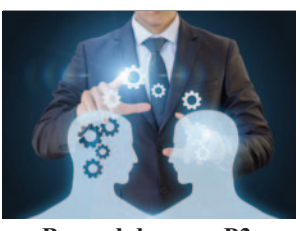
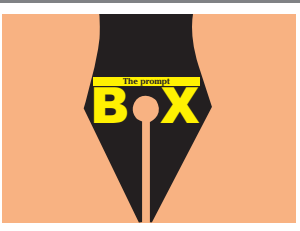


**INSIDE**



Beyond degrees, P3



Prompt box, P10

**AMITe poll**

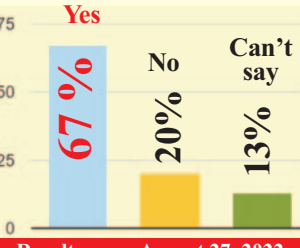
Do you think live-streaming of court proceedings in India would promote transparency and provide access to justice for all?

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

To vote, log on to [www.theglobaltimes.in](http://www.theglobaltimes.in)

**POLL RESULT**  
 for GT issue August 22, 2022

With the success of PM Har Ghar Nal Se Jal Yojana in Goa, do you think every Indian household would have access to clean tap water by 2024?



Results as on August 27, 2022

**Coming Next**  
 Hindi Special

## Will The Next Generation Have A Roof Over Their Heads?

Yashika Das, X E & Jasmine Kaur Kohli, XII D, AIS Saket

Certainly, there's no gain saying that our homes - status symbol for some, necessity for others - shelter us from all sorts of storms. But unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the housing market. Knee deep in a supply and demand quandary, the market finds itself caught in the eye of the storm. Stick around as we try and delve deeper into the issue.

**The storm at hand**  
 The world is currently reeling under an acute housing deficit. USA alone, for instance, requires some 6.8 million homes more. With 350,980 properties up for sale in 2021, 36% fewer than at the start of 2020, UK too doesn't fall far behind on the housing shortage index.

"Why the dearth," you ask? Blame it on contemporary capitalism, we say! With a superfluity of luxury housing and a lack of affordable housing, the market is catering to the greed of homebuilders and realtors, and not to the need of common populace. And if this wasn't enough, COVID-19 induced shortage of building materials and labour. According to the data available, as much as 30% of the building material comes from China and many companies source stone and glass from Italy; since these two nations were some of the hardest hit early on in the pandemic, the situation led to delays in supply chains for countries that relied on them.

To make matters worse, this dearth of available housing collided with a rush of buyers looking for more space. Fuelled by

# The great housing crisis



Imaging: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network

historically low interest rates, the pandemic-triggered shift to working from home, housing demand is currently at its peak. Indian Analytics company CRISIL reported a dramatic rise of 33-38% in housing demand in the last fiscal year. All of this combined has sent the house prices in every corner of the world skyrocketing, even surpassing incomes in majority of them. In the last half of 2020 as well as the first half of 2021, the property prices in US rose by 11%; the fastest in the last 15 years, with the average price of a house nearing one million USD in about 200 US cities. In New Zealand, the housing prices were up by a whopping 22%, while Hong Kong was dubbed as the least affordable housing market for 11th year straight as the price

for a house there averaged 20.8 times the annual household income. Indian markets, on the other hand, are still projecting a potential 6-10% increase in residential real-estate prices across top six cities this fiscal year. All in all, dreams of owning a house seems to be going up in smoke for many.

**Efforts made to ward it off**  
 Politicians across the globe are brainstorming on ideas ranging from rent caps to special taxes on landlords, from nationalising private property to increasing interest rates, in order to resolve the crisis at hand. In 2021, Asia's largest economy, China, stepped up restrictions on the real estate sector, as the cost of an apartment in Shenzhen got as far as 43.5 times a resident's average

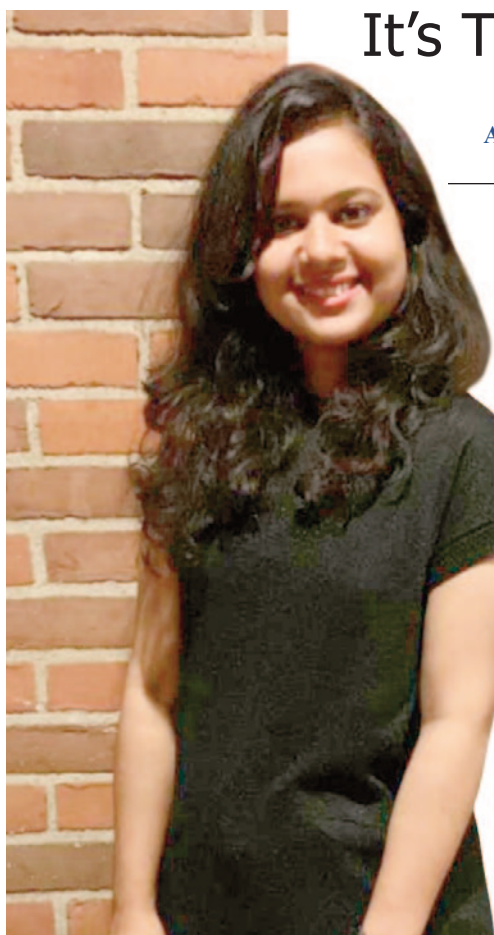
salary. In the US, the government increased mortgage rates to balance supply and demand which reduced the new house listings by 0.9% in April 2022. Much before, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison's conservative government announced a 'comprehensive housing affordability plan' worth 728 million USD as part of its budget to boost supply, Sinn Fein in Ireland proposed building 100,000 social and affordable homes, and the reintroduction of a pandemic ban on evictions and rent increases, along with a legislation to limit the rate that the banks can charge for mortgages. In the case of India, a cheaper construction material has been

found - glass fibre reinforced gypsum (GFRG) panels which use a minimal amount of concrete and steel - reducing the cost of raw material. It is believed that these houses will be more affordable. To note, these are just a few problem-solving measures that are being undertaken around the globe, but would these be enough? We think not. For, if projections are to be trusted, housing prices would still move up 10.8% in 2022. However, experts still believe that we are not in a bubble and fortunately nowhere near the 2007-08 period of great recession. Fingers crossed!

Continued on page 6...

# Mental matters matter

It's Time To Destigmatise The Taboos Around Mental Health Issues



Shalmali Jadhav, founder, Empathy For You

Alina Ahmad, XII G & Eshal Ahmad, VIII A, AIS MV

Meet Shalmali Jadhav, founder, Empathy For You, a social institution that works towards apprising people on mental health and suicide prevention. Also dubbed as the youngest member at UN's International Youth Council, she is making great strides as a fervent changemaker by making a positive impact on the world. For her endeavours, she got featured in numerous newspapers, and social networking platforms. We present to you excerpts from her recent interaction with us...

### The inception

When I was in school, one of my close friends went into deep depression. In order to help her, I began researching and discovered the stigma and taboo

around mental health. I also realised that she might not be the only person suffering from the same. These issues coupled together subsequently and ignited the spark within me to come forward and help. And that's how Empathy For You was born, where we, a small group of mental health advocates, work together to destigmatise mental wellbeing. During the pandemic, we came up with a campaign, namely 'Dear Superheroes', under which we sent some 400 thank you letters to the frontline workers. This might sound a little outdated to some, but I believe that letters give a personal touch to a simple text and create more impact. Because in the end, it is all about letting them know that they are not alone.

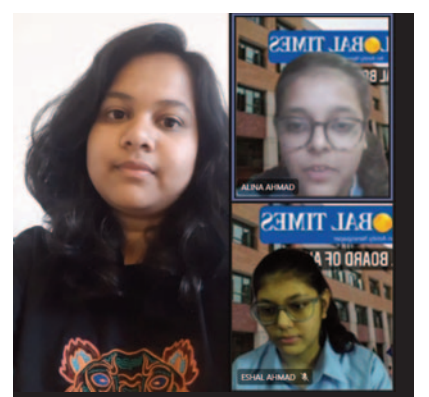
### The key challenge

Even though mental health is an important aspect of an individual's life, funding remains to be a major challenge. Though a lot of awareness was raised on the issue during the lockdown period, the backing provided was still insufficient. As a result, we were unable to carry out

a lot of campaigns that we thought would significantly impact our current standing on the issue. Dealing with the lack of resources has been a major struggle for me since the very beginning, and it continues to be till now.

### The approach

On an autonomous level, reading books, playing videogames, etc., are some great ways to deal with mental stress. In fact, believe me when I say this, even scrolling through Instagram pages can be helpful for some. But just make sure you don't overdo it. Along with this, physical exercise such as yoga is important too and should be made an integral part of our lives. On a more legislative level, introducing Socio-Emotional Learning classes in schools, wherein kids get to learn how to come to terms with their emotions or feelings at an early age, would aid a great deal too. This is necessary because we live in a society that often asks us to conceal our emotions despite being well-aware of the fact that it isn't a healthy practice to inculcate.



GT reporters in conversation with Shalmali Jadhav

### The message

As a young individual, you should always strive to recognise social issues and try to address them. For even your small gestures can make someone else's life brighter. You must work to create a legacy that's filled with acts of kindness towards other beings. Besides, you are the future torch bearers of our world, you already have the resources, and the time needed to resolve the issues that plague our society today, so why not? 🇮🇳



Jeanne Baret, boarding the French ship *Étoile* disguised as a man, is the first known woman to sail all the way around the world.



# India this week

Vedi Jain, AIS Vasundhara 1, XII C

**W**hile we sit on our couch just breathing, a lot of things happen around us, and sometimes in our very own country. We bring you the ones worth mentioning...



## A 17-year old beats world champion

**News:** India's 17-year-old chess grandmaster, Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa, defeated world number one Magnus Carlsen in his final match at the FTX Crypto Cup in Miami. Carlsen misplayed his knight at the 40th move, granting the win to Pragganandhaa. The tournament ended with the Indian ace securing the second position, whereas Carlsen was first due to higher overall score.

**Views:** The fact that R Pragganandhaa was able to reach the American finale of the Champions Chess Tour in itself is a great achievement. Him defeating Carlsen is the cherry on the cake, after all you do not beat number one every day. Even though he could not claim the first place, his highly impressive performance has definitely inspired today's youth. With this victory, Pragganandhaa exemplifies the spirit of sportsmanship.

Khanak Lal, AIS Vasundhara 1, X A



## Viral LSD spreads in cattle

**News:** Over 7,300 dead cattle as well as more than 1.85 lakh infected ones have been reported in the country due to a new viral disease called 'lumpy

skin disease'. The disease has spread to at least eight states, including a union territory, with Punjab, Gujarat, and Rajasthan witnessing the maximum number of such cases. Meanwhile, the government has stepped up the vaccination to contain the spread.

**Views:** The lumpy skin disease is a contagious disease that is transmitted by blood-feeding insects, and causes fever, nodules on the skin as well as death in some cases. We have already lost so many of our cattle, proving that it is a serious issue that needs to be addressed and taken care of as soon as possible. Besides, an LSD outbreak will have a significant impact on our milk production and the economy it supports because our country is the world's largest producer of milk. Despite the government's vaccination campaign being in progress, only 17.92 lakh of the 1.92 crore cattle in existence have received the vaccine.

Akshita Shrote, AIS Vasundhara 1, X B

## Monkeypox test kits launched

**News:** India has launched its first-ever indigenously developed RT-PCR testing kit for monkeypox. The kit has been developed by Transasia Bio-Medicals and is said to help with the early detection and better management of the infection. The disease has been named as a public health emergency by WHO, and so far, 10 cases of it has been noted officially in the country.

**Views:** These newly launched test kits for a rapid diagnosis of MPXV are highly sensitive yet simple to use, created with a uniquely formulated primer and probe for enhanced accuracy. These kits will surely help us in tracking, preventing, and curing the spread of the virus across the nation. Not only this, but with the National Institute of Virology announcing that they had successfully isolated the monkeypox virus from a clinical specimen of a pa-



tient, we are surely gaining an edge on controlling the spread early on.

Aarushi Anand, AIS Vasundhara 1, XII D



## Karnataka proposes Water Policy 2022

**News:** The state of Karnataka has announced a new policy, Water Policy 2022, which aims to caution the public about the negative trend in rainfall as well as the increase in the drought-prone areas in future. To tackle such challenges, the government has proposed heavy penalties on wastage of water, groundwater extraction, etc. The policy also looks at strengthening water resources and optimising the use of state's limited resources.

**Views:** Karnataka is one of the most water-stressed states in India, with about 61% of it being a drought-prone region. With such stats, the state has no other option but to implement new and strict measures to ensure that there is a continuous supply of suitable quality water for domestic use in urban and rural areas, even during times of water scarcity. Karnataka is plagued with severe water shortages and is ranked among the top three states in India in terms of water scarcity. It is high time the state started managing their water and bolstering water resource management.

Anika Tandon, AIS Vasundhara 1, XI D

# Around The WORLD

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



USA

## Miss Universe new rule

The Miss Universe beauty pageant's organisers have changed the eligibility criteria for the participants, allowing married women and mothers to compete in the contest from 2023. This represents a substantial departure from the 70-year-old Miss Universe tradition, wherein only single, childless women between the age of 18 and 28 were allowed to compete.

SCOTLAND

## Plans to return artefacts

As part of the country's largest ever repatriation of objects from a single collection, Scotland has decided to return seven stolen artefacts, including an 11th-century carved stone door jamb, to India under a deal signed by Glasgow museums and the Indian government. The move is hailed as an attempt on the part of the nation to right its past wrongs.



CHINA

## Eases visa ban for Indian students

After more than two years of delay brought on by COVID-19 restrictions, China announced preparations to issue visas for Indian students intending to return to China to continue their studies. With the new visa rules having already taken effect from August 24, 2022, over 23,000 Indian students who were stuck back home due to COVID visa restrictions would now get a chance to resume their studies.



SOUTH KOREA

## Lowest fertility rate

As per the census data released on August 24, South Korea broke its own record for the world's lowest total fertility rate, that amounted to just 0.81 children, down from 0.84 a year earlier. With the figure being below one for the sixth year straight, the country has been put under immense strain. For declining population is not only known to put pressure on public spending, but also leads to acute labour shortage.

HAITI

## Demands PM's resignation

Thousands of Haitians took to streets in Port-au-Prince, the country's capital, on August 22, demanding PM Ariel Henry's ouster over rising inflation and security concerns in the nation. Suffering from political instability and a rise in gang violence, intensified by President Moïse's murder in July 2021, the citizens long for a better quality of life and want the PM to resign.



NIGERIA

## Launches BBIL's Rotavac

The nation introduced Bharat Biotech International Limited's oral vaccine, Rotavac, for the immunisation of children from the deadly diarrhoeal disease Rotavirus. Out of 5,25,000 under-five, diarrhoeal illnesses related deaths globally each year, Rotavirus is responsible for roughly 2,15,000, over 50,000 in Nigeria alone, making it the most common cause of severe diarrhoea.



**News Flash** ▶ **Bangladesh:** The nation has decided to cut office and school hours to save power ▶ **Japan:** New generation of nuclear power plants to be built in order to fight energy crunch ▶ **Nepal:** Inaugurated the nation's first-ever human milk bank for at-risk infants





As per the archaeological evidence, the sea voyagers of Erikson's Vikings were the first Europeans to set foot in North America.

# Beyond degrees

## Transferable Skills, The Key To Have A Great Career

Alisha Ojha

AIS VKC Lko, XII

**Interviewer:** So, apart from your educational degrees, what skills do you have for this job profile?

**Interviewee:** Sir, I have acquired a set of transferable skills from my last two jobs, which would help me implement my acquired knowledge in a much more impactful manner.

**Interviewer:** Well, that's impressive, and I feel that's what makes you different from just a candidate with degrees and certificates. You are selected.

Having watched the foregoing conversation being relayed in a YouTube ad, I kept my phone aside and wondered what these skills are? "So impactful that it could convince these interviewers even more than the degrees?" I thought out loud. As such, intrigued enough to quench the number of questions brewing up in my head, I delved deeper into the world of transferable skills. Here's what I managed to get my hands on...

**What are transferable skills?**

Preferably known as 'portable skills', transferable skills are a set of skills or abilities that one develops from working in an organisation and carries from one job to another. In fact, these are the skills that are relevant across different areas of life, be it scholastic, social, or professional. Though your academic skills or



your technical skills do provide you the base to get your work started, it is the transferable skills, roughly including your ability to solve problems, handle a team, and so on, that take the credit for you to work efficiently and let you utilise your acquired knowledge to its optimum.

**What are the different types of transferable skills?**

As per professional career planner Rosenberg McKay, these fall in six broad categories. The basic skills that are essential to survive in the professional world fall under the first category. The ability to communicate with your team and carry out basic written communication. Next in line, we have the ability to create a friendly and positive office cul-

ture, and the ability to build excellent relationships. Management or the ability to manage and balance the work and train any new employee comes in a close third. Fourth is having clerical expertise in using programs; this skill is required in almost every job at a certain level. Fifth is research and planning; that is the major skills that one must instill in order to understand what work to prioritise when a list of work gets placed on your table. Last but not the least is the basic knowledge of computers and technology to keep up with the new technology.

**Are these different for different job profiles?**

The simple answer to this question is no. For when an individual works for decades in same field,

they are likely to develop a set of professional skills which are not job-specific and apply to every job. An essential element of your career tool belt, these skills, unlike the knowledge you gain at your school or college, keep increasing with every new experience you gain.

**How to identify one's transferable skills?**

As per a survey conducted by LiveCareer, 20.8 million people find it hard to capture their transferable skills, with an additional 19.3 million struggling to provide reasons as to how their skills would apply to another job. When such is the predicament, the need to find a working solution becomes imperative. Experts suggest ways like focusing on the real work instead of one's title, letting go off the industry one's working for in lieu of a new one, tightening your grasp on soft skills like teamwork instead of hard skills like inventory management, etc.

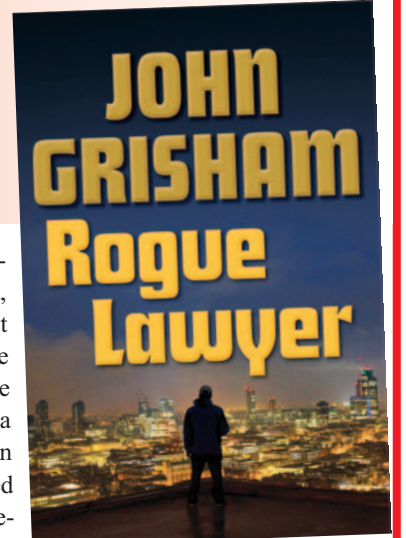
All in all, it is important for this generation to realise that just being educated is not sufficient to reach heights. Parallel to acquiring theoretical knowledge, one must keep developing these skills to prove to be an asset to the organisation one's working with. Since the pandemic has erased so many industries, leaving millions of people behind, reinvention is the key. And only transferable skills can help one take this leap.



## Book Review

### Rake in that review

**Book:** Rogue Lawyer  
**Author:** John Grisham  
**Published in:** 2015  
**Genre:** Legal thriller, crime fiction



**Synopsis:** The protagonist Sebastian Rudd, attorney-at-law, is not your typical lawyer. Sure, he may be a criminal defense lawyer, but his office is a large black Ford cargo van which is heavily customised for his needs. He doesn't belong to a firm, has no partners, and you won't see his name on billboards, but he works tirelessly to defend his clients and shows no mercy in grilling the prosecutors whenever he is given an opportunity. In the book, each case he undertakes as such is unique in its own way and provides an insight on how everyone - the judge, jury, prosecutor, police and of course, the accused - thinks and how the defense system works. Since no one tells tales of the law better than a lawyer himself, John Grisham is no exception.

**Why is it worth reading:** Rogue Lawyer is a must-read for anyone who enjoys discussions and is fascinated by sharp-tongued folks. The readers become more and more engrossed in the book because of the never-ending courtroom ar-

guments and the tactics used to win the case. You will be astounded by the intricate situations depicted and the way they are handled. The book also makes you acknowledge the fact that the police and State can't always be right, and they too use cheap tricks to get their job done. So, if you are someone who, just like Sebastian, believes that everyone is entitled to a fair trial, this book is for you!

**Iconic quotes:** "I learned a long time ago not to waste time analysing why judges do the things they do."

"Our prisons are packed. Our streets are filled with drugs. Who's winning the war? We've lost our minds."

**Rating:** 4.5/5

**Review by:** Fatimah Ahmed, AIS Gurugram 43, X B

## The Post-Pandemic Era Is Coming Up With New Fields To Innovate And Explore

Srishti Wali

AIS Noida, Alumna

The pandemic has changed the way the world works. Work from home, hybrid modes, learning new technology, are some of the changes we have witnessed, and looking at the working class surely has proven to be a lesson for the students who are aiming to join them soon. Which is why one should know the tips, secrets, and insider information that we're about to share with you, so you, too, can make the right choices for your career.

**Pay attention to your hobbies**

Work from home, school from home, and hybrid modes have taught us that nothing can be done as effectively from the comfort of our own homes, and it has more pros to offer than just letting you stay in your pajamas. With the comfort of your home and travelling time saved, it presents a great option of using the extra time in honing skills and engaging in hobbies. Develop new skills you are passionate about or learn emerging fields you are interested in, such as graphic designing, fashion designing, investing, etc. Aim for skills that can be high yielding in the future in order for you to become self-sufficient.

# (Un)adapted



**Jump on start-ups**

It is a fact well-known that India is a great unicorn market and has so many start-ups. This can be of great benefit to you if you let it. As youngblood, you have a lot to learn as well as to offer, so use your time to work with such start-ups. Since they are starting out, they will be a little lenient

with their hiring processes. It is a great way for you to build your resume. In fact, many people used the lockdown to launch their own businesses from their bedrooms. From art pieces to phone covers to what not, our generation jumped on every opportunity, so you should join them, too.

**Hallelujah to social media**

With us being glued to our phones 24/7, the world of social media skyrocketed during pandemic. Everyone was online, and so was every company, even the ones you dream of working with. According to the Bureau of Labour Statistics, the number of jobs available in the field of so-

cial media has increased by a minimum of 24%, which means that brands are looking for people who are social-media-savvy, so you can jump on the chance.

**Let's take a selfie**

"Hi, guys! Welcome to my channel!" With the consumption of social media increasing, so has

the content it offers. Nowadays, the biggest professional dream of almost all is to be a social media influencer. And why shouldn't it be? You see these influencers having millions of followers, brand deals, walking Cannes, travelling the world, and all in all, living the perfect life. If you have good content to offer, the world's (or rather its social media platforms) are your stage, so strategise, make content, and become famous!

**Be money-minded**

Talk to your elder siblings, parents, relatives, and friends about money; learn from them how to manage it and keep it growing. With their guidance and your own research, explore the world of investment and stock market little by little, so that your money makes money and can offer you a safety net in the future. Yes, the word 'stock market' is scary, but what's the harm in gaining knowledge about mutual funds, a current platform that has benefitted many to earn money for a better future.

The world outside is ready for you to go and grab it, but the catch is that you will need to be smart about it. Gone are the days of believing in being the master of one; it is time for you to be jack of all trades. 📱





# AI meets health

## Developing Not Just A Robot But One Backed By AI In Order To Prevent Diseases

Stuti Kalra, GT Network

Pro@Project

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is widely prevalent in our day-to-day lives in the form of existing innovations such as Siri, Alexa, self-driving cars, email spam filters, etc. It is a wide branch of computer science concerned with building smart machines capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence, reasoning and discernment. However, what is even more exciting is the fact that state-of-the-art computer algorithms have achieved accuracies which are at par with human experts in the field of medical science as well.

Experimenting with this tech-

**Innovator:** Akshat Sharma  
AIS Noida, XII  
**Innovation:** AIR in Health Care

nology for the greater good of the society, our talented Amityans have once again proven they are at the top of their game when it comes to keeping pace with rapidly evolving technology, in this case artificial intelligence coupled with robotics. Akshat Sharma, a Class XII tech enthusiast from AIS Noida, was shortlisted as one of the top 138 finalists at the 7th Maker Mela\* 2022, an initiative by Somaiya Vidyavihar, Mumbai, and Riidl (a start-up incubator that promotes innovation in science). Akshat's project 'AIR in Healthcare' (where AIR stands for Artificial Intelligence through Robotics) became the most trending project on the organisation's website, makermela.com, in the Young Maker's category. Furthermore, when Riidl sent



Project presentation at Maker Mela



Akshat with his certificate and trophy

his project portfolio to the Meta (Facebook) team, Akshat was selected as part of Meta's Young AI Developers' team and also appeared for an interview with CNBC channel for his extraordinary achievement. When GT interacted with this seasoned techie, who is also a Microsoft Office specialist and a LinkedIn influencer, it was revealed that the love for technology was present in Akshat right from his childhood. In fact, when other children of his age were playing with toy cars and planes, he spent his time taking every nut and bolt apart in trying to find out how things worked. As he grew older, his love for everything related to technology increased in leaps and bounds and he continued to explore and experiment with all its facets. And it was with the onset of COVID-19 that the young tech wizard thought of making the best use of technology and overcome the series of unprecedented medical exigencies. Dismayed by the trauma people were facing

across all strata of society, the only way Akshat could think of contributing was to use his knowledge to create a solution that could help everyone. Even though lockdown proved to be a huge deterrent in terms of available resources, he continued working on his idea with the support of everyone around him, including his family, friends, and teachers.

To begin with, Akshat undertook a survey which ascertained that most people did not even realise how quickly a mild condition during COVID-19 goes on to become really severe. This happens because people lack the tools and techniques to determine the exact condition of their health. The solution? To be able to device a methodology which could alert people about any impending diseases so that they can take precautions and if needed, the required medication as well. Finally, with a lot of research and the help of sensors and other materials Akshat procured from the school's ATL lab, he was able to design 'AIR in Healthcare'.

When asked why AI with robotics, Akshat informed that AI is currently being applied for a wide range of healthcare services, including data mining for identifying patterns and then carrying out the more accurate diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions, medical imaging, medication management, drug discovery, and robotic surgery. The challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic created for many health systems also led many healthcare organisations around the world to start field-testing new AI-supported technologies, such as algorithms designed to help monitor patients and AI-powered tools to screen COVID-19 patients. Based on similar methodologies, 'AIR in Healthcare' has been designed to help in the early diagnosis of a user's health conditions by integrating

Alexa's virtual assistant technology. This robot on wheels has been designed to capture all the vitals of a person and analyse them accordingly. Alexa, which is integrated with the robot as a voice box, will act as a guide for the user and ensure an interactive experience. For instance, the robot will first greet its users and remind them to sanitise their hands. It will then record some basic vital parameters like their temperature, the condition of their lungs, their heart rate, and other environmental conditions. All reports will then be stored as cloud information in Alexa. After each week, the user can get a predicted data, according to the artificial intelligence algorithm, installed in the system, to understand the state of their health. AI will also provide the users with a detailed information about their chances of getting a particular disease in the coming future based on their current health conditions, and this in turn will help users to take the necessary precautions. According to Akshat, the mantra behind this AI robot is the age-old wisdom of 'Prevention is better than cure'. For he believes this AI algorithm works best when you take regular and more data as the robot gets trained better to code your vital parameters. The accuracy rate of the results predicted by the AI robot has turned out to be as high as 80%. Even so, Akshat is relentlessly continuing to work towards increasing the efficiency and accuracy of his robot by adding more parameters and algorithms to make the robot understand better, perceive better, and give better results.



Akshat with his invention, 'AIR in Health Care'

### Akshat's wall of fame

- ♥ Grand 19 finalist at 'Young Scientist India Competition 2021-22' (8th edition) organised by Space Kidz India in collaboration with Niti Aayog.
- ♥ 1st prize in the start-up idea competition for his innovation on Artificial Intelligence as a part of 21st Dewang Mehta Memorial IT Symposium organised by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Mehta (2021).
- ♥ 1st prize in BI Young Scientists Talent National level fair which was organised by BridgeIntel, Knowledge Solutions (2021).
- ♥ Interviewed by CNBC, Aaj Tak, and India Today.

cess of his enterprise to the unstinted support he has received from the Chairperson, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan. He also shares how his father has been his greatest source of inspiration. Currently, Akshat is busy writing various competitive exams, and we are sure that he will soon be known not only for his entrepreneurial vision, but also his commitment towards the larger good of society. 🇮🇳

\*Maker Mela is a platform for grassroot level innovators in different categories like hardware, robotics, art, craft, food, etc. The competition offers several benefits to the shortlisted makers, including cash prizes, and vouchers and seed funding worth 1 crore INR.







Zheng He commanded an enormous fleet of 'treasure ships' with more than 28,000 sailors, and with some vessels being 400 feet in length.

U, Me Aur Hum

Whose life is it anyway?

# Tick tock

## The 'Time' Has Come To Finally Review My Life!

Tarini Dayal

AGS Gurugram, Alumna

Even before I introduce myself to you, I know many heads are already shaking against my appearance, saying that I have inflicted excruciating pain upon them, but please understand, I only did it for your own good! You know it, too, which is why, regardless of the surmountable 'torture' you claim I lay upon you, you still want me, an alarm clock, near your bed every night.

Your lifestyle has been directed to punctuality ever since my grand entrance in the society, simply because of the loud agonising melodies produced by me until you are alert enough to register the amount of time you have wasted on an eternal slumber. But those loud noises weren't always a part of me; in fact, the very first versions of myself weren't even in the form of the digital clock you know me as, but as a water clock with the sound of a water organ used by the Greek philosopher Plato. Ctesibius came after him to modify me and added alarm systems to his water clock that dropped pebbles

on a gong at preset times to create an 'alarm', and the next time anyone took notice of me was in Gaza, when Procopius boasted about a striking clock that featured an hourly gong.

You can say that the modern day me is an amalgamation of all my ancestors, whether the Roman and Greek ones, or the earliest version of me made by Buddhist inventor Yi Xing! Even Western Europe had its own version of me, as can be seen in the works of Dante Alighieri, and as the most famous striking clock ever made, St Mark's Clocktower which was assembled in 1493, which is still standing. But as the 15th century came, my relationship with you was finally becoming accessible and personal, as user-settable mechanical alarm clocks were invented that had a ring of holes in the clock dial and were set by placing a pin in those holes. Levi Hutchins created the first ever American alarm clock that only rang at 4 a.m. to wake him up, and improving on this idea, Antoine Redier became the first human to patent an adjustable mechanical alarm clock in 1847, bringing

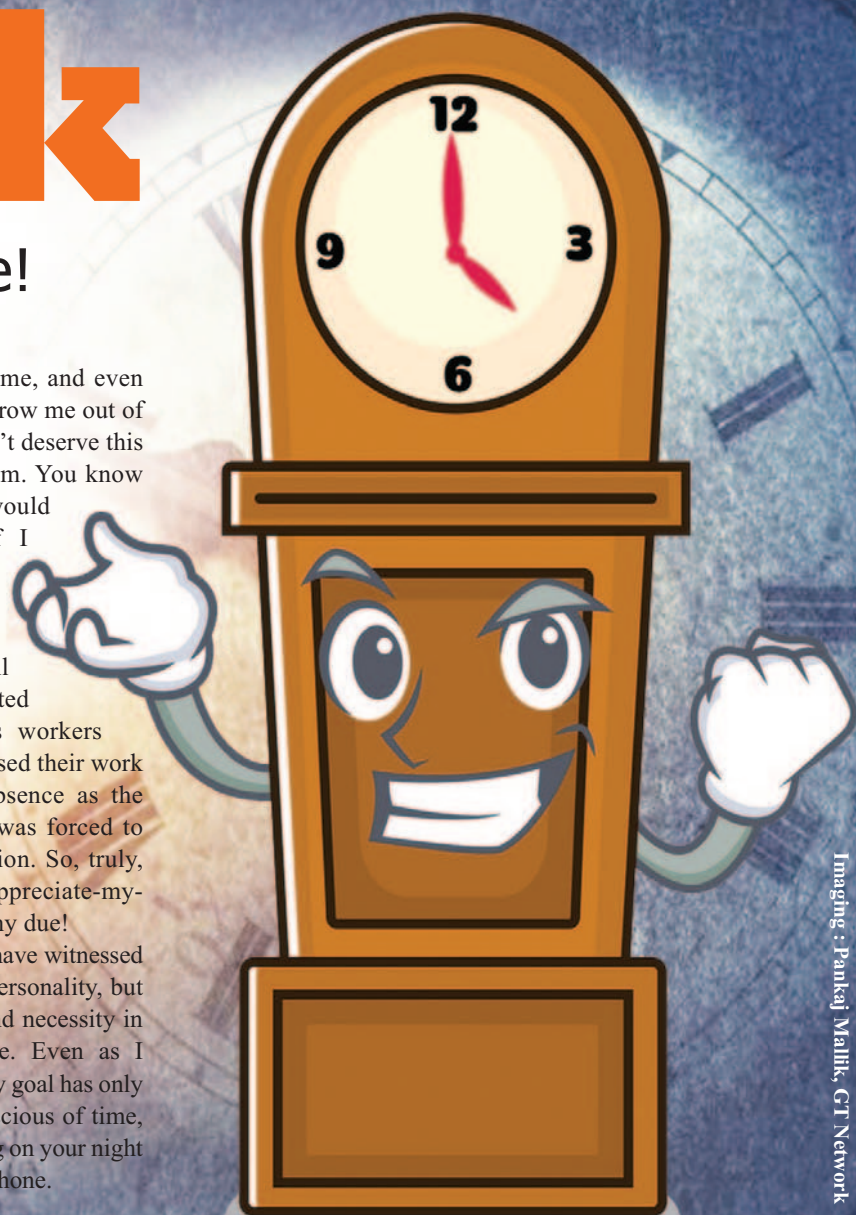
me to my current avatar.

I know you curse me, hate me, and even feel an undeniable urge to throw me out of the window, but really, I don't deserve this level of criticism. You know what would happen if I don't do

my job? Well, the Americans surely know it, as, when World War II struck, all clock factories were converted over to war work, but as workers started coming in late or missed their work completely, blaming my absence as the cause, the US government was forced to bring me back into production. So, truly, you need to schedule an appreciate-my-alarm o'clock and give me my due!

Centuries have passed and I have witnessed many modifications to my personality, but the crux of my usefulness and necessity in your life remains the same. Even as I evolved through centuries, my goal has only been to make humanity conscious of time, whether it is when I am sitting on your night stand or inside your mobile phone.

Autobiography



Imaging: Pankaj Malhotra, GT Network

## A shot in the dark mode

### Have You Switched To The 'Cool' Dark Mode Yet?



Ayushi Jain, AIS Gur 43, X A

How cool is that dark mode on Instagram? What? You haven't yet tried \*the\* Dark Mode? Well...Dark Mode is basically a user interface that allows your phone to have a dark background instead of the usual white and bright one. Switching to dark mode nowadays has quickly become a trend. It is increasingly becoming a popular and in-demand interface setting that many platforms are slowly embedding into their applications to provide users with alternatives. After all, it is the huge competition among the app developers to provide as much variations as possible to the users. This dark mode is no more restricted to just the social networking sites, but the entire operating systems such as Windows 10 and macOS have also embraced the dark mode option. The users around the globe have widely accepted it and the

popularity has grown drastically over the last demi-decade.

Although switching to the dark mode interface is a matter of personal preference, but for those who prefer the stylish design and to those who are frequent night web crawlers and the ones who are constantly concerned over losing their battery life, dark mode has adjusted to the needs of all. In this aesthetically overpowered society where the generation would spend hours clicking an aesthetic picture, to give their room an aesthetic touch, to make their Instagram handles an aesthetic one, the Dark Mode provides just the way they want their apps and mobile phones to look like. It gives a sense of smooth yet solemn appearance, fitting perfectly to the trend of dark colours and tints.

The main rationale for the dark mode setting is also to excuse those who spend lengthy periods of time on programmes and gadgets (scrolling through Insta-

gram feeds or reading a hundred comments of two people fighting over what noises ducks make) during the night. These people are frequently binge-watching, reading or doing something or the other that takes a long time. It decreases eye strain for the users and the same time does not have any direct negative health effects or eyesight implications. According to vision researchers, dark coloured text on light backgrounds is much simpler to look and read on a daily basis, dispelling concerns that it would hurt one's eyes or vision. Moreover, people like change, so a minor tweak to an application's settings might go a long way toward getting them to switch to the competitor's app. So, folks, to the 5 percent of you who haven't already, consider switching to dark mode and unlocking the colour contrast schemes of your favourite apps and possibly prevent yourself from getting glasses anytime soon.

## ALBUM REVIEW

### Rake in that review



**Album:** Fine Line  
**Artist:** Harry Styles  
**Released on:** December 13, 2019  
**Genre:** Pop rock  
**Record company:** Columbia and Erskine Records

**Theme:** Fine Line is all about the circle of life, meeting people and watching them fade away as we grow numb. Even though the album mainly talks about finding and losing love, Styles' songs also have an aspect of self-discovery in them. As such, all the songs in this album feel so personal, almost as if he's letting the listeners into his life, proving yet again how art written from personal experiences is fathomless. The feeling of melancholy strikes home in his profound lyrics, "All the lights couldn't put out the dark/Running through my heart", "Put a price on emotion/I'm looking for something to buy", and many more.

#### Why is it worth listening:

Having been nominated for Album of the Year award at the 2020 Brit Awards and also for the Best Pop Vocal Album at the 2021 Grammy Awards, Fine Line is undoubtedly one of the most diverse and relatable album out there, pushing the boundaries of pop music as we know it. With a voice like Styles' and the heart-wrenching lyrics, the album is made of everything remarkable and brilliant. The songs are a mixture of soulful melodies and upbeat energetic music that synergises the body and soul. One of the tracks, namely 'Watermelon Sugar', in the album as such was also amongst the most trending reel music of 2021, we all scrolled through our Insta feed.

**Favourite song:** My personal favourite song on the album is track 6, 'Falling'.

**Rating:** ★★★★★

**Review by:** Aryendu Singh  
 AIS VYC Lko, Alumnus



Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese sailor, is credited as the first voyager to circumnavigate the entire globe in 1519.



## Stars of Amity



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

The ingenuity to create and the desire for excellence that Amityans exhibit time and again never cease to amaze me. Once again, our students have proved that they are a cut above the rest. Twelve budding space enthusiasts of AIS Noida - Shubhi Bhatia,

Ayushman Rastogi, Chaitanya Choudhary, Dev Acharya Menon, Divij Agarwal, Shashwat Sharma, Shivain Verma, Shreyas Marwah, Savysachi Singh, Sujal Kapoor, Varun Pratap Singh and Vedika Agnihotri, have emerged as winners at the International Space Settlement Design Competition 2022 held by NASA in collaboration with Boeing. In fact, AIS Noida was the only school from India to earn top spot at the prestigious competition. The victory is almost like a hat-trick as earlier too, AIS Noida had won the award twice, first in 2015 and then in 2020. The competition is extremely gruelling, with multiple rounds being judged by astronomy and science experts. The students have to demonstrate a great amount of creativity, management skills and presentation techniques in order to design viable space settlements. For the same, young minds need to have qualities such as passion, perseverance and teamwork; something that we seek to instill in every student at Amity so that they get a holistic education. Moreover, Amityans have been participating in this event since 2007 and they have always made a name for themselves, by qualifying the competitive rounds of the competition successfully. Whenever I think of how these winners have been able to put themselves in the shoes of aerospace engineers and achieve such a high degree of competence at this young age, I am filled with immense pride and joy. This amazing trail of victories is a testimony that Amityans are unstoppable. They are already on the path of becoming world leaders in every aspect of life and I am sure that they will inspire not only their colleagues in the Amity universe but also the entire youth of the country in the times to come. 🇮🇳

## Water for all



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

Goa is known as the ultimate holiday destination. Recently, however, the state earned yet another distinction, that of being India's first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified state under the Jal Jeevan Mission program of the Indian government. This means that all the households in the villages of Goa have access to safe drinking water through taps. While reading this news, I was transported back to the time when my parents had relocated to our native village, with an aim to encourage education among villagers. At that time, there was no tap in any house and the entire village depended on a handpump, or chaapakal as it was called colloquially, for its water supply. While the water drawn from handpumps was cool and clean, a lot of water was wasted due to spillage. Noticing this, my mother's first initiative was to install a tap in our home, and taking inspiration from this, many more households followed suit. This is where education came in. Installing taps was just the first step, villagers had to be trained to close the taps, not leave it open while doing chores, and most importantly, cleaning the pipes and tanks regularly. The reality of rural India hasn't changed much since then, and the next challenge is going to be the same for other villages as well. Villagers will have to be taught the importance of water conservation and sanitation to fully realise the vision behind Har Ghar Jal. However, the change is already happening in urban spaces, and especially among school children. One example is of Amity winning the Best School Award recently at the Annual Water Awards Contest. Indeed, the dream of every Indian household having access to potable water is no longer a distant one. 🇮🇳

## Decoding The Underlying Rationale Behind Filing A PIL

# Misuse of PIL

Agnivesh Kaushik, AIS VKC Lko, Alumnus

Debasing the appellation 'Public Interest Litigation' and what it propounds, sundry frivolous litigations are filed in the courts of law every other day in the name of common good. The underlying rationale? We seek to deduce!

### What?

For the unversed, PIL, in consonance with the principle of 'Justice for all' espoused by Article 39A of the Indian Constitution, is a litigation filed to secure public interest. It aims to extend the long arm of the law to those underprivileged and uninformed, whose rights are infringed and whose grievances go unheeded, unrepresented and unheard otherwise. Introduced by the 17th Chief Justice of India, PN Bhagwati, in 1980, this rule of law sanctions third party individuals the right to approach the law courts for justice on behalf of those who cannot. Into the bargain, the precise methodology to lodge a PIL is unexacting, involving no heavy court fees as opposed to the usual legal suits. Many a times, letters/post-cards petitioned to the court too have been conceded as PILs.

### Why?

Bona fide PILs have proven to be utilitarian many a time and oft. *Case in point: MC Mehta v. Union of India* Seeking closure and relocation of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Bhadrabad, Haridwar, and the likes for discharging hazardous industrial effluents into the Ganges, M C Mehta, a social activist lawyer filed a PIL with the Supreme Court of India in 1985. Following which, the apex court issued orders to relocate numerous polluting industries on the banks of Ganges and passed several landmark judgements, predominantly resulting in the formation and implementation of the Ganga Action Plan (1985).

### Why not?

Howbeit, instances of their abuse are aplenty, defeating the very concept of a PIL. Under the facade



of public good, people are found to serve their own personal interest.

*Case in point: Kalyaneshwari v. Union of India* Gujarat High Court received a writ petition in 2011 that sought the shuttering of asbestos units, claiming the material to be deleterious for humans. However, the court later deduced that the litigation was filed by rival business groups who aimed to sponsor their own products as viable substitutes for asbestos, and disposed of the petition, citing private gain as the ulterior motive behind it all.

### Settle political scores

*Case in point: Chhattisgarhi Samaj party v. State of Chhattisgarh* Chhattisgarhi Samaj Party, a registered political party, lodged a petition against the then state government in 2017 seeking CBI investigation in the 2015 incident when a dais constructed for the PM to address a rally in New Raipur fell due to bad weather, purporting for it to be built using adulterated material. The court dismissed the plea as one filed by a political party to gain mileage, that too, two years after the incident in question. The party

moved the apex court for the same, only to be slapped with a fine of one lakh INR.

### And seek publicity

*Case in point: Rakesh v. Union of India* Rakesh, a resident of Delhi and a social worker, filed a petition in the Delhi High Court in 2021 to seek dismissal of Amitabh Bachchan's voice from the caller tune on COVID-19 precautions. The grounds were that Mr Bachchan himself, along with some of his family members, could not evade the malady, nor is he an almsgiver, questioning the need for the Government to then shell out for his voice. The petition, however, became infructuous as the caller tune was by then already removed.

Such dubious petitions not only waste the time and resources of the court which could have been utilised for the disposal of genuine cases, but also create a huge backlog of pending suits, also violating Article 21 of the Indian Constitution that promulgates our right to speedy trial.

*We yearn for justice when we are the ones being unjust to it. Such is the travesty of justice!* 🇮🇳

## The great housing crisis

Continued from page 1...

### Measures that can be undertaken

Even though different countries are working their fingers to the bone to address the issue, the globe calls for more sustainable and well-planned solutions. One such measure can be adopting the policy of 'upzoning'. This involves the governments at the local level to reclassify single family areas in order to allow the construction of taller and denser buildings with several units per lot. A few local governments in Berlin and Germany are already adopting this policy, however, this initiative is faced with lack of scale as one of its major downsides at present. More mortgages for home buyers can be an-

other solution. Although, for potential homebuyers, down payment assistance programs already exist, it often becomes hard to obtain when it comes to bidding for a property. Relaxing and loosening banking regulations thus might allow smaller down payments which can ease the burden on buyers and help ensure that home ownership is more attainable for the middle class.

The bottom line is that *makaan*, just like *roti* and *kapda*, once again needs to be seen as a basic human right, a necessity and not a luxury, so that the housing needs of the growing populace can be met and a certain standard of living can be attained for all, be it the poor or the rich. 🇮🇳



### The doom clock

It's Time We Save Our Planet Before The Catastrophe Arrives

Issue: Page 6, August 1, 2022

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'The doom clock' published on page six of the GT edition dated August 1, 2022. Climate change is something that all of us have been witnessing these days in the form of erratic rainfall patterns, wildfires, floods, droughts, etc. Not only does the article make the reader acutely aware of the disaster, but it also informs the readers of several ways to handle the climate crisis as well as provides details of the efforts made by leaders around the globe to fix the same. The piece does an impeccable job of indubitably displaying how cataclysmic our actions have been and enables the reader to develop a nuanced perspective over the dire situation at hand.

Namya Jain  
AIS Pushp Vihar, X D



Issue: Page 2, August 22, 2022

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'Burn baby burn' published on page two of the GT edition dated August 22, 2022. The way this piece touches upon the rampant problem of 'stubble burning', a major contributing factor for increase in pollution levels, is remarkable. Not only does it inform the readers about the various initiatives undertaken by the government to put an end to the problem, but it also sheds light on the advantages and disadvantages of the same if implemented. The highlight of this write up is the involvement of students, as it gives them a chance to express their opinions on the mentioned news piece, in a way making them more informed on the happenings around the country.

Ajay Chauhan  
AIS Gwalior, XI B





Muslim scholar Ibn Batuta began his epic voyages across the world when he was only 21 years old and returned home after at least 30 years straight.

# The spark of freedom

The Unheard And Inspiring Saga Of The Freedom Fighter, Khudiram Bose

75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

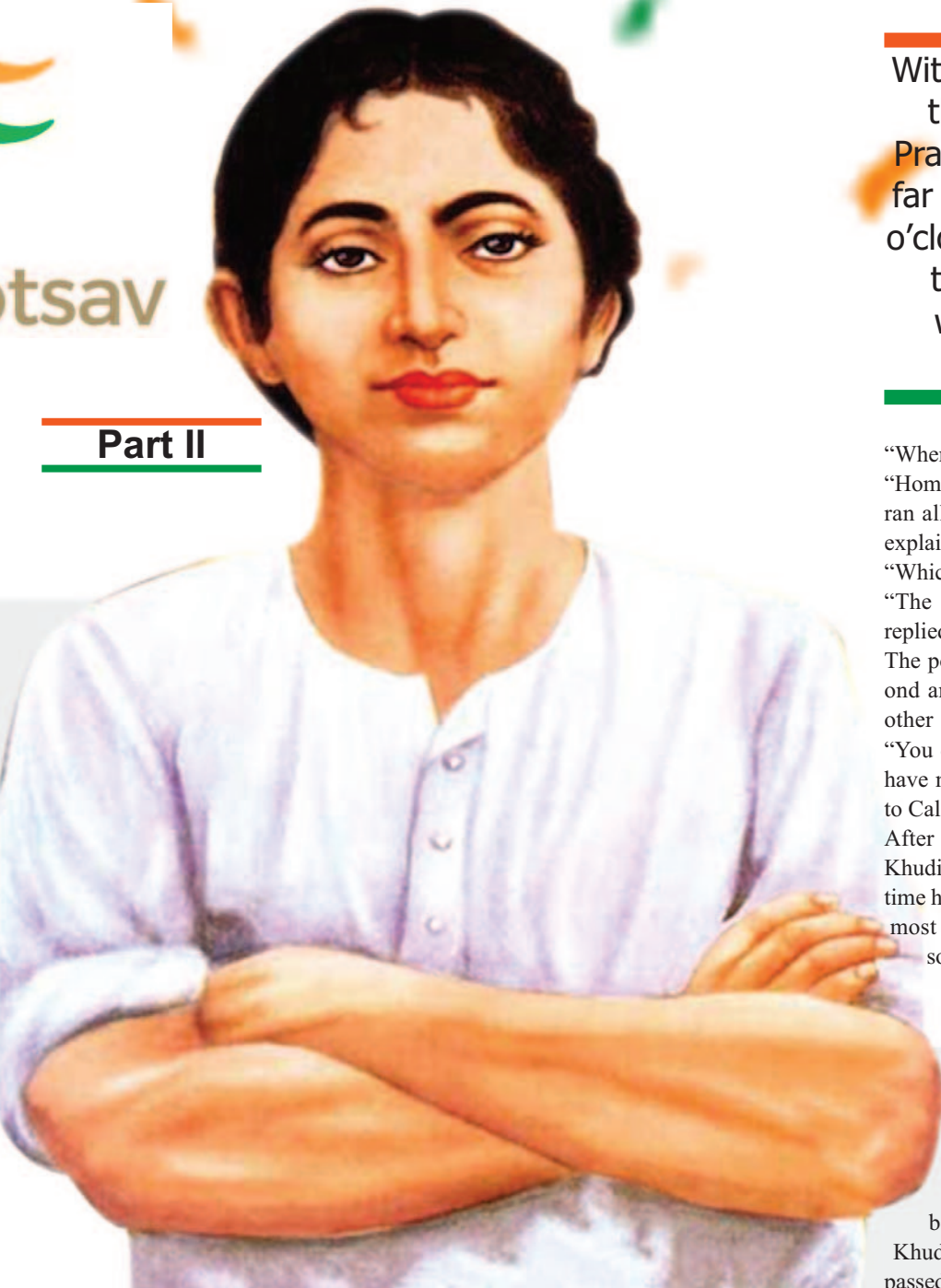
Sara Mathur, AIS Noida, XII G

## Part II

“We can’t give up. We must do this for our country. We’ll throw the bomb on the first carriage...” Prafulla woke up with Khudiram’s words still echoing in his head. A flashback of the incident overshadowed Prafulla’s mind as he could witness the carriage bursting into flames followed by the screams and cries of a woman and a child in his nightmare. His mind was riddled with questions - Was Khudiram alive? Were the woman and her child in the hospital? Had they survived?

With so much going on at the back of his mind, Prafulla still had to run as far as he could. It was six o’clock in the morning and the train for Calcutta would leave at eight o’clock. He bid goodbye to Trigunacharan Ghosh and boarded the train with a hope to return home and meet his mother. He fondly remembered her as she was the only one who motivated him before leaving for Muzaffarpur and said, “Take care of yourself, my son. We’re proud of you.” Lost in these thoughts, Prafulla didn’t notice a man sitting in front of him as he stared at him continuously.

With a sudden jerk, Prafulla’s train of thoughts was disturbed, and he noticed the strange man. “What is he thinking? Why is he looking at me?” Prafulla thought. The man introduced himself before Prafulla could even ask, “I’m Nandalal Banerjee. I apologise for staring but you look familiar. Have we met before?” “I don’t know. I’ve never seen you in my life,” replied Prafulla



in an annoyed tone.

Time passed and the train stopped at Shipwright station where both of them got down. Prafulla went ahead to a vendor selling water, but he noticed that Banerjee was at the phone booth and glancing at him every now and then while speaking to someone. Something wasn’t right but Prafulla didn’t know what to do. The very next station was Mokamaghat, his hometown. He was so close to home and decided to not turn back now. But to safeguard himself from any attack, he put his hand on his left pocket, gripping the revolver. It had six bullets, enough to get him home safely. Together, Prafulla and Banerjee boarded the train again, but this time, Prafulla fell asleep.

“This is the last stop, let’s get down,” Prafulla heard Banerjee say while waking him up. But as soon as they stepped out of the train, a group of British police officers surrounded him. Nandalal Banerjee looked at him smugly and said, “I think I didn’t introduce myself properly. I’m sub-inspector Nandalal Banerjee and you are under arrest for bombing the carriage

and killing innocent people.” Prafulla stared at him in shock. “The coachman gave us your descriptions. I knew who you were but just wanted to be sure.”

Prafulla pushed some officers and started to run but there was nowhere to go. He took out his revolver and shot a few officers. He kept running and was left with one bullet only. Now the only option he had was to commit suicide because he wasn’t one to be arrested by those white men. There was only one way to die - with respect. With a smile on his face and a tear falling from his eye, he whispered, “Inquilab Zindabad” and put the gun in his mouth and pulled the trigger. On the other hand, somewhere far away, Khudiram had been running for what seemed like days. He came across a simple-looking man carrying a lantern. “Is there a railway station nearby?” Khudiram enquired. The man nodded, “There’s Waini Station, a couple of miles away.” Khudiram was relieved to hear the news. When he reached the station, it was more crowded than he had expected. There were police officers everywhere. Nonchalantly, he walked up towards a tea vendor, but then he saw a police officer looking at him suspiciously. “What’s your name?” the officer asked. “Khudiram Bose.”

After listening to the tea vendor carefully, Khudiram started to run yet again, but this time he didn’t know where to go. He had almost reached the end of the station when someone pushed him to the ground. He was arrested and put on a train.

With so much going on at the back of his mind, Prafulla still had to run as far as he could. It was six o’clock in the morning and the train for Calcutta would leave at eight o’clock.

“Where are you coming from?” he asked. “Home. I was getting late for the train, so I ran all the way,” Khudiram said, trying to explain his disheveled state.

“Which train are you boarding?”

“The one going to Calcutta?” Khudiram replied, unsure.

The police officer looked at him for a second and then started walking towards another fellow officer. The tea vendor said, “You don’t know how to lie, do you? You have no luggage and there’s no train going to Calcutta today.”

After listening to the tea vendor carefully, Khudiram started to run yet again, but this time he didn’t know where to go. He had almost reached the end of the station when someone pushed him to the ground. He was arrested and put on a train. He looked out of the window to see a crowd standing in respect and pride, only for him. Khudiram looked at the crowd and shouted as loud as he could, “Vande Mataram!” The crowd repeated the chant after him and the train began to move.

Khudiram was jailed and three months had passed. Every now and then, he was appearing for court hearings. During one such hearing, he found out that Prafulla was no more. The news was unbearable because Prafulla had become more than a friend. At another hearing, Khudiram found out that Kennedy’s daughter had died in the explosion, while the wife died in a hospital room a few days later. Finally, in the last hearing, Khudiram was declared guilty and was ordered to be hanged to death the following day. He waited patiently in his cell thinking about his life and everything that had happened in his 18 years on earth. He had lived a short but a respected life. He was stronger than he had imagined.

The clanging of a metal rod on the bars of his cell woke him up. This was it, the last day of his life. He got up and prayed. With a happy mind and a satisfied soul, boldly he stood up and went to the execution room with police officers on both the sides. To his surprise, there were hundreds of people in the room carrying flowers and garlands for him. With pride, he went up to the rope with his head held high. Seeing the world for the last time, he smiled and gently closed his eyes. The black cloth was put over his face with the rope secured. Gratefully, he accepted death as the trapdoors opened, letting his body hang with the rope tightly gripping his neck and breaking it into two.

Khudiram’s execution was hailed as the ‘most extraordinary event since the mutiny of 1857’. He began a revolution and became the legend he always wanted to be. To honour him, the Waini Railway Station was renamed ‘Khudiram Bose Pusa Railway Station’. And the jail where he spent his last days was renamed ‘Khudiram Bose Memorial Central Jail’. Indeed, the journey of this brave freedom fighter is noteworthy as he stood against the Britishers, laid down his life, and ignited the spark of freedom in his fellow countrymen.





James Cook, a member of the British Royal Navy, charted Newfoundland so accurately in 1767 that the same map is still used in the 21st century.



# The owl of the oak

## Storywala

Anika Bansal  
AIS Vas 6, XI C

Once upon a time, there stood an old oak in the garden which also housed many woodland creatures. There was the squirrel, always scampering about. There was the bluebird, who twittered to every creature she could find. And there was also an old owl, who made his home in the old oak tree many blue moons ago. This old owl was an observer and witnessed many incidents each passing day. His favourite form of entertainment, however, was to watch humans in their natural habitat. "Humans," he would often think, "are such strange creatures. Some are nice with their hearts full of kindness, and some are brave and bold; whereas there are others whose hearts are filled with nothing but misery and anger, with such a passion for violence and aggression that it could scare the hot-headed Cuckoo and bring it to shame." He would often narrate his encounters to anyone who would listen, "When I was a young owl,

people were very helpful. An old woman once lost her glasses and a crowd formed around to help her..." he paused and looked around self-importantly, but to his dismay, no one was around to listen to him and so he stopped. But as he was about to leave, he saw the squirrel scamper by. "Today!" he began, with newfound vigour, as he blocked the squirrel's path, "I saw this young

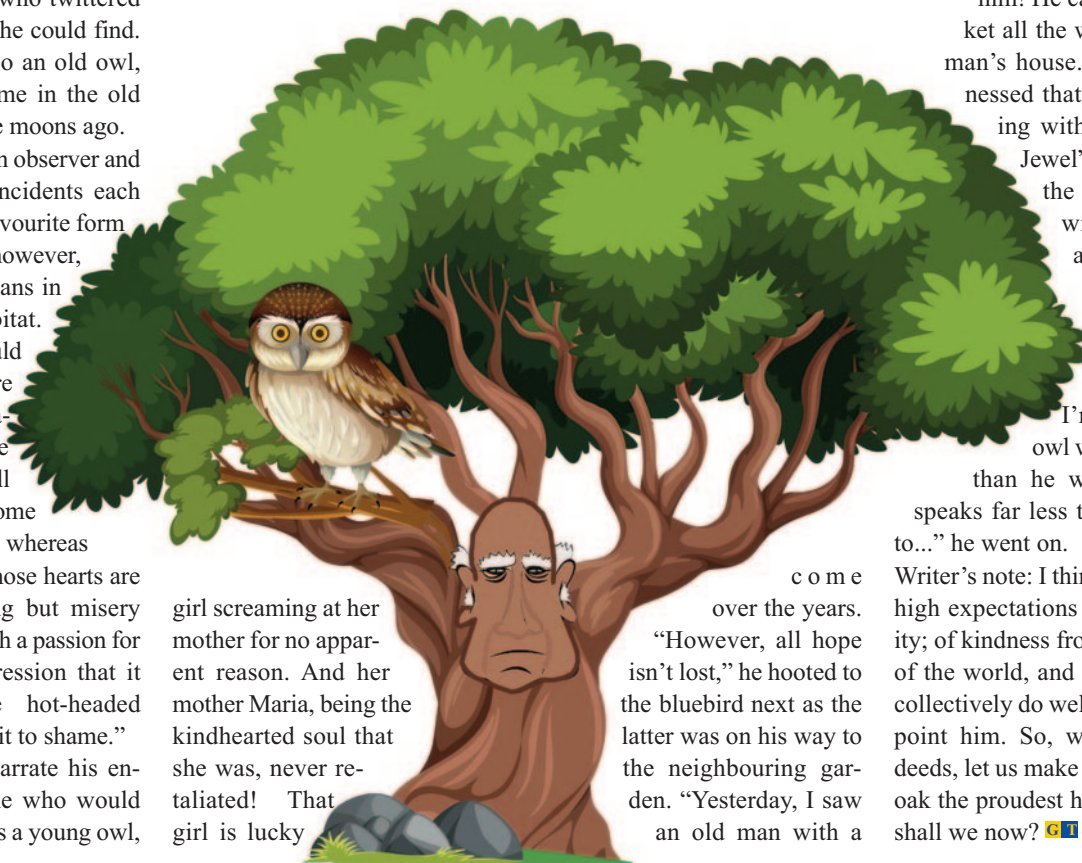
to have such a great and loving woman as her mother. I'm sure Maria will teach her daughter about the ethics of society sooner or later!" The owl carried on with his tale as the squirrel looked on, all perplexed before sneaking his way out.

The owl, not caring about the squirrel's sudden departure, still went on blabbering about his dejection at what humanity has be-

**His favourite form of entertainment, however, was to watch humans in their natural habitat.**

heavy basket. He was panting with lethargy and tiredness of an old dog and sweating bullets all over the place. But a young boy, 9-year-old Newt, came to help him! He carried the basket all the way to the old man's house. When I witnessed that, I was bursting with pride!" "Oh Jewel" he sighed to the Bluebird, "I wish I had the accessibility to teach values to children all over the globe! But I'm just an old owl who sees more than he wishes to and speaks far less than he hopes to..." he went on.

Writer's note: I think the owl has high expectations from humanity; of kindness from us children of the world, and we should all collectively do well to not disappoint him. So, with our good deeds, let us make the owl of the oak the proudest he's ever been, shall we now? 🇮🇳



girl screaming at her mother for no apparent reason. And her mother Maria, being the kindhearted soul that she was, never retaliated! That girl is lucky

come over the years. "However, all hope isn't lost," he hooted to the bluebird next as the latter was on his way to the neighbouring garden. "Yesterday, I saw an old man with a



## CD coaster

Manishka Goyal, AIS Noida, IX

### Material required

- An old CD
- Pencil
- Thick paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrush
- Varnish

### Methodology

- Take a thick paper and place an old CD on it. Now draw an outline of the CD with a pencil. Draw another circle using the same method.
- Using scissors, cut both the circles. Paste these cut-outs on either side of the CD.
- In order to stick them properly, place them underneath a heavy object and let them sit for an hour or two.
- Next, use acrylic colours of your choice to paint any scenery on both the sides. Let it dry completely for 24 hours.
- Once done, apply a thick coat of paint varnish all over the CD to protect your coaster. Your CD coaster is ready!



Manishka Goyal

## Guess Who

It's time to guess the names of your favourite cartoons...

1. \_ \_ O O B \_ D \_ \_
2. \_ H I \_ \_ A \_
3. \_ \_ P P \_ P \_ G
4. D \_ F F \_ D \_ K
5. B \_ Y B L \_ \_
6. N \_ N \_ \_ H \_ T T \_ \_
7. P \_ P \_ Y \_ T \_ \_ S \_ \_  
\_ \_ O R M \_ \_
8. C \_ \_ O \_ \_ B \_ E E \_

- Answers:
1. Scooby Doo
  2. Shinchhan
  3. Peppa Pig
  4. Daffy Duck
  5. Beyblade
  6. Ninja Hattori
  7. Popeye
  8. Chhota Bheem

## WORDS VERSE



Deepannita Mukherjee  
AIS Gurugram 46, XII

Stress, a word now so commonly used  
With agony and headaches diffused  
From these small kids to the aged  
Infants will surely one day have it

"Mom, now I can't study anymore!"  
Stares with anger instead of adore  
Taxes with huge rates of interest  
Loans and apprehensions on crest

How can we work in full tranquility?  
When harmony is hard to come by  
Peace can't come this way, I believe  
Anger and panic ought to be sieved

Let's talk to friends or play music  
Appreciate more; calm will tune in  
Be sober and follow your passion  
Stay away from agony and tension

Believe first in yourself and in God  
Take intervals; no reason to be hot  
Distance from negativity around you  
Be peaceful and get in fights few

Stay happy, focused, and positive  
Hold love and joy your captive  
And so, all the stress will be gone  
You'll finally see a new dawn! 🇮🇳

## Let the fear fade

Pawani Goel, AIS Noida, Alumna



You may call me by several names  
May think you're hurting me inside  
May choose to try to tear me down  
But do you really think I will confide?

Lots of people look up to you in fear  
They're scared that you'll turn sour  
Most of them think you're a ruffian  
When you prattle, they just cower

You keep everybody beneath you  
Obeying every mandate by you  
But if someone came your way  
You'd cocoon yourself if you may

You're nothing but a milquetoast  
Who's envious of others the most  
You try to keep me down in terror  
But today, I'll face your ugly mirror. 🇮🇳

## CAMERA CAPERS

Amayra Jain, AIS Saket, XI

Send in your entries to  
cameracap@theglobaltimes.in



Serenity amidst raining chaos



Blooming amidst prickly thorns



Flowering tall amidst it all





A lot of Charles Darwin's ideas on evolution were finalised while he was sailing across the South American coast.

# Mischief managed

## Short story



Thrilled to be noticed, yet fearful of being eaten, he tried to pat the dog with his tiny hands.

Looking at his ant-sized stature, Jimmy's mom's eyes widened in utter shock and she almost fainted. Upon hearing the commotion, his grandfather, along with his magician friend, too rushed out of his study. While others struggled to make sense of the situation, the magician immediately understood what went wrong. "He ate the chocolate," he quickly added as the family, desperate for an explanation now, listened in astonishment.

As things became clear, the entire family waited for a cure. At this, the magician took a chocolate bar out of his pocket and offered a little portion of it to him as an antidote. Jimmy quickly grasped it and started nibbling on it. Within a few minutes, Jimmy turned back to his normal size but was extremely sorry. Thus, he vowed to never be overconfident and take anything without asking permission first.

(The above story is one of the entries received as a part of the story writing workshop conducted during GT Summer Newspaper Making Workshop 2022. The participants were given a setting and characters to weave a gripping short story.)

So, what did you learn today?  
A new word: **Exquisite**  
Meaning: Very beautiful and delicate

Aamodini Swayambhu  
AIS Vasundhara 1, VII E

"What could be more thrilling than summer holidays!?" 7-year-old mischievous Jimmy could not hold his excitement, as he travelled to his grandparents' house to spend his summertime with them. Jimmy loved this time of the year, as he could do whatever he pleased. But little did he know that this summer break would be a little different. It all started when a magician friend of his grandpa, along with his exquisite box of magical chocolates, happened to stop by one day to see them. Jimmy was particularly intrigued. Having already overheard the conversation about them being possessed with magical powers, a notorious Jimmy immediately devised a strategy to steal one and secretly con-

sume it. Plus, with his little knowledge regarding magic, he didn't really think that the chocolates would have anything to do with magic. But to his utter dismay, as he stole one chocolate from the box, he magically turned into a three cm tall dwarf. Helpless, he started crying and screaming for help. He first ran to his sister's room, but it was in vain, for she couldn't hear his cries. "Mummyyyy," he yelled next, but nothing seemed to work for him. Due to his diminutive size, he became unnoticeable. And if this wasn't enough, he crossed paths with "a huge, brown dinosaur," as he first described it in fear. And it was only when he sprinted off to the house's main gate that he realised that what he perceived to be a dinosaur was just a lizard. He then rushed to the corner of the road, sat there, and sobbed continuously in utmost fear.

Soon after, he noticed his older brother walking their family dog. Looking at this he started waving his hands at them aggressively for them to notice him. But nothing seemed to work as the duo cluelessly passed by him. Dispirited and breathless, he gave up and prayed, "God, please save me this time. I promise I won't act rash next time onwards". And it was as if his prayers got answered, when Bruno, the dog, came back and sniffed him. Thrilled to be noticed, yet fearful of being eaten whole, he tried to pat the dog with his tiny hands. What happened next left him shocked, for Bruno picked him up gently in his mouth and carried him home with him. At home, since he was nowhere to be found, everybody was naturally worried about his whereabouts. Amidst this chaos, Bruno dropped a slobbered over Jimmy on the dinner table.



## Bread fruit pastry

Aarika Gora, AIS Vasundhara 6, VI A

### INGREDIENTS

Bread slices.....3  
Freshly fruits (chopped).....1 cup  
Whipped cream.....1/2 cup  
Sugar syrup .....1 cup  
Honey .....to taste  
Gems .....to decorate



### PROCEDURE

- In a large bowl, pour half cup sugar syrup and dip chopped fresh fruits in it.
- Let the fruits rest in sugar syrup for half an hour.
- Once the sugar syrup is absorbed, take out the sugar-coated fruit pieces in a separate bowl.
- Take three bread slices and cut the edges from all sides with the help of a knife.
- Now on a plate put one bread slice and pour some sugar syrup over the slice.
- Then spread a layer of whipped cream and layer it with sweetened fresh fruits.
- Similarly, make two more layers by following the above steps.
- Finally, cover the top and all the four sides of three-layered pastry with whipped cream.
- Cut it into four equal parts, drizzle some honey, and put some gems and fruit pieces on the top of each pastry.
- Your tiny bread fruit pastries are ready to eat!

## POEMS

Ashee Srivastava, AIS MV, IX

Books are aperture to another land  
Fantasy world with creatures grand  
Insight into most stupendous worlds  
Fresh ideas and discoveries swirled

Creativity and passion with no bounds  
Reading and writing behold no sounds  
Just a tinkling pattern in little minds

## Fictional love

Reality and fantasy are then entwined

Envision a scenic beauty of your own  
Foster and create it till it's fully grown  
Articulate all the desires of your soul  
With just a paper, pencil, and a scroll!



## It's me

### KNOW ME

My name: Kahal Aggarwal  
My Class: II A  
My school: AIS Gurugram 43  
My birthday: September 6

### MY FAVOURITES

Teacher: Geeta Ma'am  
Subject: Math  
Friend: Ruhin  
Game: Football  
Cartoon: Chota Bheem  
Food: Dal and rice  
Mall: Ambience Mall  
Book: The Three Little Pigs

### MY DREAMS AND GOALS

My hobby: Dancing  
I like: Playing with my doll  
I dislike: Untidy room  
My role model: My papa  
I want to become: A pilot  
I want to feature in GT because: I want to see myself in The Global Times as it is my favourite newspaper!



## Friends for life!

Navya Agrawal  
AIS Gurugram 43, X

I will surely look for you  
When my soul needs a lift  
Because no matter what  
You are better than a gift  
I don't want diamonds  
Because you are the best  
In this strange, testing world  
You are better than the rest  
You are always there for me  
From start to the very end  
I will never ever leave you  
Because you're my best friend!



Kaustubh Singh  
AIS VYC Lucknow, III

Teacher: Where are the great plains located?  
Tom: They are located at the

great airport.

Ram: Why is the teacher wearing sunglasses inside the class?  
Hari: Because the students are very bright.

Kush: Why couldn't the pony sing a lullaby?  
Kitty: She was a little ho(a)rse.

## PAINTING CORNER

Nesiha Chandrasekar & Anwesha Rath  
AIS Gurugram 43, IX





Michael Healy, the son of an Irish plantation owner and an enslaved Black woman, is recognised as the first person of African descent to command a US federal ship.



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

"Studies have shown that huge discounts bestow economic stimuli and generate huge profits for large retail stores. However, they are accompanied with social and ethical faults. Sometimes, companies are prone to sell defective products which the customers tend to overlook during the sale hours. In fact, most of the companies follow no exchange policy on sale items, another downside that most of the customers are unaware of. So, in case, they buy the defected product in a hurry, they are left with no option but to lose their hard-earned money. Therefore, sale is just a trick to sell off the old stock."

**Avni Jain, AIS Noida, XI H**

"During any festival or holiday season, more and more people rush out to buy products, especially after seeing hefty discounts. Personally, I see this as a smart way for the company to increase its sales, ultimately helping in its brand reputation and survival. Their job is to sell and stay in business, obviously! But beware of these sales, because they are also a huge marketing gimmick that lure innocent customers and take away too much of their hard-earned money."

**Uday Saini, AIS Gurugram 43, IX B**

**"What are your views on the huge discounts offered by the companies in sale season? Do you think it's a marketing gimmick to lure consumers or it helps the consumers to save money, or it simply calls for unnecessary hoarding of products?"**

The prompt

**BOX**

"Armed with their credit card, a pinterest board of the latest fashion trends, and unwavering dedication for standing in long queues, shopaholics prep themselves for the most anticipated sale season. The huge discounts offered by the companies are aimed at encouraging consumers' buying binges and loosening their purse strings. This enables businesses to increase their profit by drawing in a new clientele. While sales assist consumers in saving money too, at the end of the day it is just a marketing tactic that intensifies human behaviour of unending wants, resulting in buying of products one does not require."

**Kuhu Gupta, AIS Gurugram 46, XII J**

"By creating a sense of urgency and exclusiveness, discounts influence customers into buying products they usually would not. With the advent of online marketing and advertisements, such offers are influencing customer behaviour more than ever. Simply put, any business would only give out discounts that ultimately benefit them, whether it's a manipulative ploy to increase profits or a well-intentioned offer to improve brand image. And of course, with their intricate business strategies worked upon by thousands of employees, they usually succeed in doing so."

**Anika Khosla, AIS Vasundhara 6, XI B**

"Discount promotions are one of the most common approaches for increasing retail sales. It is a scheme to boost brand awareness, attract new shoppers, and is preferable for the long-term benefits of a store. Thus, if used with thoughtfulness, these act like miracles for a brand/store, especially those new to the market. However, both the store and the customers should exercise caution while making use of discounts, for being careless would only end up reducing the cost of the products for the former and being greedy would only make the latter a hoarder."

**Sargun Kalsi, AIS VKC Lko, X A**

"A sale is nothing but a strategem that companies use to lure in customers to increase the sale of their products. Since sales are mostly limited-time deals, they prompt the shoppers to quickly make up their mind on a product and whether or not they are interested in buying it. Hence, many times a customer just rushes into the purchase without giving much thought to the quality or the necessity of buying these products."

**Gursimran Kaur, AIS VYC Lko, XI B**

"With the sale season around the corner, the buyer in us gets ready to take benefit from as many cheap product deals as possible. Attracted by such steal deal offers, we keep on adding more items to our cart and

bring home a huge pile of items that we don't even need. But what we as customers tend to forget during this period are the various perks of living a minimalistic life. Unmindful, we first keep on cluttering our surroundings with unnecessary stuff, and later try hard to create space for the new items by discarding the good old ones. It simply means wastage of both money and resources. The best way to shop thus is to shop smart and only buy what is needed."

**Raabia Ali Abidi, AIS Saket, IX E**

"I feel the 'festival sale season' is one of the most gratifying phrases in today's world. It's indeed a great strategy to lure customers and help them save money but nobody pays attention to the impending disadvantages. The quality of products is usually sub-standard during the sale season as the emphasis is on quantity and not quality. These huge discounts also lead to price wars, as these prompt the customers to compare prices and as a result, the companies to compete with cost structures. And since dropping the prices also kills profit margin, employees and workers get adversely affected in the process sooner or later."

**Nurina Amin, AIS Pushp Vihar, IX C**

"All of us find the discounts offered by various businesses to be very fascinating. Most of us keep visiting our nearby malls or stores so that we don't miss out on any opportunity and feel like a savvy shopper. But what we ignore in the entire process is that the companies are fooling us in the name of sale and huge discounts. In reality, they are selling off products that will get discontinued or will get expired soon. Furthermore, the frequent sales are designed with the goal of spreading out demand throughout the year, so that the cash flow keeps increasing throughout the year."

**Lakshay Dubey, AIS Gwalior, IX**

"Though discounts are usually given to sell products in bulk and increase the sales of the company, according to me, there are several other reasons for brands to indulge in the same. One of them can be to boost brand awareness. By providing discounts, companies make more and more people aware of their brand. Another reason can be to build customer loyalty. As customers get to buy good products at cheaper rates, it only makes them trust the brand more and purchase from it more often. Providing discounts also acts a way for a brand to compete with others in the same industry."

**Aashi, AIS Jagdishpur, XII C**

"In my opinion, offering discounts is a simple yet luring marketing tactic. Various types of discounts, cash-backs, or 'buy one-get one' offers are sometimes used to clear stock, generate more cash, and make people buy more. What we, as consumers, think of as a money saving offer is, in fact, just a manipulative scheme used by companies to attract more and more customers in an attempt to increase sales and gain more profits."

**PV Sai Kashish, AIS Mayur Vihar, XII E**

"The giant 'SALE' banners are a marketing ploy to help firms clear out their inventory. There also have been cases where the prices have been increased only to 'reduce' them for the sale season. I witnessed such a scheme first-hand when I visited a shop in Dubai and planned to buy a shirt from there later on, but the next day I found the price of the shirt increased even though it was on 'sale'. Thus, all these sale and discounts are just a strategy to draw the attention of consumers and generate revenues for these companies."

**Anika Jain, AGS Gurugram, XII**

"The very word 'sale' triggers the consumer's fear of losing out on a great deal. In India, festivals and shopping go hand in hand and several brands garner most of their annual sales during the festival season alone. A retailer, whether it's an e-commerce website or a physical store, as such sees festive discounts as a good chance of increasing their profits and also giving consumers a taste of their products."

**Aarushi Anand, AIS Vas 1, XII D**

**Question:** India bagging several awards at Commonwealth 2022 is a proud moment for all of us. If you are given a chance to congratulate anyone of the winners, who will it be and why?





Nainoa Thompson used ancient navigation techniques to lead the canoe Hōkūle'a all the way from Hawaii to Tahiti back in 1980.

# Golden victory @ NASA

## Space Designers Of Amity Create History At ISSDC



The young space geniuses of Amity lauded by the Chairperson, director principal AIS Noida and their mentors

### AIS Noida

Adding golden feather in Amity's cap, AIS Noida for the third time bagged first position at the prestigious International Space Settlement Design Competition (ISSDC) 2022, organised by NASA in collaboration with Boeing, held from July 30-Aug 2, 2022. In fact, AIS Noida was the only school from India to emerge as the winner. The golden victory has been achieved under the constant guidance and support extended by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, who wishes to provide every global experience to Amitians with a vision to make them

future ready. The winning team comprised 12 young space enthusiasts of Class XII namely Shubhi Bhatia, Ayushman Rastogi, Chaitanya Choudhary, Dev Acharya Menon, Divij Agarwal, Shashwat Sharma, Shivain Verma, Shreyas Marwah, Savysachi Singh, Sujal

Kapoor, Varun Pratap Singh and Vedika Agnihotri. The team had to clear multiple rounds such as 'Preliminary Round', 'National Quarter Final Round', 'Asian Regional Semifinal Round', in order to reach the grand finale 'International Final Round', held at NASA Kennedy Space Center, Florida. The competition is an annual year-long simulation of the future space industry floated by NASA and Boeing for high school students. Amity Group of Schools have been participating in the competition since 2007 and have been consistently qualifying for Asian Regional Rounds every year, with the zenith of glory being reached in 2015 when AIS Noida emerged as the global winner. 🇮🇳

### Winning Streak of Amity @ ISSDC

Year	Position	Round	School
2015	Winner	International Finale	AIS Noida
2018	Runner Up	International Finale	AIS Noida
2019	Runner Up	International Finale	AIS Noida
2020	Winner	International Finale	AIS Noida
2021	Runner Up	International Finale	AIS Noida
2022	Winner	International Finale	AIS Noida



Students pay tribute to the bravehearts of Kargil War

## Tribute to war heroes

### A Salute To Brave Soldiers

### AIS Gwalior

To honour the brave soldiers of Kargil War, AIS Gwalior celebrated Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 25, 2022, by conducting a special assembly. It began with the auspicious lighting of the lamp by school principal Manju Singh followed by a meaningful thought for the day by Janhavi Deshpande, a student of Class V. Thereafter, a soulful song was sung by the students of various classes which filled the atmosphere with patriotic

fervour. Remembering the exemplary courage of the brave soldiers, Amitians paid a tribute to them where an inspirational speech was delivered by Adwithiya Puri, a student of Class VIII. Next in line was a dance performance by a group of students which instilled a strong feeling of unity and brotherhood in the audience. The celebration came to an end with school principal explaining the significance of Kargil Vijay Diwas to the young patriots followed by school song and national anthem.



Kites of freedom by AIS Noida

### AIS Noida

Reveling the spirit of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*, the school organised 'Independence Week' from August 1-10, 2022. As part of the celebration, students engaged in various activities such as creating tricolour flags, badges, posters, song and dance presentations, skits based on the freedom struggle, animated stories on freedom struggle, speeches and debates, etc. The spirit of patriotism resonated distinctly in the young minds, who also pledged to contribute towards the betterment of India. The celebrations culminated with a fervent march of freedom fighters by 50 children and a mesmerising inter-house patriotic dance competition.

### AGS Noida

On August 10, 2022, the students of the Primary Year Program celebrated the



Pledge to serve India by AGS Noida

# My India, my pride!

## Amitians Hail 75 Years Of Freedom And Glory

76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day by conducting a special assembly. It commenced with discussions on the importance of Independence Day and what makes the 76<sup>th</sup> year of independence so special for the country. Following the discussions, students also shared what independence means to them and how they wish to be independent. Instilling the emotion of patriotism in the audience, the students of Grade I and II sang a song 'Desh Humara Hindustan' while the students of Grade III shared some patriotic slogans. Also, students of Grade IV and V took pledge to become responsible citizens of the country. The celebrations came to an end with a heart touching poem recitation 'Nanhe Kadam' by the tiny tots of Early Years I and II.

### AIS Gurugram 46

To commemorate the special occasion of 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, the school organised week-long activities for the students of Class I-XII, from August 3-10, 2022. Beginning with a special assembly where the students of Class I-V expressed their patriotic feelings, the

celebration also saw the young ones engage in other competitions such as poem recitation, role play based on freedom fighters, making of tricolour headgears and wrist bands, patriotic song and dance presentations. Furthermore, the students of Class VI-VIII, engaged in activities namely poster making, comic strip and caricature drawings. The highlight of the celebration was the presentation of national anthem in sign language by the students of Class VIII. Moving on, the senior students of Class IX-XII participated in a special assembly where dance performances on patriotic songs were showcased followed by poem recitations and face painting competition.

### AIS Gurugram 43

A special assembly to celebrate the Independence Day was organised by school on August 10, 2022, for the students of Class Nursery-XII. It commenced with flag hoisting followed by national anthem and a march past by the students of Class IX. Adding patriotic fervour to the assembly, a beautiful

rendition of 'Jai Jan Bharat' by school choir group and a nukkad natak on 'Naya Bharat, Naya Ayaam', touched the hearts of one and all present in the audience. An interactive session with the audience was also conducted in the form of slogan quiz. Bringing the assembly to a close, the young patriots performed a beautiful dance to a medley of patriotic songs.

### AIS VKC Lucknow

With the thought 'Freedom in the mind, faith in the words, pride in our souls... Let's salute the nation', the school celebrated 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day from August 8-10, 2022. As part of the celebration, the school organised various activities for the students of Class Nursery-XII. The tiny tots dressed up like freedom fighters and rendered their popular slogans. They also painted paper flags with finger prints and watched a Panchatantra movie to celebrate the joy of freedom. Moving on, the students of Class I-V prepared a display board to reflect on what makes this Independence Day so special. The board

as such included cut outs of achievements of the country, things they love about the country, etc. The students of Class VI-VIII expressed their definition of independence, using art & craft activities, poems, digital poster, tricolour kite making, etc., as a medium and prepared some highly nutritious delectable salads in tricolour. Leveling up the atmosphere of patriotic fervour, the students of Class IX-XII presented one minute skit, made paper flags, and sang Vande Mataram.

### AIS Gwalior

Dedicating an entire week to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with activities like tricolour craft, tricolour salads, I am a proud Indian, one minute act, face painting, etc, the school celebrated 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day in full fervour. The week-long celebration came to an end with a special assembly organised on August 15, 2022. It began with the hoisting of the national flag by the school principal Manju Singh, followed by national anthem and an engaging cultural programme. Next in line was a speech by Khushi Dantre (XII) wherein she paid a tribute to the freedom fighters as well as highlighted India's unity and diversity, its history, culture, and heroes. She also gave tips on how to contribute positively in this direction. The celebration concluded with an energetic dance performance by the students of Class VII and a patriotic song by the young singers of Class VI.



Tricolour bands by AIS Gur 46



Patriotic dance by AIS Gur 43



Tricolour kites by AIS VKC Lko



Song of freedom by AIS Gwalior



In 2005, Roz Savage became the first woman to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

All top quotes contributed by Alina Ahmad, AIS Mayur Vihar, XII G



# Factorial Fame

## The Inspiring Tale Of An Amitian Who Took A Minute To Make A National Record



Hridyanshu at NASA

Stuti Kalra, GT Network

Amitians are known to create stellar records at both national and international levels, and the latest entrant in this hall of fame is **Hridyanshu of Class XII, AIS Saket**. He has won a place for himself in the India Book of Records for 'Most factorials written mentally in one minute'. Read on as the math wizard shares the formula to be number one.

### The wow factor

Hridyanshu wrote 15 factorials in a minute, which

is a system of mathematical expansion. He had the choice to either write or speak his answer, and he opted for the former. "I wanted to ensure that I didn't miss even a single digit or say something slightly wrong even after getting the correct answer. This could have jeopardised my entire effort." He says that it took him a lot of self-control to stop at the 15th factorial as he was aware what was at stake if he got the 16th one wrong. Other than the elation of clinching a gold medal and a certificate for this achievement, he is also overjoyed at having received abundant blessings, from Chairperson ma'am, his teachers, and especially his mathematics teacher.

### The magic of math

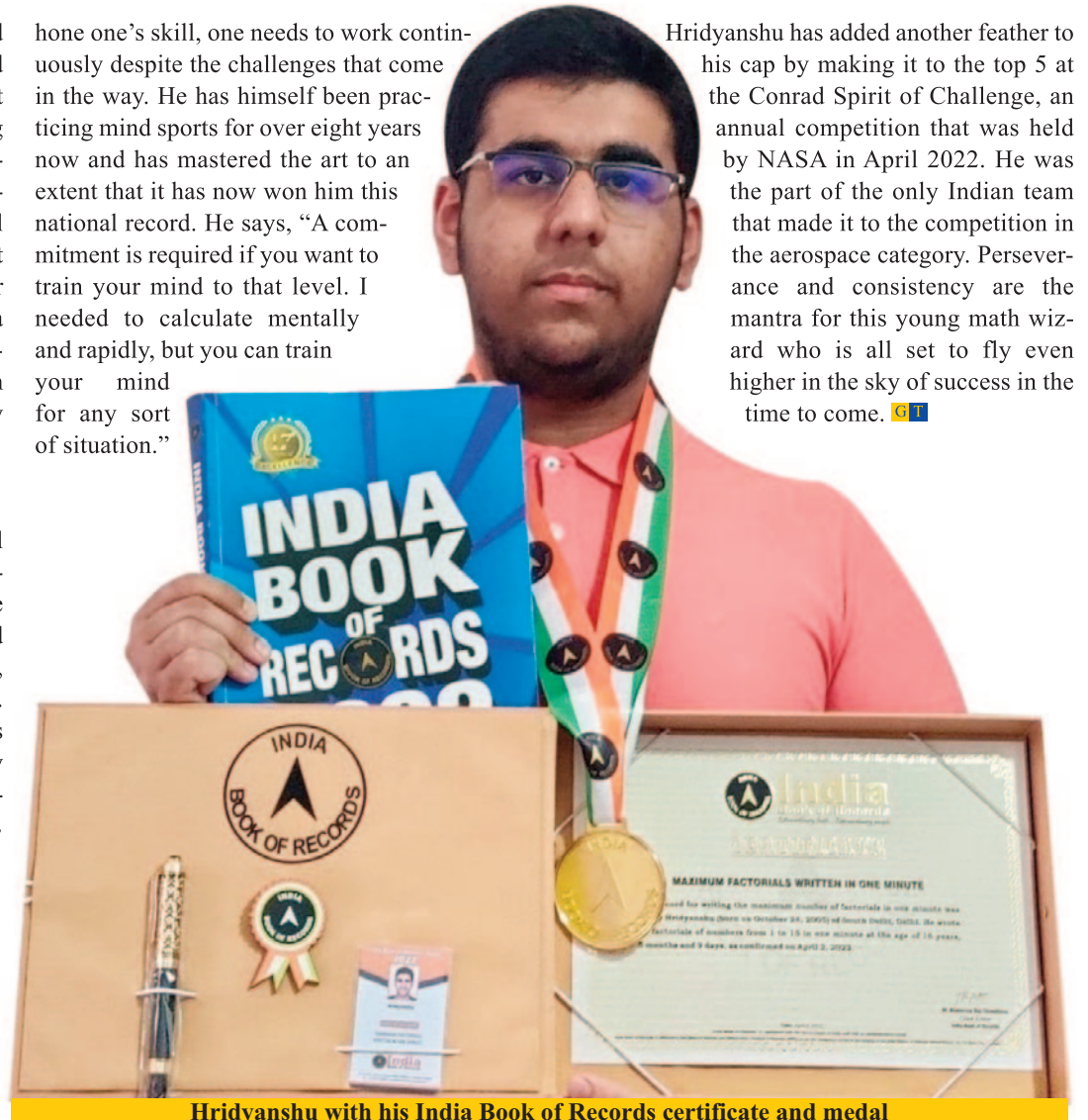
Hridyanshu has always been involved in mental math, sudoku, scrabble, etc., all activities that involve exercising the power of the mind, since the age of seven. Unfortunately, 'mind sports' find limited enthusiasts like him in India. However, this whiz kid may be on his way to change things. His record is being used by a company known as Configuration of Sports and Recreation Industry as a primer for their forthcoming Indian Mind-space Association. He is slated to be part of this association which will promote mind games in India. "Mind sports have a lot of untapped potential in India. This organisation has ties with Canadian Mind Sports Association, and we have already chalked out a few plans to take this further," he adds.

### The constant challenge

According to Hridyanshu, no success can come without hard work and consistency. In order to

hone one's skill, one needs to work continuously despite the challenges that come in the way. He has himself been practicing mind sports for over eight years now and has mastered the art to an extent that it has now won him this national record. He says, "A commitment is required if you want to train your mind to that level. I needed to calculate mentally and rapidly, but you can train your mind for any sort of situation."

Hridyanshu has added another feather to his cap by making it to the top 5 at the Conrad Spirit of Challenge, an annual competition that was held by NASA in April 2022. He was the part of the only Indian team that made it to the competition in the aerospace category. Perseverance and consistency are the mantra for this young math wizard who is all set to fly even higher in the sky of success in the time to come. [G T](#)



Hridyanshu with his India Book of Records certificate and medal

# The MISSING princess story

## The Mystery Behind The Disappearance Of Anastasia Romanov

Ragini Singhal, AIS Gurugram 43, IX

During the Bolshevik Revolution, the Romanov family, the last imperial dynasty to rule Russia, was killed after over 100 years of rule over the land. The event was tragic and unfortunate, but it soon turned mysterious when the dead body of the princess of the family, Anastasia Romanov, was nowhere to be found. And so the ball was set rolling for one of the biggest mysteries in the world.

### Who was Anastasia Romanov?

The very famous and mysterious young lady, Anastasia Romanov, was born in Petrodvorets, Russia, on June 18, 1901. She was the daughter of Princess Alix of Hesse-Darmstadt and Russia's final tsar, Nicholas II. Nicholas II, Anastasia's father, was the part of Romanov dynasty that ruled the country for three centuries. The royal couple had three daughters and an elder son, Alexei, who was supposedly the heir to the throne. Anastasia, on the other hand, spent her early life decently with all the basic education being provided to her, along with learning everything that was deemed necessary for a princess, until her entire family was killed in 1918.

### What happened on the doomsday?

Although the date of the execution is said to be either 16th or 17th July, 1918, most of the sources confirm the latter. In March of 1917, soldiers began to seize their royal property, as Nicholas II agreed to give up the throne in order to prevent the Russian Civil War. But alas! the Civil war could not be prevented. The family was taken to the Ural mountains and was placed under house arrest. As per the orders of Supreme Soviet Council of Russia, the family was taken to a basement in order to protect them from any impending miseries, but plans to kill them were already in motion as a

group of executioners suddenly opened fire on them, silencing the whole Romanov legacy in that basement forever.

### What arose the missing mystery?

Even several years after the ill-fated incident, the speculations didn't die down. Many claimed that princess Anastasia and her brother survived due to their family jewels being sewn on the cloths that may have acted as a shield. The rumours grew when a woman was admitted in a hospital and doctors claimed that she had suffered such traumatic events that she could not even remember her own name. It was because of her accent that doctors could comprehend that she was Russian. A few days later, another Russian woman was admitted in the same hospital and claimed that the first woman was the long-lost Princess Anastasia. There was no proof, but when have rumours needed proof?

### What is the truth then?

Well, there are, obviously, two renditions of the story: one genuine, one fantasy. There were various young women who came up to claim themselves to be Princess Anastasia after that. Out of them, the most famous claimant was a woman who named herself Anna Anderson but was actually Franziska Schanzkowska, a Polish woman married to an American professor named J.E. Manahan. In 1970, archaeologists found a grave containing skeletons of six adults and three children. The continuous investigation identified the nine bodies to belong to the Romanov family, but the bodies of Anastasia and her brother were still missing. It was finally in 2007 that a new DNA analysis from another grave identified Anastasia and Alexei, putting an end to the 90-year-old mystery.

Phew, the royal dynasties are nothing but a bucket full of mysteries and hush hush stories. One cannot even find peace in death, we guess!

