

**INSIDE**



Song with the wind, P5



Paint the town red, P7

**AMITEpoll**

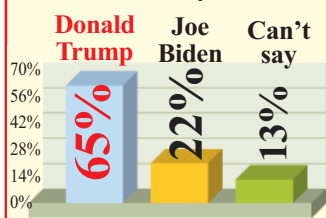
Do you think government's decision to set up a National Recruitment Agency (NRA) would speed up the public sector recruitment process?

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

To vote, log on to  
 www.theglobaltimes.in

**POLL RESULT**  
 for GT issue August 24, 2020

Who according to you has a higher chance of winning in the 2020 United States presidential election to be held in November this year?



Results as on August 28, 2020

**Coming Next**  
 Youth Power Special Edition

# Striving towards smartness

## Looking At The Panoramic View Of The World At A Cellular Level

Deeksha Puri, AIS PV, Alumna

With the entire world on lockdown or coping with its aftermath, our mobile phones have become such an important catalyst for our daily lives to carry on as normally as possible that it feels like we are missing an organ when we are without it. But even as this gizmo becomes our most prized possession, with our eyes constantly glued to its screen and our fingers relentlessly tapping, the question of whether these smartphones are truly turning this world 'smart' or the other way around seems to still be surrounded in grey clouds of anticipation.

**GLOBAL ECONOMY**

**A smart transition...**  
 "A GSMA research reported that the mobile economy played a significant role in adding a whopping \$2.4 trillion to the international economy in just 2013"  
 Technology has always been a harbinger of development and an epitome of this tale is the East African country of Kenya where the use of smartphone brought an economic revolution altogether, all thanks to M-Pesa. A money transferring application, M-Pesa led to an improvement in the economic status of more than 2% households in the country, lifting them out of poverty, and provided around 185,000 Kenyan women the opportunity to switch from subsistence farming into occupations related to business and sales. From switching one's way of communication to changing how they lead their life, the advent of smartphones truly brought a revolution as its arrival gift.

**Not so smart either...**

"The loss of a mobile phone company cost Finland three successive years of economic retrenchment with only a 0.5 per cent growth forecast for the fourth year"  
 While Kenya saw the wonders technology could bring to a country and its economy, Finland sat disgruntled after receiving the shorter end of the stick. Once dubbed as the country's 'economic miracle', Nokia, a Finnish electronics and telecommunications company which once con-

tributed about a quarter to the country's growth, became the sole reason for dismantling the financial stability of its inventor nation as its popularity declined and was finally taken over by Microsoft. As Nokia struggled to keep itself afloat, the most sought-after mobile brand till the early 2000s wound up with no proper goodbye.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**A smart transition...**

"A study concluded that cell phones resulted in a 29% fall in crime rate since 1990s due to the growing convenience in reporting a crime"

Gone are the times when there seemed no hope of a saviour at night, all thanks to GPS tracking and safety apps that were brought to the fore in the wake of crimes against women. Case in point - a UK based app called Safe and the City (SatC) which uses geolocation and Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to detect crime-prone areas and notify the users of the same. Adding to the list is Smart24x7, an Indian app for women and senior citizens which is linked with the state police. When in need, the panic button sends an alert to your emergency contacts as well as notifies the police. Even when more measures are yet to be taken to ensure complete safety for women, we can't help but thank technology for assuring us that help is not so far.

**Not so smart either...**

"Cyber-crime prompted by social media alone is generating up to \$3.25B in global revenue every year"

With 25% of all mobile malware targeting financial services, the reports of credit card fraud increasing by 200% just in 2017 comes as a wave of disappointment but not surprise. The 2011 incident of the information of 77 million Sony PlayStation network users being hacked, halted the network for almost a month, causing heavy monetary and consumer loss. This is where the need to roll out a 'terms of service' clause stemmed from, urging users to give up their right to file a lawsuit following a security breach, but is asking consumers to give up their hard-earned money or their rights the only option to deal with it all.

Continued on Page 6...



# The man of many talents

## Akash Banerjee, A Youtuber, A Political Satirist And Much More

Pic: Deepak Sharma, GT Network



Akash Banerjee, Co-founder, NAB Digital Media

Varya Khosla  
 AIS Noida, IX J

Social media might be a thing of the past, but it is what forms the present and what will transform the outlook of the future. With the very belief, Akash Banerjee, co-founder, NAB Digital Media and host of the webseries #DeshBhakt took to the stage on the occasion of ICEMP 2020, held at Amity University, Noida. A man of many hats that he is, GT reporter grabbed the opportunity to know how he manages so many roles, so effortlessly. Here are a few excerpts:

**Being a social media entrepreneur**

I am often asked about the requisites of being a social media entrepreneur. I say that it is simply being able to appeal to the audience. It needs you to think outside of the box, while not completely rejecting the box per se. What I mean by this is that we need to think in terms of what the masses want as well as keeping up with the latest ideas



Akash Banerjee with GT reporter

and trends. The crux is that you must always come up with a unique offering and have the conviction to present that unique idea across.

**Being a political satirist**

Well, satirising the political scenario is not the same as criticising politics as one usually deems it. Satire is a mix of news, comedy, sarcasm and of course facts. It is about speaking the truth completely backed with facts. However, one thing to keep in mind is to make the satire subtle and not making it outright, hence, not getting yourself into legal hassles. So, the art is to bring out the complete truth

without actually saying it.

**Being an all-rounder**

I have been into news reporting, anchoring and authoring. Although I have found myself enjoying all the three arenas, reporting is something that continues to bring me the thrill. Generally, every newbie in journalism is smitten by the anchoring because of the glamour and appeal that is attached to the role. But when it comes to reporting, the thrill, the challenge is always there, so much so that you can pursue it for life.

**Being a change maker**

Today, the biggest challenge

that the digital landscape is facing is the dissemination of fake news and misinformation. As an endeavour, we have started a campaign 'Reclaim WhatsApp', through which we are encouraging everyone to pick one WhatsApp group and pledge that they are not going to post any content that allows hatred, bigotry, or false news. Even though the fake news machinery might seem endless, it is upon us whether to promote it or not. The best thing to do is to wait till the news is verified by a reliable source; to be sensible enough and sensitised enough and then spread the word across.

**Being a forerunner**

Today there are so many websites and channels emerging on the digital landscape and the numbers will go up the graph in the coming years. In order to make yourself distinguished in this crowded marketplace, you need distinguished content. It's not just about coming up with the idea, but how you are planning on presenting the idea. It's about the unique skill set you are bringing onto the table.



Aristarchus, a Greek astronomer, presented the first heliocentric model that places the Sun at the center of the universe with the Earth orbiting around it.



# Around The WORLD

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

## JAMAICA

### Usain Bolt tests positive for COVID-19

Olympian Usain Bolt has tested positive for Coronavirus right after his birthday bash. Jamaica's PM has stated that police investigations are on and no special treatment will be given to the athlete if found to be breaking the social distancing rules implied in the country.



## GERMANY

### Berlin Film Festival adopts gender-neutral awards

Berlin International Film Festival has announced that it will be giving away gender-neutral performance awards from next year's edition. The action is taken to create "gender-sensitive awareness in the film industry".

## SOUTH KOREA

### BTS breaks YouTube world record

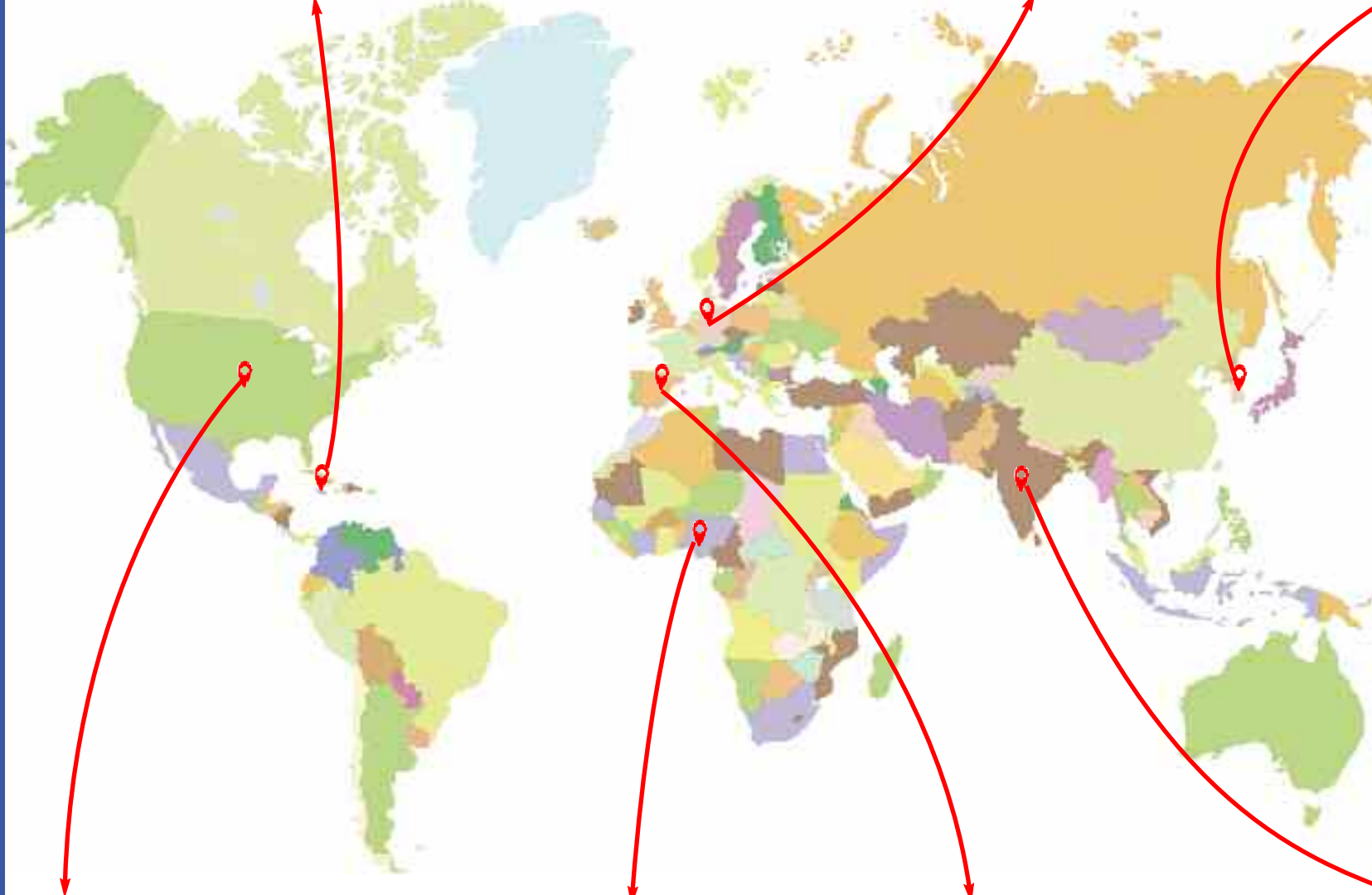
Korean boyband BTS made history after their new single 'Dynamite' became the most-viewed music video in the world with 101.1 million views in 24 hours. The video was also the biggest premiere of YouTube with 3-4 million live views and achieved 10 million views in just 20 minutes. The song also created new records on Spotify and iTunes.



## NEW ZEALAND

### Cyber-attack on NZ stock exchange

The NZX was knocked offline for two days due to a DDoS attack which halted trading in cash markets. The attack has been noted to come from offshore via its network service provider and affected NZX websites and market announcement platforms.



## USA

### TikTok CEO quits after ban threat

Kevin Mayer, CEO, TikTok, has resigned from his position days after the company fired back at the Trump administration over the order of banning the app in the USA. TikTok and its Chinese parent company, ByteDance, have both spoken against Trump's claim of the app being a national security threat.

## NIGERIA

### Last African country to be free of polio

Africa Regional Certification Commission has announced that Nigeria became the most recent African country to eradicate polio completely from the nation. This now marks the whole continent of Africa free of wild poliovirus.



## SPAIN

### Messi plans to leave FCB

Footballer Lionel Messi has sent his club, FCB, a legal document expressing his wish to activate the release clause of his contract which would allow him to leave the club immediately instead of next June as originally signed. The club is still hoping to persuade him to stay.

## INDIA

### AstroSat discovers ancient galaxy

Astronomers at Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune, have detected a galaxy called AUDFs01 with AstroSat, an orbiting telescope. The galaxy is said to be 9.3 billion light years away from Earth and will help scientists understand the earliest source of light in the universe.







Italian scientist, Amedeo Avogadro was the first to realise that elements can exist in the form of molecules rather than as individual atoms.

# Out of the 'books'

A Look At Education Practices From Around The Globe



**Nivedita Kapoor,**  
AIS Noida, Alumna

Knowledge is an intangible asset. It can take you far in almost all spheres of life. Anybody can learn anything from anywhere. Learning is a lifelong process. While one might believe that knowledge can be attained from books only, that is not the ultimate truth. There is more to it. Here are some 'out of the book' ways of learning from around the globe that exemplify the same.

### Meditation for mind

In the Himalayan regions of Bhutan, the practice of Tibetan Buddhism and the belief of 'happiness' merge into the teaching system. Meditation, a major part of their learning, brings the students closer to the nature. Other mindful exercises like exposition and debates are also a part of their daily routine. It is common for a teacher to give a lesson in the form of exegetic monologues, which at times can last for hours, and assign the student to repeat it the next day.

### Risky and real

In Australia, alongside the usual teaching methods, professors also indulge in 'risky' approaches. Students are addressed by unpredictable guest speakers, taught outside in the sun, taken on field trips to places like prisons. This ensures that the students don't lose contact with the real world and get a closer look at the practical aspects of life. Besides, more marks are allotted to the assignments made on the field study as compared to classroom exams.

### Classroom clean-up

A more holistic approach to learning is the one that is practiced in Japan. Each afternoon, students and teachers sweep the classrooms and mop the washrooms themselves. Students even serve lunch to their classmates. The whole purpose of Gakko Soji (school cleansing) is to emphasise on the importance of cleanliness and instill the idea of responsibility in the minds of young children which automatically leads to a better society and a better nation.

### Create your identity

The Finnish model of school is considered to be the best according to many educators around the globe. The children attend short school days with sponsored extra-curricular activities. The focus is on intrinsic motivation as well as pursuit of personal interest. The overall emphasis is on cooperation, not competition.

From the above examples, it can be seen that there are many who believe that art and street knowledge are essential parts of education and the learning process. They believe that one's priorities should not lie only in reading textbooks and solving equations. Although books are an important part of education, out of the box learning systems brings with itself new ideas, new things and a different perspective to be incorporated in our lives. [GFI](#)



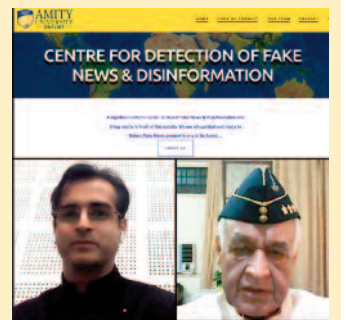
## Fighting infodemic

With A Website To Tackle Fake News

AUMP

**Ayushi Sharma & Shreya Chopra,** AUMP, ASCO, BJMC, Semester V

To aid the fight against fake news and misinformation, on the occasion of Independence Day, the Centre for Detection of Fake News and Disinformation (CDFND) launched their own website (<https://www.cdfnd.in/>). The site, created under the supervision of Dr Sumit Narula, director, ASCO, was inaugurated by Lt Gen V K Sharma, vice chancellor, AVSM (retd), and is considered to be a significant step in the present era to debunk fake news and disinformation. "The problem of fake news is not going to be solved soon. The main issue is that social media users never crosscheck the posts they come across. It is



diluting the image of India and its people. To fight this, ASCO has started the initiative of CDFND and will soon launch a full-time course related to it," shared Lt Gen V K Sharma on the occasion.

The website has been created to teach upcoming journalists about open source fact verifications, advanced verification of photos and videos on social media platforms, digital security and safety, user testing, media literacy, crowd tangles to name a few functions. [GFI](#)

## The (un)usual dictionary

Time To Learn Some Difficult Words



**Petrichor**  
/'petraɪkɔː/  
noun

*Pleasant smell that accompanies the first rain after dry weather.*

Taken from Greek words *petra* meaning stone, and *ichōr* meaning the fluid flowing in the veins of Gods, the word refers to the distinct earthy smell that comes along a heavy downpour.

**Hygge**  
/'h(j)uːgə, 'hɒgə/  
noun

*A quality of coziness that creates a feeling of well-being and contentment.*

A part of Danish culture, *hygge* is the act of enjoying the presence of soothing and gentle things. Well, it is safe to say that we all need a little *hygge* in our life to counter the growing stresses.

**Umami**  
/uː'mɑːmi/  
noun

*A category of taste in food corresponding to the flavour of glutamates.*

Umami is a pleasant savory taste imparted by glutamate, a type of amino acid, and ribonucleotides, including inosinate and guanylate, which occur naturally in many foods. Now you know what flavour makes the broth taste so good!

These are just our favourite picks, but they do not even scratch the tip of the iceberg that is the English dictionary. We'll need a bigger pair of reading glasses if we start going page by page. [GFI](#)

**Toyam Khanna,** AIS Gur 46, XII

The dictionary is home to a million words, most of which we are familiar with. Yet, a few words remain unnoticed and unknown. From the pages of the dictionary to the pages of The Global Times, we bring you some such relatively unknown words you might not have known to exist.

**Triskaidekaphobia**  
/'trɪskɑɪdeɪkə'fəʊbiə/  
noun

*Extreme superstition, fear or avoidance of the number thirteen.*

This unusual and long word has Greek roots where *tris* means three, *kai* means and, *deka* means ten, and *phobia* means fear. It is the fear of the number 13 and the fear of Friday the 13th emerged from here. The word just got a whole lot scarier didn't it?



## Poetry a La Mode

### The Rules Of Free Flowing Language

**Ramsha Matin**  
AIS Vas 6, Alumna

Trends in the 21st century are showing up unannounced and revolutionising the way we see our world. Similarly, the latest poetry styles have evolved the way we manipulate prose to express our deepest emotions. Poetry comments on what it's to be human the way only a human can understand. Changing trends in poetry today ought to help us understand the art that may define tomorrow!

### Slam Poetry

Performing poetry by making the audience gasp, giggle and cry with the rhythm of words is what slam poetry is all about. Be it at local coffee shops around the corner, new slam poets take our breath away every day by using

art to communicate with us. The beauty of slam poetry is reflected in different faces in the crowd, as people connect with the simplest and the trickiest verses. Today, slam poetry is being recognized all over the world for creating magic out of elevated language, embracing this trend for all the right reasons!

### Free Verse

We've come a long way from Shakespeare's sonnets and Whitman's verses; poetry today is no longer bound by stringent rules of rhyming schemes, and favours poets in discovering the underlying beauty of free-versed language. While many poets still prefer using rhyming patterns, free verse poetry has been sweeping many off their feet by celebrating art in its raw and vulnerable form; a trend that ac-

knowledges freedom, is a trend that takes our breath away!

### Haiku

Japan's blessing to the world, haiku poems have encouraged a renewed attention on short poetry; the readers explore the complexity of words that reveal neither too much, nor too little. Many modern poets prefer switching over to haiku, as the short lines with deep meanings catch the millennial's attention.

These trends in poetry follow a common pattern- free-flowing language evolving into something more modern, with greater freedom; something that absorbs new readers every day.

Although trends don't decide the worth of poetry, yet they certainly do influence our thoughts. [GFI](#)





# The cost of multitasking

## Did You Know That Doing All Things At Once Is Not Productivity, But A Problem?

Kalpita Chakraborty  
AIS Vasundhara 6, XII B

Today, a multi-tasker wins the heart of everyone around. Simply because it is considered a talent. But studies show the other side of this talent, making it nothing much to brag about and rather to worry as it affects the brain. Want to know how, read on...

**Toby:** Hey Tushi! What're you doing?

**Tushi:** Well, I'm multitasking. I'm listening to music, catching up on the latest episode of F.R.I.E.N.D.S and also completing my math assignment, all while talking to you.

**Toby:** Do you know that multi-tasking impacts your brain negatively?

**Tushi:** What? How?

**Toby:** Alright, let me guide you through. According to Earl Miller, a neuroscientist at MIT, our brains are "not wired to multitask well... when people think they're multitasking, they're actually just switching from one task to another very rapidly. And every time they do, there's a cognitive cost." It can lead to permanent brain damage. Once you begin to operate multiple devices at once your brain gets acclimated to this behaviour and its structure alters.

**Tushi:** Oh, I use my mobile phone and laptop together all the time. Has this slowed down my brain's performance? Is that why I find it difficult to solve my math problems?

**Toby:** Yes, that could be a possibility. Much unlike popular belief, multi-tasking does not increase your productivity, but rather decreases it. One of the recent studies in University of London found that individuals who multi-tasked saw significant IQ drops. Our brains cannot store a lot of information at a time and it is only performing tasks one after the other, at a faster

speed. While you may think that you are making coffee and talking on the phone simultaneously, you don't realise that the coffee could have been made faster, had you just focused on that, instead of being on the phone also!

**Tushi:** I get your point, Toby. Next time when you come, I will make you a nice steaming cup of 'concentrated' coffee. Hahaha!

**Toby:** Yes, sure. That reminds me, multi-tasking also decreases concentration levels because you are

way too stressed about completing all the jobs at hand. Studies show that while multitasking, the production of stress hormone 'cortisol' increases and leaves us feeling mentally drained and exhausted. While your brain tries to figure out the best way to do everything together, half of the time is wasted in stressing about their completion, which could have been saved had you focused on only one thing at a time.

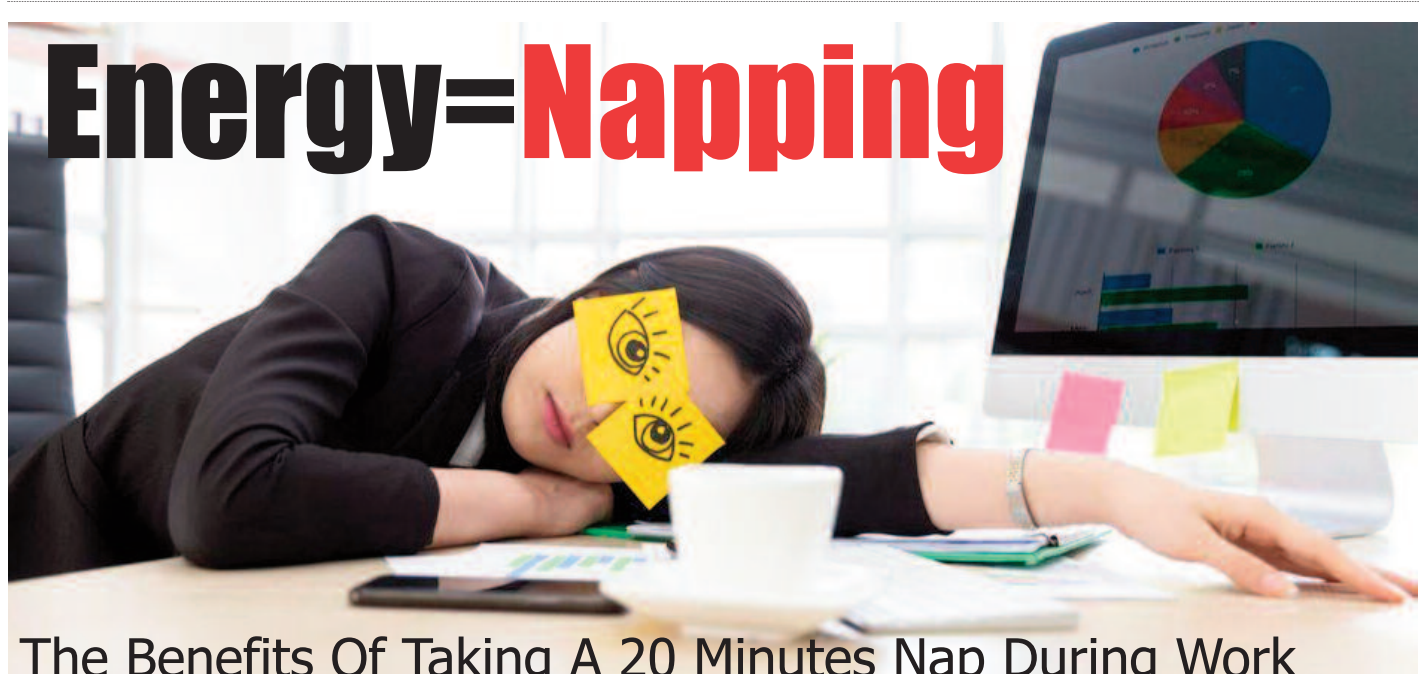
**Tushi:** True. During my exams, I always take up two chapters to study simultaneously and end up getting stressed about not being to complete even one and eventually staring at the wall! Time to change the habit.

**Toby:** You should! These tasks that you do together, are not actually tasks, they are just distractions from your original task and keep you from focusing on it. Such distraction also does not allow your brain to think creatively and apply it to the said task, thus killing any chances of breakthrough ideas which could have crossed your mind, had you only focused on one job at a time.

**Tushi:** Yes, I never am able to apply creativity in my work while I'm doing it simultaneously with some other task. I hope I'm not becoming more stupid!

**Toby:** Not stupid, but your brain's ability to make decisions is actually getting decreased. While you multitask, your brain's will muscle gets weaker and decision-making becomes tough, as the brain is unable to prioritise one task as more important than the other. It becomes difficult for the brain to organise thoughts and pick out relevant information. Moreover, it reduces the quality of the work and efficiency.

**Tushi:** Oh Toby, you're so smart! I could never have thought of all these things without your help! Thanks for all the knowledge. Anyhow, I will now go and focus on finishing my assignment before I do anything else. Bye! 🙌



## Energy=Napping

### The Benefits Of Taking A 20 Minutes Nap During Work

Armaan Soni, AGS Gurugram, XI

Pragati, a corporate executive, was obligated to stay awake till after 4 in the morning to complete the presentation she was supposed to submit the very next day. As a result, she was sleep deprived. Like Pragati, there are employees all over the world who suffer lack of sleep and rest intervals. It has been estimated that more than 90% of employees witness drowsiness in accordance to a study, want to know how?

#### Prevailing losses

Lack of sleep results in inefficiency and a downfall in productivity. The profit of large companies also takes a hit, a vigorous cut of 63.2 billion dollars seen in US alone. The reason being that the human brain's capacity to absorb information is greatly impacted due to lack of proper sleep. This largely diminishes our mental capability.

#### Biological impact

Inadequate sleep has damaging repercussions. The very lifestyle poses a threat to our health. There is a risk of heart disease, dementia, diabetes, longing stress and other serious issues. From a logistic and scientific prospect, brains that haven't been supplied with adequate rest can inherit a self-destructive mode. On a cellular note, brain cells become overactive when organisms don't sleep and end up 'eating' other parts of the brain as a source of energy supply. Napping at work may prevent this and further boost efficiency.

#### Innovative Nap-Pods

All in all our jobs and the amount of progress we make in a day largely depends on sleep. Therefore, to prevent sleep deprivation companies have started the implementation of mandatory sleep sessions for employees. Companies such as Google have further advanced by investing in specially designed

'nap-pods' that chronologically provide a deep-sleep interface by blocking out the lights, playing calming music at an appropriate volume and then gently waking the 'nappers' who are now invigorated and enthusiastic to get their work done.

#### The global solution

NASA, Samsung and other successful corporations too have joined the movement to promote the manufacturing of sleep pods on their properties for employees to nap in. The prevailing idea for employees to take about 20-minute naps to boost productivity has been proliferating all over the world at a successive rate, giving all hard workers in the world quite literally, a breather. In this way the upcoming generations of office workers will have a whole new tool to keep up their mental health as their talents incessantly lead the entire global civilisation towards a lustrous future. 🙌

## Curiosity Corner

Because Learning Is Essential

Saanvi Kumar  
AIS Gurugram 43, III C

**Q. Why do balloons rise into the sky?**

**A.** Some balloons are filled with a gas called Helium. It makes balloons lighter in weight than the air around them, hence, causing them to float upwards in the air.

**Q. Why does an X-ray photograph show only bones?**

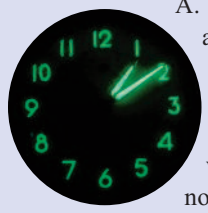
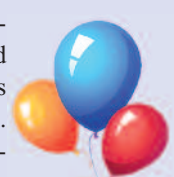
**A.** When X-rayed, invisible X-rays pass through us. Bones absorb most of the rays that hit them but they pass straight through other parts of the body. The rays that go through the body, land on photographic film and make it dark. The bones appear white on the film because they stop the rays from getting to the film.

**Q. How do thermometers tell us what the temperature is?**

**A.** Many thermometers have liquid inside the tube and a temperature scale on the tube. The liquid may be mercury or alcohol. This liquid has the property of rising when heated and dropping when cooled. This rise and fall in liquid's level in the tube gives the temperature reading.

**Q. Why do some clock's faces glow in the dark?**

**A.** The hands and numbers of some clocks are painted with a luminous paint containing two chemicals, namely, zinc sulfide and radium. making it easy for one to note time even in dark.







Scottish inventor, Alexander Graham Bell was the first to invent telephone and eventually the photophone – a device that transmits human voice through light.

# Song with the wind

Melodious Songs That Still Sway The Heart Of Millions



**Priyansh Mohan & Abhiniti Gupta**  
AIS Saket, Alumnus

Music - the magical beats that transcends you to another world, but the art form in itself has had a raging history. Somewhere in between hymns and K-pop, it has become the one that fuels our life. So, let's trace the history of some of these genre-defining songs who have made a permanent home in our hearts (and charts).

**1960s: Hey Jude by The Beatles**

With certified sales of over 183 million units in America and estimated sales of 600 million worldwide, The Beatles is not just the most influential band of that decade, but of all times.

Their song 'Hey Jude', with its hints of nostalgia, sadness and psychedelia, was definitely one of their greatest hits. The ballad was originally written by Paul McCartney to comfort John Lennon's son after the divorce of his parents, and enjoyed the status of being #1 on the Billboard charts for nine whole weeks in USA. With Lennon's soulful vocals and McCartney's hard-hitting lyrics, the song offered something to everyone who ever lend it their ears.

**1970s: My Sharona by The Knack**

The catchy, throbbing and timeless song was allegedly written in the short span of 15 minutes by Doug Fieger with the help of Berton Averre. The song had reached top position on the Billboard Hot100 singles chart for

six straight weeks. It was also certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America, and was declared the fastest gold status debut single by Capitol Records.

**1980s: Every Breath You Take by The Police**

Written by Sting, the song was the biggest hit in USA and UK of 1983, and went on to top Billboard US chart for eight weeks, UK chart for four weeks, and Billboard Top Tracks chart for nine weeks. From winning two Grammys to generating between a quarter and a third of Sting's music publishing income; from being voted 'Song of the Year' by Rolling Stone to being recog-

nized as the most played song in radio history by Broadcast Music Inc., the song has touched heights never seen before.

**1990s: (Everything I Do) I Do It For You by Bryan Adams**

The song was featured on two albums on its release: the studio album of the singer titled 'Waking Up the Neighbours', and the soundtrack album of the film 'Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves'. An enormous chart success, the song sold 15 million copies worldwide, and was #1 in at least 16 countries amongst UK, where it spent 16 consecutive weeks at the top spot. It is an epic ballad which perfectly captures what it means to be in

love and infatuated with the person of your dreams.

**2000s: Lose Yourself by Eminem**

Released as the soundtrack of the movie '8 Mile', the song was written by Eminem, and summed up the life of the protagonist, B-Rabbit. The song broke various ceiling for the hip hop genre and remained #1 on Billboard charts for 12 consecutive weeks. It reached atop of charts in 19 countries, won

the Academy Award for Best Original Song, making it the first hip hop song to ever receive the trophy, winning the Grammy for Best Rap Song and Best Rap Solo Performance. It is one of the only 3 hip hop songs to be included in Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Song of All Time, and has been downloaded more than ten million times in US alone.

So, which of these timeless classic still graces your playlist?

# A letter from me to me

Living Now Is What Matters, Trust Me, I Have Seen It All!

**Yusra Raihan, AGS Gurugram, X**

Dear 14-year-old me,  
I won't take long but all I want to say to you is – Stop! Just stop! Stop whatever you are doing right now. I don't care if it's the unit test that's keeping you busy or the future planner you have been desperately working on. Stop it all right now, and just go outside for a stroll. Go and explore the world around you. Look at a flower, admire it, inhale its enticing fragrance or just praise it for its beauty. Oh wait, did you see the sunset yesterday? Did you have the time to see how beautiful it was?

Who have you been hiding from all this while? The world or your own self? No, you cannot lie to me. For God's sake, it wasn't just the pillow, I have heard your suppressed tears and muffled cries too. A tornado of emotions

whirls inside your mind all day long. You are angry, I know that too, for the numerous times you have been silenced. But trust me, you will regret ignoring the beguiling beauty of nature. It deserves to be discovered by you. Almost 10 years have passed by today and the world has advanced at a supersonic speed. Thanks to the rapid progress Willi Wonka's fanciful chocolate inventions are no longer a part of a fictional tale but a reality in 2030. But unfortunately, the natural beauty of nature has been now replaced by a virtual one. Robots have replaced human workforce, whether its trimming hair at the salon or serving in restaurants. Mobile phones are rarely used. All you now do is, think about calling someone and boom you are connected! Feels like a Black Mirror episode, right? Same thoughts! Life has merely become a race. But let's just not get into that right now. I am sure you are dying to know about yourself more than anything else. Well, you're a full-fledged adult now, can you believe it? At 14, you wanted the years to fly by quick. Now, I just wish they would slow down. It's not all bad though. You have a career you love in neurology and yes, you

write poetry too, just not professionally. But who knows, maybe you'll get there!  
I know things are not working for you right now but they are not bound to work how you want them to; all the puzzle pieces will not fit in correctly. But eventually, you will get used to this unpredictability. It will be frustrating, boring, and crazy too, but it would be worth it for sure. The battle for you is just beginning. It's going to be tough but not impossible. Just don't be hard on yourself. Also, do not fret about every little thing. That biology homework will be done, and you will get into your dream college too. You will lose your way at times, but you will eventually find yourself again and that is what truly, truly matters.  
So, trust me and just start living.  
Yours sincerely,  
The future you





Erwin Chargaff, an Austro-American biochemist, discovered 'two rules' that paved way to the discovery of DNA's double helix structure.



Science Genius

## Ganesha's lessons

Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

Amidst the echoes of conch and cymbals we all welcomed Ganesha in our homes on Ganesha Chaturthi. He is a favourite of children who fondly call him as 'my friend Ganesha'. The world calls him as *Vighnaharta*, or the one

who removes obstacles. His life and being inspires us to imbibe virtues which can help us remove every obstacle in life. Today, I shall share those virtues as Ganesha's five steps to remove obstacles and become successful in life. The first very step is to develop your ability to adapt and absorb. Accept life with all its colours, happiness, sorrows, victory and defeat to sail in the flow of time with peace. The second step is to listen more and talk less. When you listen with your mind and heart, you automatically open to learn, imbibe, inscribe and act. Speak less because you are a potential energy whose kinetic output should be more creative and constructive. The third step is to strive for knowledge and enhance your intellect. Only when you know and understand correctly why the birds can fly and fish can swim will you be able to decipher how to save a bird drowning in water and fish stuck on land. The fourth step is to do whatever you want with deep focus. Focus deeply on your aim to be an astronaut and you will automatically take the first three steps towards becoming one. The fifth step is to develop moral virtues in your being. Love every life, care for everyone, share your privileges, be honest and serve above the self. This is what will sculpt your life and being differently and will adorn your success, the reward or *modak* you will relish for lifetime with your friend Ganesha. [G T](#)

## Unlock the festivities

Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

Last week, when I received the annual invite on the WhatsApp group of women in my society, to celebrate Teej (worship of lord Shiva observed in some parts of India), there was an uncomfortable silence. The sudden realisation how I will celebrate alone got me thinking.

Looking at green plants and a *mehndi* shrub in my garden, I sighed as I assumed that Teej this time will be marred by lockdown, no decking up in lovely green dresses, no *mehndi*, no laughter with friends and loved ones. Lost in these thoughts, a WhatsApp message literally sprung me to joy. The celebration was now going online on Zoom. So, we all stayed at home, socially distancing ourselves yet socialising with one another, participating in all rituals. We celebrated the spirit of Teej, the essence of green, with same innate vigour and happiness as we did every year. Only we went greener this time, because none of us went out, so no vehicular pollution. We didn't end up splurging in new clothes, but took out our long forgotten treasures and reused. It also meant fewer crowds, less show off and more meaningful time with austerity and minimalism. So, in true spirit of Teej, we contributed our bit in helping our nature breathe and heal a bit more. I agree that offline celebrations have their own celebratory essence but in the last few years, most of our festivals have become materialistic and are losing their traditional sheen. 2020 has given us the opportunity to revive our festive traditions; with virtual celebrations we have the ability to celebrate with joy, for the spirit remains unlocked. [G T](#)

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# Prejudice: a sin?

## How Much Should We Really Trust Our Instinct And Judgement?

Navya Bhasin

AIS Vasundhara 1, IX A

On May 25, 2020, a black man, George Floyd, made to the headlines as he became a victim of racial prejudice. Pondering over such tragedies has made me realise that the harsh truth of today's world is that our gender, religion, race or orientation can influence whether we get a job, fair salaries, and a good place to live, at times. There is no denying of the fact that all of us have been judged and perhaps have even participated in providing our inessential share of it. Being a preacher of racial equality myself, I have undoubtedly misconceived many people due to my unnecessary preconceptions based on prejudiced ideals.

But what exactly is it that urges people to start forming preconceptions that have chances of being inaccurate? Prejudice isn't just a feeling or an emotion but rather an attitude which emanates due to numerous reasons. Humans aren't born with a prejudiced mind but definitely develop it at a very young age. They might have their prejudices transferred from their friends or family, they might even develop them to conform to certain social norms, but the factor that influences the inception of a prejudice the most is a person's experience. At some point in their life, they might encounter someone from a particular social group doing some-



thing provocative to them or against them. Empirical thoughts from that occurrence would always influence the person's mind and they would constantly look for instances to confirm their preconceptions and if they do, these prejudiced thoughts would become somewhat perpetual, impelling their minds to even unconsciously form prejudgments.

The vexing inevitability of prejudice makes me question if it can ever be moral. William Hazlitt in one of his essays distinctly wrote, "Without the aid of prejudice and custom, I should not be able to find my way across the

room; nor know how to conduct myself in any circumstance, nor what to feel in any relation of life", which brings me to the realisation that prejudice isn't some kind of unavailing deformity of our mind; it is natural and instinctual. No matter how much we try to not form prejudgments, we always fall prone to the compulsion of our instincts and experiences to generalise people.

But even when our mind sometimes wants to act violently towards someone and has already judged them negatively, why do we sometimes end up acting mostly altruistic and noble in a

public setting? It is because of our conscience which restrains us and appeals to us that we are, after all, a part of this reassuring horde with distinct appearances, religions, genders and most importantly, beliefs. Which is why it is important for all human beings to prejudice their prejudices and contemplate the very thought before acting on it. We shouldn't let our inimical thoughts vitiate a personality or worse, a life. [G T](#)

For more thought-provoking reads, check out Navya's blog at [betheparalinguistic.wordpress.com](http://betheparalinguistic.wordpress.com)

## Striving towards smartness

...Continued from page 1

### SOCIAL REVOLUTION

*A smart transition...*

"A survey by Pew Research Centre found that 70% people thought mobile phones helped them be abreast of current events"

Any good movement rests on the shoulders of mass mobilisation and so many social issues at the forefront, ranging from feminism to climate change, are made accessible to us through our precious screens. With mobile devices inviting more and more political participation, it has also transformed itself into a voting gadget for the least developed countries in Africa and Asia. Due to the reduced cost and increased availability of mobile phones in these regions, technology has certainly extended its hands in shrinking disparity and changing the face of social landscape, allowing access to the



public sphere, along with the inclusion of varied perspectives.

*Not so smart either...*

"An 11-country median of 72% say smartphone technology has made it easier for people to manipulate information and disseminate rumours"

Where some use smartphones as a tool to propagate positive change in the society, some turned it into a lethal weapon to be used on others. WeChat, a Chinese social messaging app, turned out to be such an example where it was alternatively used to simply keep a lookout for any apolitical content circulation. If found, these conversations were used to backfire at the user, who was then put under scrutiny or even behind the bars. With India, too, having its own share of lynching cases caused by the misuse of information spread through messaging apps, the smartphones we hold in our hands also hold the potential to morph into a dagger.

Smartphones - a double-edged sword that we carry with us, just reduced to the size of our palms; whether it be any aspect of life, it is our discretion that makes it a smart impact or well, the other way around! [G T](#)

## I travelled to a forest

Ayushi Jain, AIS Gurugram 43, XI

I travelled to a forest  
A place of life and faith  
A place where nothing  
Was ever to be touched by hate

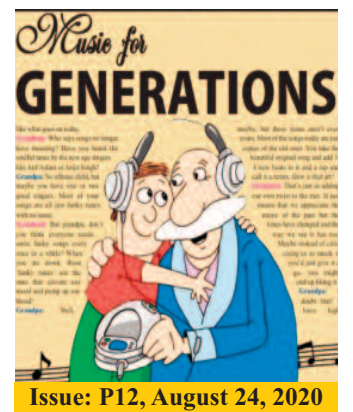
I travelled to a forest  
Which was full of honesty  
One where all the chirping  
Birds could freely flee

I travelled to a forest

The pathway of which had spikes  
But the peace it gave me  
Made me appreciate its likes

I travelled to a forest  
Through rivers and maze  
And coming upon the water  
Could see the skies in my gaze

I travelled to a forest  
A forest of life and faith  
A place that gave me joy  
And seemed like a soulmate. [G T](#)



Issue: P12, August 24, 2020

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'Music for generations' on page 12, published in the August 24, 2020 edition. While music is a universal language, change is inevitable. Hence, there are distinct jumps in the sounds of each era. The article covered this perfectly by comparing both the legacy and talent of the previous eras with the music of the current generation. While there are timeless artists such as Asha Bhosle and RD Burman defining an era with their vocal range and composition, we also have award winning compositions of AR Rahman with songs mixed with 'funky tunes'. The article really brought forth the idea that music is evergreen and that the older music has its own beauty and the current music has a wider range and tunes. Both eras need a fair chance and an unbiased listen to actually capture the beauty in them. [G T](#)

Adya Srivastava  
AIS Vasundhara 6, XI D





French-Polish physicist, Marie Curie co discovered the chemical elements radium and polonium and is the first person ever to win the Nobel Prize twice.

# Paint the town red

## Red Fort: The Story Of The Walls That Define Purani Dilli

Shrijan, AIS Mayur Vihar, X C &  
Radhika Yadav, AIS Gurugram 46, X C

*The tale is as old as time  
The name is old enough to shine  
My four walls stood on the line  
And wrote the history that is mine!*

And today, I will narrate the same history to you, the history of the bricked walls of Qila-i-Mubarak, or Qila-i-Shahjahanabad, or Qila-i-Mualla, or Lal Qila, or whatever else you might know me as. You might only remember me once a year, on Independence Day when our PM hoists our national flag and addresses you all from my Lahori Gate, but the chapters of my book have deep roots in India's history, dripping in every shade of crimson.

**1638** ▶ As the sun shone bright on May 12, Mirza Shahab-ud-din Baig Muhammad Khan Khurram decided to pack the bags of his entire reign and shift his capital from Agra to Shahjahanabad. For me, he was my emperor, but you might know him by his regnal name, Shah Jahan, and with his decision, we arrived at the place that would be my forever home: Old Delhi.

**1648** ▶ After 10 years of construction, I was finally shining in red bricks and white limestones, my emperor's favourite colours, and so my journey started. Being the setting of all the important events taking place under his rule, I truly became 'the life of the party' and was thought to be the zenith of Mughal creativity.

**1658** ▶ The craze of sitting on my throne has driven many, the first of them being Aurangzeb, Shah Jahan's sixth child. Imprisoning his own father and murdering his brothers, he finally gained the title of my emperor and during his reign, the Mughal empire reached its greatest extent, having more than 158 million subjects and an annual revenue of 450 million USD. He also added the Pearl Mosque to the emperor's private quarters and constructed barbicans in front of the two main gates that make the entrance of my palace more circuitous. I didn't then know these would be the last good days I would ever see!

**1707** ▶ I saw the death of Aurangzeb, who by then had moved his throne to Ahmednagar and left me all alone here in Delhi. When his son, Azam Shah, ascended the throne, he did so in Ahmednagar, and even when Bahudur Shah I, Azam Shah's half-brother, defeated him in the battle of Jajau and took over the command for the



India is a land abounding with wonderful UNESCO heritage sites to feast one's eyes on. Some of them being natural wonders to some being exquisite architectural marvels to many being reflection of magnificent history and some even a sanctuary for biodiversity to flourish. Here's presenting Part III of the Heritage Series, giving an insight into Red Fort, which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007.



kingdom, he did not come home to me.

**1712** ▶ It was almost after 30 years that the drought in me was calmed when Jahandar Shah, Bahudur Shah I's son, won the throne after his father's death and chose me as his home.

**1713** ▶ Within a year of his rule on me, Jahandar Shah was murdered and replaced on the throne by Farrukhsiyar. He, granting East India Company duty-free trading rights for Bengal, strengthened their posts on the east coast, but was not aware of the danger that was yet to befall the entire kingdom. To raise money for the kingdom, the silver ceiling of my beloved Rang Mahal was replaced by copper. My heart cried a million tears and yet no one heard them.

**1719** ▶ After seeing another two unsuccessful emperors on my throne, Rafi ud-Darajat and Shah Jahan II, I met Muhammad Shah, also known to people as 'Muhammad Shah Rangila' because of the interest he took in art and culture. A ray of hope burst in me, thinking that maybe he would win me my former glory.

**1739** ▶ But all my dreams went up in the clouds as Nader Shah, a Persian emperor, invaded the Mughal empire, eventually attacking Delhi and me. In just 3 months' rule, he plundered me and took all my fancy possessions from the royal treasury, the most important one being the Peacock Throne, the famous jeweled throne that was the seat of the Mughal emperors of India.

**1752** ▶ The Mughal empire was weaker than ever, and I worried for the possible threats I might face. This tension was paused when a treaty was signed between the empire and the Marathas, stating that the latter would have to protect me and my throne.

**1760** ▶ The Marathas were fighting against the armies of Ahmed Shah Durrani because of their conquest of Lahore and Peshawar, but they lacked funds. In order to raise money, they melted the silver ceiling of my Diwan-i-Khas. Another jewel from my crown was thus taken away!

**1803** ▶ I was again in the midst of all destruction as the Second Anglo-Maratha war took place over my throne. The British now defeated the Maratha forces and finally gained administration power over all Mughal territories, appointing Akbar Shah II as a titular figurehead under its direct protection.

**1857** ▶ In order to save me from British Raj, one last attempt was made in the form of the Indian Rebellion, which unfortunately, was highly unsuccessful. Bahudur Shah II, the next titular figurehead of British rule, betrayed the English and became a symbol of this rebellion.

**1858** ▶ The rebellion failed and with it, my demise came near. Bahadur Shah II tried to flee but was captured and imprisoned by the British. With no one there to protect me, I was looted of all of my valuables. All my furniture was demolished, the harem apartments, servants' quarters, gardens were destroyed and overall, two-third of me was ruined. Brick by brick, I was stripped of all my glory and all my looted jewels were later sold to museums in Britain.

**1911** ▶ British King and Queen decided to visit me, and to save face, some of my buildings were restored. My white stones were breaking away, so they decided to paint all my bricks red, but my broken heart remained irremediable.

**1945** ▶ My own people were punished on my land and I could do nothing to help them as the British used me to conduct Indian National Army trials by court-martial for charges like treason, torture and murder during World War II.

**1947** ▶ "At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom." And with these words, I finally found my freedom too. On 15 August, the first PM of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, raised the Indian national flag from my Lahori Gate, starting a tradition to be followed till the end of time.

**2003** ▶ I was old and chipping away, so my keys were now handed over to Archaeological Survey of India so that they could shine my bricks and restore me to my former glory.

## Major Structures

### The Different Parts That Make Up The Fort



#### Lahori Gate

Main gate of the Red Fort; named so because of its orientation towards the city of Lahore.

#### Delhi Gate

Southern side public entrance; similar to Lahori Gate in appearance.



#### Chhatta Chowk

Where people sold jewelry, and other goods for the imperial household; stands adjacent to Lahori Gate.

#### Naubat Khana

Drum house where musicians played music five times a day; also known as Naqqar Khana.

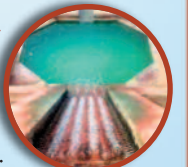


#### Diwan-i-aam

A hall where the king received general public for interactions, also known as Hall of Audience.

#### Nahr-i-Bihisht

The canal running through the centre of the pavilions on the eastern edge of the court; also known as Stream of Paradise.



#### Rang Mahal

Housed the emperor's wives and mistresses; was decorated with a mosaic of mirrors to make it a 'Palace of Colours'.

#### Mumtaz Mahal

Constructed with white marble, with floral designs painted on it; houses the Red Fort Archaeological Museum.



#### Diwan-i-Khas

Where the king received courtiers and state guests; was home to the jeweled Peacock Throne.

#### Moti Masjid

A white marble mosque built by Aurangzeb for his second wife Nawab Bai.





Alexander Fleming, a Scottish physician, discovered the world's first broadly effective antibiotic substance benzylpenicillin in 1928.



Science Genius

# Unre-lie-able

## Storywala



Charvi Mendiratta  
AIS PV, XII

As my hands fell over a pen, my fingers seemed attracted to the writing instrument as if they possessed a magnetic property of their own. "To, whoever finds this, I..." My inner monologue while I wrote was interrupted by a loud thud from the demonic shard that stood on the dresser. The mirror. That damned mirror. Many say that a mirror is one's truest judge, but what happens when that mirror distorts itself into something ugly? When your own mirror shows you your

death? How your own skin sticks to your skeleton, as life leaves your body, lying on those railway tracks I knew all too well, bloodied and battered, an unsettling grimace gracing my face. Those railway tracks used to be my fortress of solitude, but now my skin crawled at the thought of going there.

Every time my eyes flickered over and gave it a glance, the scene turned more and more gory and horrifying. Behind those bloodied tracks I saw a silhouette of a man, grinning menacingly. I didn't think it was possible for a shadow to beckon me with its fingers, the

scene in front of me so horrible, that my breaths turned to gasps. I turned around as I heard a chuckle from behind me. A known man's frame matching the silhouette, with broad shoulders and legs stood near my bed. It felt as if the familiar menacingly crimson coloured eyes of the man were staring deep into my soul.

He spoke, sarcasm dripping from his deep voice, a voice I knew from before, "Glory for the martyrs that come hither. What has your hallowed altruism gotten you till now, huh?" I looked at the mirror and pointed towards it, but barely got

A known man's frame matching the silhouette, with broad shoulders and legs, stood near my bed.

a stutter out from my lips, "I-I-s-t-this what I'll end up as? I-is t-this true?"

He smiled. I hadn't ever seen him smile like that, so twisted and crooked. Why I felt so drawn to something as shrewd as that smile, I'll never know. "Only if you keep believing in all those fairy tale endings, you will." "I may not be at one of the highest points in my life, but I'm not willing to give up on my kindness. Talking of giving up, it's about time you gave up that horrendous corrupting charade, Amicus."

I glanced at the shard in front of me, and I saw an entirely different picture this time, one of me bathing in riches. For the first time in years, I looked happy. I looked like I was enjoying life, rather than being trampled by it. The orange bottle rattled, as I shakily placed my hand upon it, taking out its contents and studying them. It was then that he looked deep into my eyes with a hypnotic stare and began to mouth something. I hastily ingested the contents of my labelled bottle, afraid of being torn apart by all of this. Soon enough, Amicus disappeared. 🇧🇮



## Customised denim

Vidhi Khurana, AIS Saket, XI E

### Material required

- Old jeans (1)
- Paint brush (1)
- White Artists tape
- Acrylic paints
- Black thread
- Sewing needle (1)
- Pencil (1)
- Water

### Method

- Wash and dry your jeans to get any dust off it. This will make sure the paint stays.
- Choose the areas on your jeans that you want to paint, and tape around it.
- Now, paint the patches with 1-2 layers of white acrylic paint. Make sure the colour of the denim is not visible.
- This white colour will act as a barrier and not let the other colours blend into the denim.
- As the white patches dry, draw patterns on it using a pencil.
- Now, fill in the patterns with different acrylic colours of your choosing and let it dry.
- Once it is dry, sew over the pencil marks with a sewing needle and black thread to outline/highlight the pattern.
- Remove the tape once done and that's it! Your customised denim is ready!.
- Style it with your favourite T-shirt.

## WORDS VERSE

### What is my story?

Saniya Sethi  
AIS Saket, XII

I see tragic romantic films  
With stupid happy stills  
And then I realize slowly  
I don't have a story

Happy books with unhappy ends  
Why doesn't my life twist and bend?  
What a simple boring life I live  
About nothing I can crib

"What is my story?" I ask  
Happiness is just a mask  
I am no legend with a tale  
But neither am I a huge fail

What will I say to the crowd?  
To people with big frowns?



How will I hear the claps?  
When there exist no haps

What about failing a math test?  
Or fights with friends at best?  
That's not something to cry for  
It is a part of life for sure

I hear people recite their story  
They have a reason for glory  
And I sob and smile and hope  
"Can this happen to a life like mine?" 🇧🇮

## Windows to the soul



Mahima Punni, a student currently pursuing MBA at Amity University Noida, sketched a beautiful piece on the topic 'Eyes are the windows to the soul'. Eyes convey the emotions, feelings and even the personality of an individual. This painting thus, reflects how oculesics play an extremely vital role in non-verbal communication and that even the slightest of the movement can depict openness, interest and even discomfort.

## CAMERA CAPERS

Prisha Nigam, AIS Gurugram 43, IX C

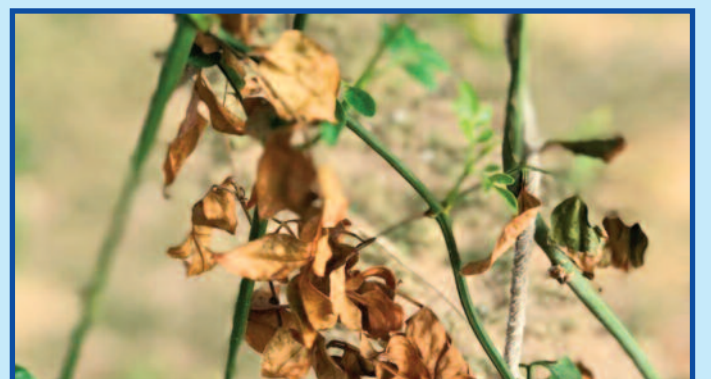
Send in your entries to  
cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in



Sweet fruits of summer

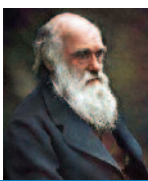


Flowers in full bloom



Intertwining of life and death

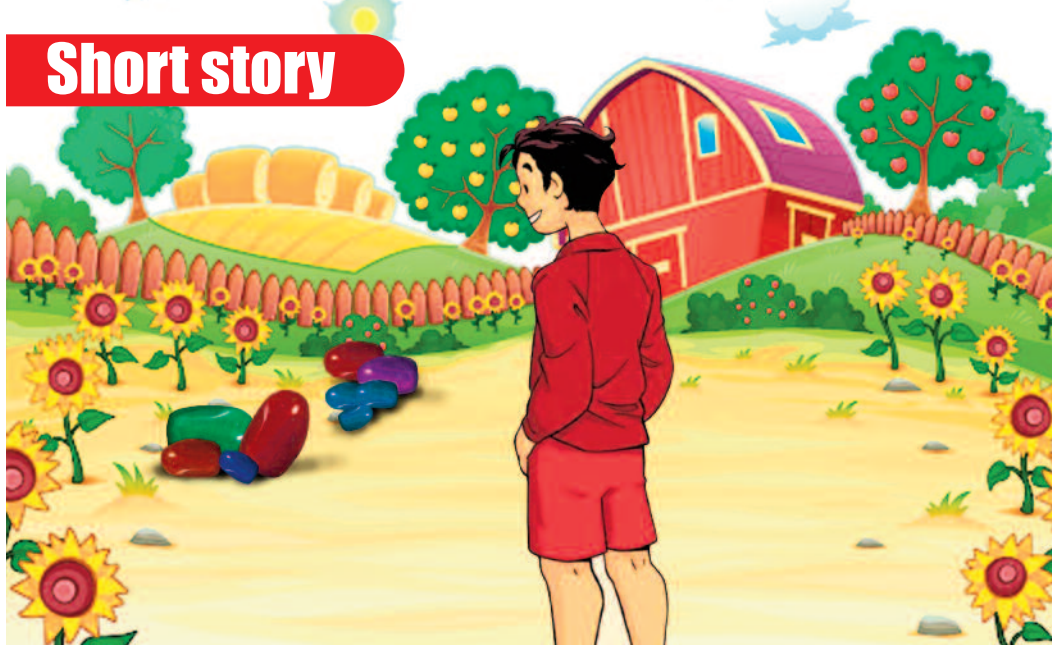




British naturalist, Charles Darwin is widely known for his theory of evolution by natural selection, elaborated in his 1859 book 'On the Origin of Species'.

# A vacation to remember

## Short story



**Aryan Sharma**  
AIS Gurugram 43, VII

It was a hot summer afternoon. Since the school had closed for a month-long vacation, Faiz was out the whole day playing cricket with his usual lot of friends. The young batsman in the opposite team struck the ball real hard that it soared up the sky. Faiz, who was positioned near the boundary, lifted his eyes as they squinted under the scorching sun. All he could see was a dot coming down from the sky and suddenly it dropped on his head. But it didn't hurt him.

As he looked down, it wasn't a ball, but a small crumpled piece of paper. Faiz looked up only to see all of friends disappeared, leaving only him in the huge ground. He then opened the piece of paper, which looked like a map and below it, something was written. He tried to decipher the first line that read "Go inside the bushes". The buildings in front of him seemed to be melting down and they converted into a dark bushy jungle. Faiz was scared but the map was intriguing, hence he ventured into the woods. It was all dark but the sight of colourful

fireflies amazed the little boy. It was as if someone had sprinkled a magic powder. Faiz took a step forward and slipped into a burrow in a snap. It was like a tunnel that had all the surrealistic things. This was a whole different world. Colourful stones lying around, the fragrance of jasmine wafting underneath Faiz's nostrils. He was bewildered. "Is this the real wonderland?" he thought in awe and amazement. Faiz then spotted stairs that led to the upper level. He wanted to explore and climbed the rungs. Upstairs, he noticed a huge chest which emitted a **luminescent**

Faiz took a step ahead and slipped into a burrow in a snap. It was like a tunnel that had all the surrealistic things.

glow. Faiz ran towards the box and stared inside it. He picked up what looked like a notebook. On the white pages were letters and numbers that seemed incomprehensible to Faiz. He tried to figure out the notes, but words like Pythagoras and Aryabhata evaporated into air. He rubbed his eyes and tried hard to unscramble the letters and digits, which later unjumbled itself into Algebraic equations. Suddenly he started hearing whispers which gradually started sounding clearer and familiar. Faiz could not take all this bafflement at once and fainted. "Faiz! Wake up, wake up. You can no more sleep till this late. Your holidays are over." "You haven't even completed your math homework, have you?". Faiz opened his eyes and saw his mother frowning at him. Whether it was a dream or a reality, he couldn't decide.

**So, what did you learn today?**  
A new word: **Luminescent**  
Meaning: **Emitting light not caused by heat**

# Butterscotch summers



**Prisha Jain, AIS Mayur Vihar, III B**

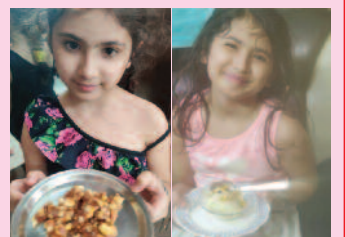
## Ingredients

- Amul fresh cream .....2 packet
- Milkmaid condensed milk .....1/2 cup
- Butter.....1 tbsp
- Jaggery powder .....tbsp
- Cashews.....5-6
- Saffron.....5-6 strands
- Vanilla essence .....1tbs

## Procedure

### For Praline

- Heat the pan on medium flame, put jaggery powder and let it melt.
- Once the jaggery powder melts, add butter and mix it thoroughly.
- Now, crush the cashew nuts and add them to the pan and mix again for 2 minutes or till the time mixture gains some viscosity.
- Once you get the desired thickness, pour the mixture on to a plate and let it settle for 10 minutes and cool it down.
- When the mixture become solid, crush it into small pieces and keep it aside in a small bowl.



### For Ice Cream

- Pour chilled fresh cream in a big bowl and blend it thoroughly for 10 minutes.
- Add milkmaid and vanilla essence and blend it once again for 5 minutes.
- Now, in a bowl, add 4 tbsp of water and add saffron strands to it. When the water turns a nice yellow colour, add it to the fresh cream mixture.
- Pour the mixture in an air tight container, sprinkle the pieces of crushed praline on the top and refrigerate for 4 -6 hours.
- Your chilled butterscotch icecream is here to beat the summers!

**Tip:** After 2 hours, take out the container and blend the semi cooled mixture once again before refrigerating it again. This makes the ice-cream super soft.

## POEMS

### My class

**Aadya Bhardwaj**  
AIS Vasundhara 6, V

It is a beautiful bouquet  
And we are the flowers  
Filled with love and care  
This lovely class of ours

Our class is a team  
And together we strive  
To put in our best efforts  
And become our school's pride

We have a cultural trove  
No talent will go waste  
Music, dance, calligraphy  
Everywhere we are the best

The girls and boys



Are smart as a tack  
In every possible way  
We try to widen our grasp

We have a lot of scope  
To add on what we lack  
Once we touch that level  
We'll never look back

The flying flag of AIS Vas 6  
Will always fly high  
Believe me, my friends  
Our limit is only the sky!

### Hands that wiped tears

**Rhythm Garg, AIS Gur 46, VIII**

Rich men went along the street  
Ignoring the man asking for a treat  
One of them stopped on his way  
And called the poor man, "Hey!"

As the rich man walked near  
The poor man shivered in fear  
The rich man asked his name  
The poor man said it was James

The rich one asked about his job  
The poor could only sob and sob  
The rich man easily understood  
And decided to help the way he could

He took out some small packs  
Containing some delicious snacks



And that's how he wiped tears  
For poor man was now full of cheers

## Riddle fiddle

**Adya Jain**  
AIS Pushp Vihar, VII

- 1 Who has two hands but cannot hold anything?
- 2 What can you catch but never throw?
- 3 What is as light as a feather but no one can hold it for too long?
- 4 What always run but never walks?
- 5 What goes up and down but never moves an inch?
- 6 What is tall when young and short when old?

**Answers:** 1. A clock 2. Gold  
3. Breath 4. A tap 5. Staircase  
6. Candle

## Artistic Expression

On the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, Pradnya Arora, a student of Class I F, AIS Noida, made an eco-friendly Ganesha idol.



## It's Me

**My Favourites**  
Teacher: Juhi Vigg ma'am  
Subject: English  
Friend: Reyansh Gupta  
Game: LEGO Building Blocks  
Cartoon: Tayo The Little Bus  
Food: Methi aloo with parantha  
Mall: Select Citywalk, Saket  
Book: Pepper goes to the doctor

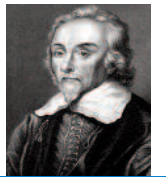
**Know me**  
My name: Aryan Singh  
My Class: KG A  
My school: AIS Saket  
Born on: September 6

**My dreams and goals**  
Hobby: Listening to music  
I like: To play with car toys  
I dislike: Feeling left out  
My role model: My Dadu  
I want to become: A doctor  
I want to feature in GT because:  
Everyone in Amity would get to know about me





William Harvey, an English Physician, was the first to describe in detail, the circulation of blood in the human body.



# The new normal

## When Time Makes You Learn How To Cope With Things

Illustration: Swadha Tripathi, AIS Noida, XII J



# Monday mornings

## When Will It Be All Normal?

Shyla Basu, AIS PV, XI

A routine set for years; waking up in the morning to cycle to his milk booth, waiting for the daily supply of dairy, and watching people stroll by the main road down his shop. His earliest customers on Monday mornings were usually the joggers; glistening with sweat as they picked up gallons of milk on their way back home. He liked them - they stayed an extra couple minutes to chat about whatever intriguing sight they saw on the jog. Soon after the joggers, grumpy school kids would fill the sidewalk, waiting for their school buses and some, almost always running to catch them - he did enjoy telling them that they'd missed it! After all, most of the chips and candies they took from him were with a promise to pay later, and never the money itself. With the sun fairly high up in the sky at this point, he is snapped out of the nostalgia as his eyes

shifted to the desolate road. The bleak scenario reminded him of all that had happened, all that has changed in the past four months, and how he doesn't know when this torment will be over. Oh, there are people on the road alright, which makes him selfishly happy. These are the people who keep his daily business running and alive. Deep inside, he knows this won't do. The (mostly) masked folk on the road surely prolong the spread of the villainous virus, but they also keep his family fed while they search in vain for jobs elsewhere. The moral dilemma should probably eat him up from the inside, but it doesn't. After all, is a man really a monster for wanting his loved ones to survive, even if it means risking everyone in the world? He doesn't really like talking to the morning joggers anymore. Their frivolous need to come outside angered him. Without their privileged and petulant insistence, all this would have been over sooner. And it's not like he can talk to them properly, anyway. Communicating is rather strenuous with the mask he has to wear constantly. Taking the mask off for an idle minute would invite a challan from policemen nearby. But when (or if) the school buses and the children do come back, he would be more than happy to talk to those joggers because that would mean everything was perfectly okay, everything was back to normal. But he can't fathom how far into the future would such a scenario become a reality. Yet he was hopeful. He believed in that tiny spark of hope, because that might be the only thing that can keep him going into an uncertain future.

Pranshu Sharma  
AIS Gurugram 43, XII D

The necessary Covid-19 lockdown has sneakily changed numerous if not all, definitions of normal during our mandated stay at home. The otherwise outgoing and social human society has now come to a grinding halt. This in turn has forced social interactions on all levels into adapting rapidly to the instantaneous decrease in direct human-to-human contact, stress-busting/recreational activities and general productivity routines while staying at home and working/studying in complete isolation.

Some of these changes in our routine includes eating fresh, nutritious homemade food which needs to be ingrained within our generally unhealthy lifestyle. Whereas, some changes such as increased inactivity, lack of exercise, laziness and boredom are extremely unhealthy to our long term goals and are borderline destructive. Such norms should not be allowed to continue and become permanent; hence it is necessary that they be curbed to prevent long term detrimental impacts. Staring at the screen for more than half a day has also alarmingly become a new normal which is an extremely serious and concerning issue and must be addressed before this harmful habit seeps slyly into our habit and ruins the vision of children, adults and the elderly alike. The lockdowns should be treated as semi-vacations by everybody



where people should unwind, relax and distance themselves from the chaos and noise of their usually fast paced lives while also working 9-5 at their jobs and being productive from the comfort and safety of their home. Indeed, the lockdown has given us a lot to learn, but it is essential that we be able to filter out the unsafe and unproductive habits

from becoming a permanent part of our lives.

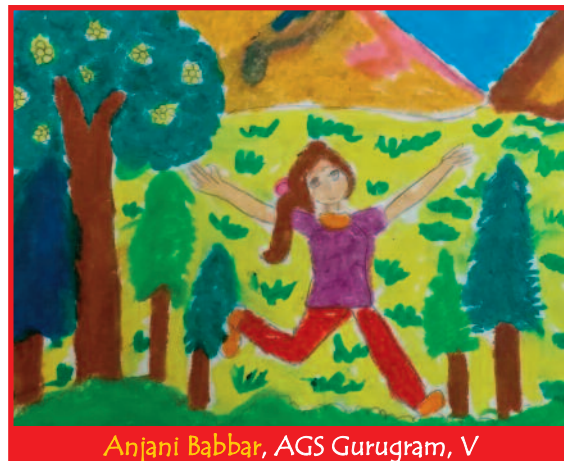
All in all, lockdown has seen its fair share of bittersweet new normal. We as an established society, should come forward and embrace its positive bits with a smile and open arms, while rejecting the harmful sidekicks along with the virus itself to collectively maintain some sanity in

this borderline insane scenario. Now, even if we don't come out of it with some improvement, we should at least make sure we don't mess ourselves in the process. Thus, it is my humble request to all the readers to make constant conscious efforts to stay safe, healthy and most importantly, happy during these troublesome times.

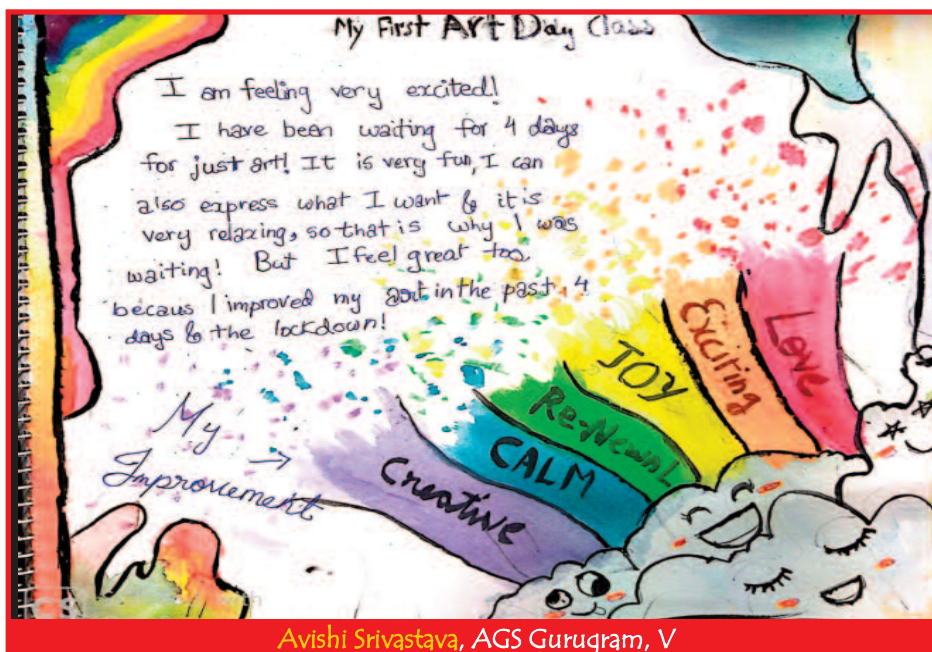
## Artistic Expression



Sakshi Verma, AIS Vasundhara 6, XII won first position in an interschool virtual poster making competition 'E-blast' on the topic 'Precautionary measures to avoid COVID 19 Risk'. The poster gives the message 'Prevention is better than cure'. Thus, promoting the use of masks, social distancing, Aarogya Setu App and sanitizers in the present times.



Anjani Babbar, AGS Gurugram, V



Avishi Srivastava, AGS Gurugram, V





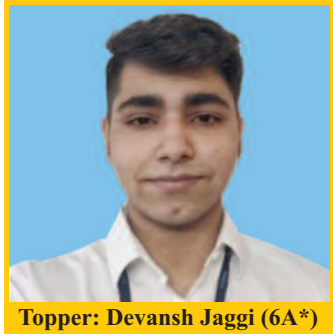
Dutch microscopist, Antonie van Leeuwenhoek, was the first to observe single-celled animals and plants, bacteria and protozoa.

# AGS- Gurugram shines at IGCSE

Young Global Citizens Gather The Stars



Topper: Armaan Soni (6A\*)



Topper: Devansh Jaggi (6A\*)



2nd: Ainesh Sridhar(5A\*, 1A)

## AGS Gurugram

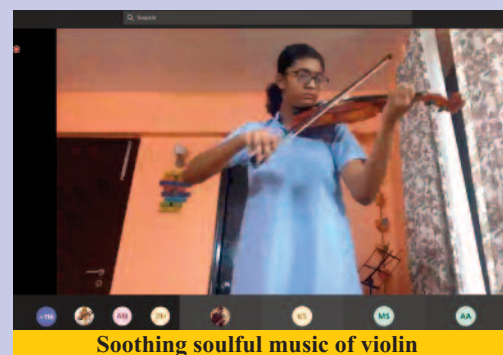
Amity Global School is a boulevard of learning envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF to nurture critically thinking, compassionate global citizens for whom 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam' is a way of life. The stellar 100% performance in IGCSE Exams 2019-20 by its 19 students stand testimony to the hard work, perseverance and will power of these young minds to become the knowledgeable and innovative



3rd: Jigisha Pawa (4A\*, 2A)

changemakers of tomorrow. This year 29.3% of all the grades scored by students were A\* and 53% of all the grades were A\* or A. Talking in numbers total 34 A\* grades and 27

A grades were bagged in different subjects by the students. In German language and EVM both, 100% students scored A\* and A grades. Armaan Soni and Devansh Jaggi both topped the examinations by scoring 6A\* grades, followed by Ainesh Sridhar who scored 5A\* & 1A grades. Jigisha Pawa bagged the third position by scoring 4 A\* & 2 A grades. With their star studded grades these young global citizens of India have truly proven their excellence in academics. They are now looking forward to fly high as their dreams are not limited to sky.



Soothing soulful music of violin



A guitarist strums the tunes of joy

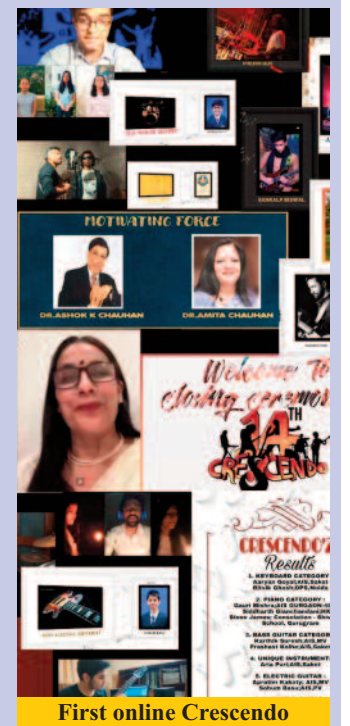
# Crescendo 2020

Young Musicians Script A Musical Saga

## AIS Mayur Vihar

Western music society of the school held 14th edition of Crescendo, the annual inter-school western music competition, online on August 11, 2020. The event saw 180 students from 31 eminent schools of Delhi/NCR take part in various categories. The virtual live event was graced by eminent dignitaries from various branches of Amity Group of Schools. The musical saga commenced with the soulful hymn and expression of gratitude to the Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, for nurturing creativity and musical passions in young minds. School

principal Meenu Kanwar delivered the welcome address followed by a video, showcasing memories of 14 years of the Crescendo. Next to follow was the enthralling, classic clash of musical titans in various categories namely solo singing, keyboard, piano, bass, unique instrument, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, acoustic drums, electric drums, original composition and best lyrics. Amities bagged total 13 awards in various categories. The event was judged by eminent jury members, namely Ashton Vaz, Ronald D' Silva, Aveleon Vaz along with school alumni Nishant Iyer, Sankalp Biswal and Maulshree Kumar. Overall, the notes at the first online crescendo were also high and zealous.



First online Crescendo

## Independence Day @ Amity

# Amity celebrates the spirit of freedom

Soulful Virtual Performances By Amitians Commemorate 74th Independence Day



A little Rani of Jhansi

I-II participated in clay modeling, interactive quiz titled 'Just a minute', recited slogans by great leaders of India and shared the values they learnt from them. The learners from Class III-V engaged in art & craft activities, quiz and discussions about famous personalities of India and even prepared tricolour delicacies. The middle school students from Class VI-VIII presented a dance, chanted slogan in an activity titled *Udghosh* and made posters highlighting key events of freedom struggle. They also presented short videos based on themes, Freedom - Our responsibility, Patriotism in present times, and Amity's Mission-India-A Super Power by 2030. The celebrations ended with an address by school principal Rachna Mishra on Aug 15, in which she encouraged students to strive for making India a knowledge superpower.



Young India dances to the tunes of patriotism to celebrate vivid cultural heritage of India

## AIS Mayur Vihar

Class VIII students organised an online assembly to celebrate Independence day on August 14, 2020. The students presented dance performances and a skit based on social taboos and corona warriors, followed by instrumental performances of patriotic songs on tabla and casio that mesmerised everyone. School principal Meenu Kanwar also addressed the students and encouraged them to strive for the nation's development. The assembly ended with a poem recitation and pledge being taken by students.

## AIS VKC Lucknow

Students from Class Nursery -VIII celebrated 74th Independence day as a weeklong virtual event from August 10-15. They participated enthusiastically in various activities based on themes like Independence, National symbols & Freedom fighters. Class Nursery and KG students participated in clay modeling, flag making, flower making, Fit India-Hit India, show & tell and fancy dress event in which they dressed up as freedom fighters and great leaders. Pupils of Class



A platter of patriotism

## AIS Vasundhara 6

Students of Class Nursery-V celebrated 74th Independence day virtually on Aug 14 & 15, with great joy and pride. Dressed in tricolours, they were shown an inspirational short film 'Aarsaa' to help them understand the value of education. They also attended online quizzes and interactive sessions based on the lives and times of great leaders and freedom fighters of the nation in their respective virtual classes. On August 15, the national flag was unfurled in a virtual ceremony commemorating the sovereignty of India. The event ended with an address by school principal Sunila Athley, inspiring students to strive for building a happy and developed India.



Students dressed in tricolours bring the colours of the national flag into their lives and homes



Gregor Mendel, an Austrian scientist, was the first person to lay the foundation of the science of genetics. *All top quotes contributed by Aarav Dadhwal, AIS VKC Lko, VIII A*



# Leaning tower of distress

## The Various Stages Of Becoming A Damsel (Perpetually) In Complete Distress

Anvi Mahajan, AIS Pushp Vihar, Alumna

“My solitude often envelopes me in a blanket of thoughts. More often than not, this blanket gets suffocating as I envision scenarios which do nothing but firm my belief that life is difficult and I’m inept at handling difficulties,” well this is what, all of us go through and how? Read on the stages to become a perpetual damsel in distress.

### STAGE 1: Calculating miseries

It is very easy for an exhausted mind to concentrate all its power into calculating how much work you have to do. And that is exactly what our minds do when we are alone. Three assignments of geography, the pending math homework of the last vacations, five Hindi chapters along with the regular studies you had sworn to do but never got the chance to. You’ll sum up everything and prepare an immaculate alphabetized to-do list, numbered according to priority of submission and written using five different inks. Everything is impeccable, except the checkboxes which actually never get ticked.

### STAGE 2: Quickly jumping to conclusions

You are familiar to this stage if you have ever found yourself in a fix. You would be surprised at your mind’s capability to hyperbolise situations. The ambiguity of your thoughts would compel you to believe that all your problems are



insolvable. You would easily believe that the little argument you had with your best friend, would turn into an inescapable and irremediable feud leading to your impending doom. The answer to all your “What could happen?” would be the end of the world, the collision of planets, the return of ice age and ultimately, meeting your disastrous fate. Not to mention, the worst case scenarios would seem to be the most probable outcomes.

### STAGE 3: The solution

This is when you will realise that no one’s going to die and the end of time is nowhere near. But it would bring along the compulsion to find remedies to all your problems. The very sight of your uncrossed checklist, the pile of incomplete notebooks, the message from your former best friend and the test you are yet to get signed by your parents might haunt you. But here you realise that it is humanly possible to find a solution. You would pensively contemplate until you conclude that the only way out is to take a ‘quick’ nap.

Escaping from reality into a world of your sweet dreams is how most of us define ‘solving our problems’ as. Then you won’t be afraid of the leaning tower of your problems falling upon you. Then you would finally become the ideal damsel in distress, who chooses to remain in distress.

## Paying Homage To My ‘Sleep’ Partner

# A eulogy

Sehaj Ghuman, AIS Noida, XII

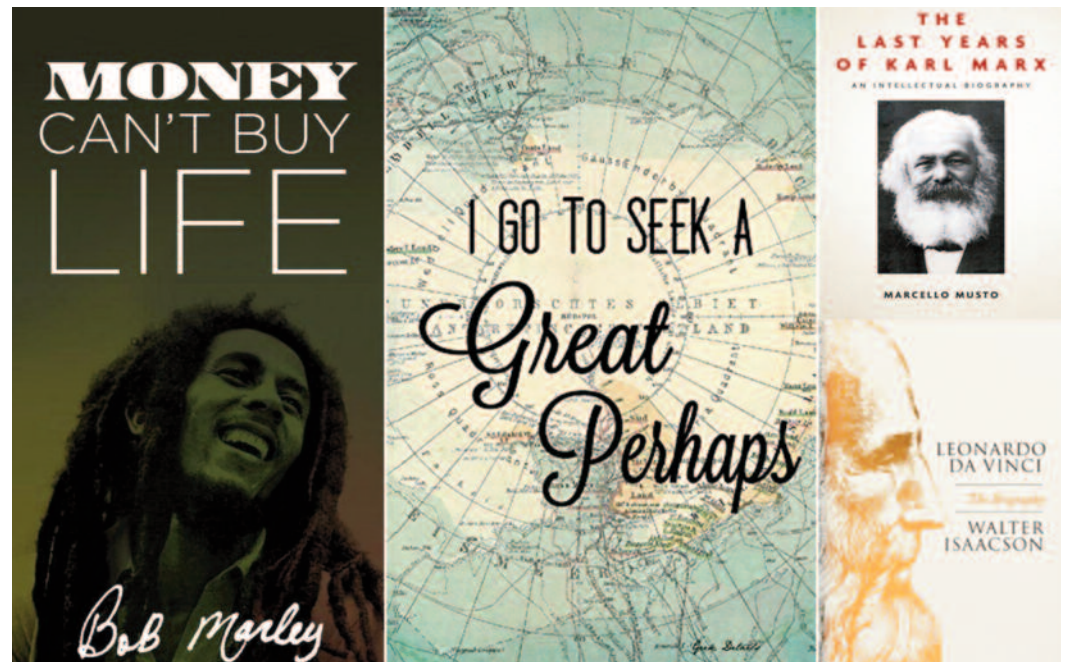
Dear all,  
I’ve gathered you all here today with a very heavy heart and tearful (yawn!) eyes, to bid adieu to the celebrated life of my friend, my mentor and my hero. He was taken away from me too soon. But instead of dwelling on this tragic loss, I’d like to go down the nostalgic road and reminisce. In the first twelve years of my life, he came to me every day without fail and always left me smiling. For a long time, my friend was an essential (and undoubtedly the best) part of not only my day, but also my life. When he came to see me, all my worries and problems would fade into oblivion. Sometimes

I’d promise myself to limit our time together, but time flew by in the blink of an eye (pun intended) in his company and I would end up spending far more time with him than I originally anticipated. Our meetings always left me feeling happy and invigorated, even after the most tiring day at school. Our relationship was so strong, that I tended to get extremely cranky if we didn’t get to see each other regularly. When I turned thirteen, I started letting silly things like Netflix and the complete run through of all eight Harry Potter movies on HBO get between us. Slowly, we met less and less. I still enjoyed my time with him, but I felt like I needed him less than before. The change was so gradual that I

hardly noticed, preoccupied and excited at the notion of growing up.

The fifteenth year of my life proved to be a turning point in our relationship. I was suddenly bombarded with work. Problems of math and concepts of science hogged most of my time. Our get-togethers became even rarer. Even though I missed him terribly, I could only spare enough time to see him once in a blue moon, and this made me appreciate him even more.

The passing of my friend, the Afternoon Nap is bittersweet. It is yet another milestone in my life and, I suppose, an inevitable part of growing up. His passing leaves me sadder, sleepier and wearier. He will always hold a special place in my heart and forever be irreplaceable. I hope you’re as good a friend to the other children as you were to me- and I hope they love you just as much while they still can.



## The final goodbye

### Some Last Words That Left Us Speechless

Swati Jha, AIS Gur 46, XII

“I go to seek a Great Perhaps.” you want to say.

— Francois Rabelais

Even the gruesome thought of a deathbed cannot stop a wise human from speaking words of enlightenment some brave hearts showered us with. The knowledge imparted in their last minutes as they did in the rest of their lives, shedding light on who they were and reminding us, once again, why they were loved and respected by millions.

Every ‘Looking for Alaska’ fan knows the author of this quote, Francois Rabelais, a French writer, physician and a scholar. His last words display for the world, his true disposition that of treating everything like an adventure. Now, isn’t that something which we should all do?

“I have offended God and mankind because my work did not reach the quality it should have.”

—Leonardo da Vinci

One of the greatest man to have ever lived, there was nothing Leonardo da Vinci did not excel in, whether it was painting, invention, literature, mathematics, music or any other majors. Yet, his last words reflected how he had many more things to gift to the society. It truly was our loss that we could not witness them.

“Last words are for fools who haven’t said enough.”

—Karl Marx

The man who shaped 20th century in ways even he could not have imagined, did not attach a lot of meaning to the glorious trend of last words. Having said all he wanted to say in the time period in which he was alive, Marx teaches us that there is no time like the present to say what

These last words truly tell us that these men, even in their last seconds, were just as life-changing as they were in their journey and quite undeniably, the world misses such great wisdom!

“Money can’t buy life.”

— Bob Marley

These words reflected his true personality. Having lived a life which promoted peace, love and unity for everyone, Marley’s words laid bare the real truth of the world. No wonder he still is the idol of millions of people.