modi. The feat has earned her a place in the upcoming 2023 edition of the India Book of Records. This barely comes as a surprise given that the hand-drawn, A-3-sized portrait includes names of hundreds of Indian brands like Patanjali Ayurveda, Siyaram Silk Mill, Ajanta Pharma, SAIL, and Hindustan National Gas & Industries, that represent a self-reliant India.

We spoke to the girl of the hour, quizzing her about what drove her towards this spectacular achievement, and here's what she had to say, "Our Chairperson Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan has always inspired all her students to express themselves freely. This helped me a great deal, for each time I was doubtful of my abilities, her motivation helped me overcome those moments of self-doubt. Besides, I am also thankful to my school principal and teachers, for it is their unconditional support that helped me discover my true interests."

Yashika's journey of self-discovery began when she started learning art in a temple before the pandemic hit. Even when the lockdown closed everything down, she continued to practise her art. When her family shifted to a new house, she decided to make an artwork for her own room, and this proved to be the stepping-stone for the future. It was during an economics class, where topics such as 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' were being discussed, that the eureka moment hit her. She

decided to make a portrait of PM Modi with names of 500 Indian companies. Through this work, she also wanted to assert that no artificial intelligence or software could replicate what human mind could create. Interestingly, Yashika has no knowledge of typography, and it was only her artistic sensibility that came in handy. Once she decided what she wanted to achieve, she finished the portrait in merely five hours!

Yashika is not just a creative teenager, she is also a fearless go-getter. Talking about the journey of chasing her dreams, she shares, "While I was toying with the idea of creating something significant, I contacted the authorities at India Book of Records and asked them if some of my poems could be considered for their perusal. They told me that a lot had already been done in literature, but I wasn't disheartened. It was then that I turned my attention and focus on visualising the artwork and con-



Portrait of Narendra Modi made by Yashika Das



Yashika with her India Book of Records certificate

tacted them once again for another feedback. This time around, I was told that such

a unique idea would make the cut, and there was no looking back after that."

Her dream had come true, but Yashika waited until New Year to inform her parents that she had made it to the India Book of Records. As she says, "I wanted it to be a special gift for them". Yashika shares that before this achievement, she used to feel shy about admitting that she is a budding artist, but everything has changed now. She is confident and open about the fact that she might consider art as a career, a choice we all stand by!

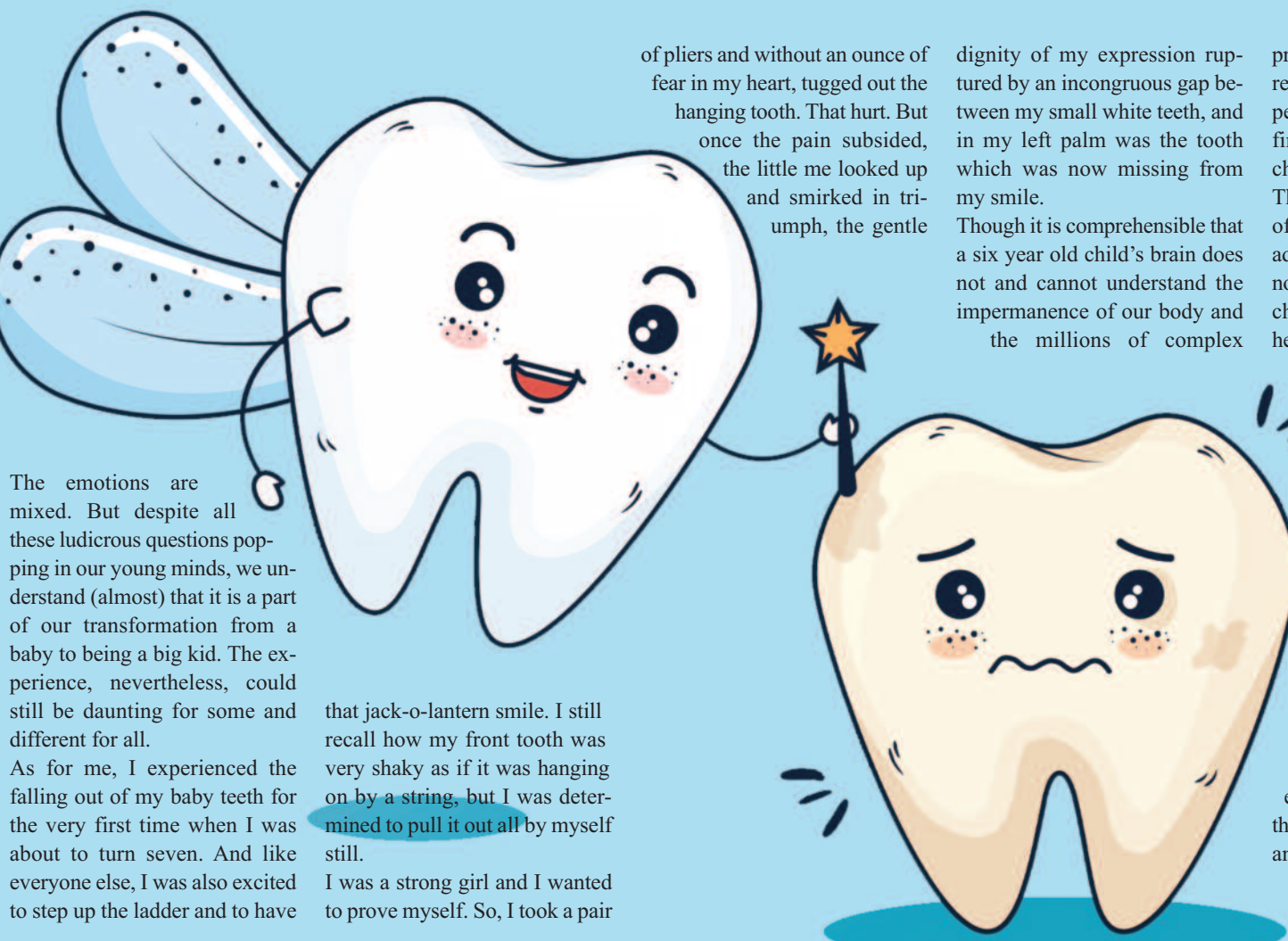
# Wiggle wobble, tooth trouble

## Say Goodbye To Your Milk Teeth, Kiddo! It's Time To Enter The World Of Adults!

Anya Bagga, AIS Vas 1, XI

**P**utting your broken tooth inside a plastic bag and sliding it under the pillow in hopes of receiving a token of goodwill from the tooth fairy, and actually waking up to a weeny present in its stead the very next morning, was the biggest mystery that fascinated us as kids. And the tooth fairy, the greatest chimera of all - her tales and the happiness that followed reassuring still.

But, as a six year old, there are many other thoughts that cross our minds. With the first feeling of a wobbly tooth, as one pushes the nearly dismantled tooth back and forth with their tongue impatiently waiting for it to fall, one also worries if all their teeth would one day fall off in the like manner, and would they then end up looking like their grandparents? We wonder if the new set of teeth will be as sharp and strong as a tiger's canines or as long as an elephant's tusks? Or what if they don't grow at all?



The emotions are mixed. But despite all these ludicrous questions popping in our young minds, we understand (almost) that it is a part of our transformation from a baby to being a big kid. The experience, nevertheless, could still be daunting for some and different for all.

As for me, I experienced the falling out of my baby teeth for the very first time when I was about to turn seven. And like everyone else, I was also excited to step up the ladder and to have

that jack-o-lantern smile. I still recall how my front tooth was very shaky as if it was hanging on by a string, but I was determined to pull it out all by myself still.

I was a strong girl and I wanted to prove myself. So, I took a pair

of pliers and without an ounce of fear in my heart, tugged out the hanging tooth. That hurt. But once the pain subsided, the little me looked up and smirked in triumph, the gentle

dignity of my expression ruptured by an incongruous gap between my small white teeth, and in my left palm was the tooth which was now missing from my smile.

Though it is comprehensible that a six year old child's brain does not and cannot understand the impermanence of our body and the millions of complex

processes going on inside it, the replacement of milk teeth with permanent teeth is one of the first biological changes that a child experiences consciously. This explains why it brings a lot of uncertainty with it. For an adult, the process may be quite normal and something that every child goes through for better, healthy teeth. But for a child, all

of this becomes a little overwhelming, with their feelings ranging from joy and felicity at having finally entered the world of grown-ups, to fear and disquietude about the loss of a body part (so what if it's small, it's a body part, nonetheless).

The stories about tooth fairies then help the kids be aware of these changes, and also motivate their parents to empathise with them, so that their development, both physical and mental, can be celebrated, and their courage while putting up with it all, extolled!