

INSIDE



Cultivating a career, P3



Rags to riches, P7

AMITe poll

Do you think the inclusion of Rafale fighter jets in the IAF would boost India's overall defence preparedness?

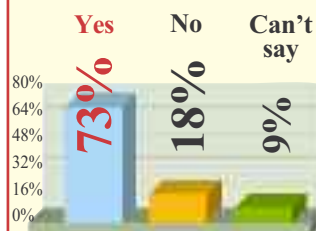
- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Can't say

To vote, log on to
 www.theglobaltimes.in

POLL RESULT

for GT issue July 27, 2020

With various potential COVID-19 vaccines in the trial stage, do you think we are closer to finally defeating Coronavirus?



Results as on July 31, 2020

Coming Next

Results Special

Millennial's rental retrofit

No More Burden Of Ownership When Renting Is The Easy Solution

Stuti Kakkar, AIS Saket, Alumna

In contrast to the legacy formed by the previous generations who worked to the bone to build a home or own a car, millennials have rather found a shortcut—supplanting ownership with renting. This new-world customer preference has penetrated the most perfunctory aspects of their lives, where they prefer renting everything, from big assets to everyday commodities. At a time when the entire generation is moving away from traditional yardsticks like marrying in their twenties, having children, or even a fixed retirement age, why wouldn't they move away from the custom of ownership?

Idhar chala mein, udhar chala

The working sector of this generation has become highly mobile; as freelancing, traveling jobs or being a nomad becomes a norm, they refuse to be stuck in one geographic location and renting presents itself to be the answer. Nearly 74% millennials lived on a rental property in 2016 and a JLL research estimates that the demand for rental housing in Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru and Mumbai will grow to 4.4 million by 2021. Even in the USA, the demand for apartment rentals in 2019 have spiked 11% from a year ago. Preferring flexibility, this generation wants to live near their workplace rather than fixing a home and commuting for long hours. And even if they wanted the sweet comfort of fixity, their pockets couldn't afford it as home ownership has become 4 times costlier than rentals. Fac-

ing around 40% higher housing prices than boomers, living on someone else's property is their only option.

Mera joota hai Japani, yeh patloon Englishtaani

In a world where fashion keeps changing and its population shops for #selfie, rental clothing industry has risen to popularity by offering vast choices for items like every day casual, designer labels, maternity wear, handbags and even shoes without the pocket-burning hole. Wanting to keep up with fashion without feeding mass consumption or not having space for a huge wardrobe in their nomad lifestyle, companies like Flyrobe, Rent the Runway, etc., come to rescue. The renting fashion industry's market size was estimated to be 1.12 billion USD in 2018 and its graph is only shooting upwards, providing an easy solution to the almost 50% return rates in the garments industry in

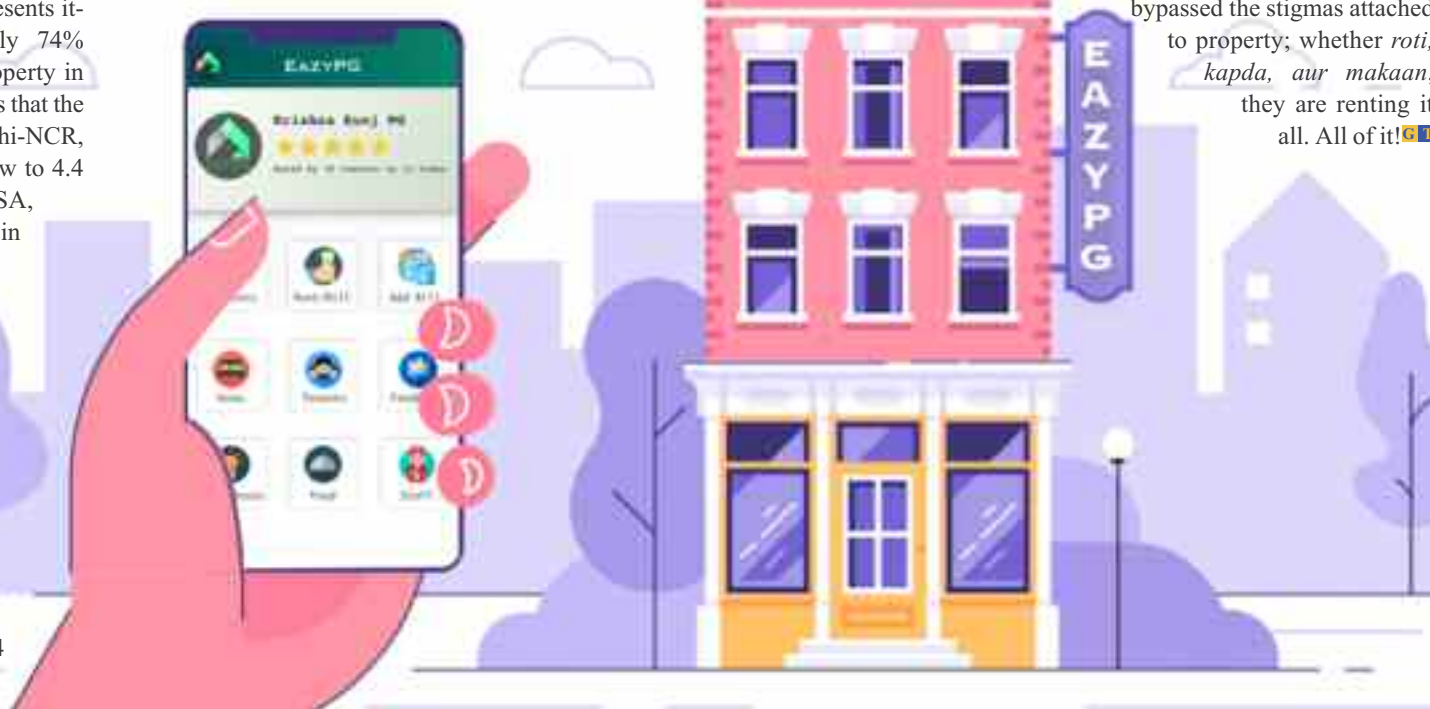
UK. Where the fast-moving textile industry creates 1.2 billion tonnes of CO2 ever year and 35% of the microplastics ending up in the ocean comes from synthetic fibres in abandoned clothes, renting fashion rather than buying and dumping it seems to be a better option for the generation that is more environmentally conscious.

Tera mera kissa iss kursi ka

Becoming mobile in the way they live and work, millennial trend of renting has turned from a fad to a necessity, so much so that the Indian online furniture rental market is valued at 1.5 to 2 billion USD. As majority of the generation does not want roots, not to mention the hassle of buying and selling, sites like Furlenco, RentoMojo, CityFurnish, etc., become a

permanent bookmark in their phones. Over 52% millennials are saving for a vacation, according to CNBC Make It, as the average age for marriage shifts from 20 to 27 for women and from 23 to 29 for men, rendering the need for permanent home and its heavy-duty furniture useless. As millennials enter the workforce (during recession, by the way!), they do so with a huge burden of student loans that are yet to be paid. As of 2019, USA has 497.6 billion USD in outstanding student debts for borrowers of age 25 to 34, which is why, renting chairs to sit and saying 'thank you, next' seems like the thing to do.

Rent culture aims to nurture a sharing economy—for renters, it offers goods at a cheaper rate and for lenders, it gifts people a chance to earn more by leasing underutilised objects. Thus, encouraging the motto of recycle and reuse, the millennials have now bypassed the stigmas attached to property; whether *roti, kapda, aur makaan*, they are renting it all. All of it!



The new-age entertainment

Pic: Deepak Sharma, GT Network

Decoding Netflix, Our Forever Go-To Streaming Service

Simran Jain, AIS Noida, Alumna

“Binge-watching!” is no longer just another way to pass time, but has become a lifestyle in itself, all thanks to Netflix. As the streaming service is constantly changing how we consume content, now considered the top-most platforms in the world, navigating through its public image can be a mammoth task. But Ambika Khurana, director of public policy, Netflix, is more than up for the challenge. As GT reporter caught up with her at ICEMP 2020 where she served as a panelist, she enlightened us about Netflix, the future of television and everything in between.

The new-age goal

As a service provider, the main goal of Netflix has always been the satisfaction of the viewers. We thoroughly support artistic expression and we try our best to give our creators as much freedom as we can to create the kind of stories they want to create and to portray it according to their style. But at the same time, we also have the goal and responsibility to disclose the kind of content that we are providing to the audience, which is why we employ age ratings, synopsis, or give trigger warnings to ensure that the audience is aware and make a conscious decision. In India, online streaming and content serv-

With the intention of focusing on diverse stories, we do feel our viewers are able to relate to the characters and stories better and feel like they are being truly represented.

ices like ours is not censored although we have a self-regulation form and a framework in place that help viewers make well-informed decisions. It is our goal to make the viewer empowered and we can only do that with freedom and consideration.

The new-age television

In a country like India, there is no either-or. Even after the introduction of streaming services, the television industry will be on the rise as there is a large population that still engages with it. In the meantime, OTT platforms like ours will also see a speedy growth, which is why both the industries can be deemed to be the new 'television' together; they both will continue to grow. Streaming services are still quite new here and it's an exciting field that is growing rapidly; OTT platforms provide a wide array of choices for

the viewers, a plethora of films and shows to choose from, with language choices and subtitles, which really gives us an edge.

The new-age service

In today's world where diversity and inclusivity are extremely important, it is our endeavour to be as diverse and as inclusive as we can be in our storytelling, our characters and the messages we put across. We believe in the power of stories, no matter if it is about the Indian content we put out or a global level project. There are certain factors that we hold important such as diversity, ensuring the best viewing experience in terms of technology and ads and user interface ability. With the intention of focusing on diverse stories, we do feel our viewers are able to relate to the characters and stories better and feel like they are being truly represented.

The new-age message

The key essence to storytelling is curiosity, imagination and the ability to articulate. A good story will have these three things. As students growing up in the 21st century, you are the flag bearers of a changing, more evolved society. As long as you sustain and uphold curiosity, imagination and the ability to articulate in whatever you do, you will be successful. Be daring; have faith and you can go beyond the skies!



Ambika Khurana with GT reporter

Raksha Bandhan is a traditional Hindu festival celebrated in India, Nepal and other parts of the Indian subcontinent influenced by Hindu culture.



India This Week

Garv Sawhey, AGS Gurugram, XI

While 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..



Independence Day celebrations to go low-key this year

News: As an aftermath of COVID-19, the Independence Day celebrations to be seen on August 15 at Red Fort has been scaled down by the authorities. PM Narendra Modi is scheduled to address the nation on the occasion, but the audience for the live event will see no children and only 250 dignitaries, instead of the usual 1000 invitees every year. People officials will also be present in PPE kits and strict rules of social distancing will be followed.

Views: It is a no-brainer that children are the ones who are always extremely excited to witness the Independence Day proceedings. It seems so bizarre how much we all have been affected by a small virus that broke out and is now causing worldwide calamities. However, it is also the need of the hour, which is why we must all make sacrifices. If we all obey social distancing in such events, we can prevent a huge number of potential cases and control this pandemic.

Aman Taneja, AGS Gurugram, XI



Flood wreaks havoc in Bihar

News: Due to heavy rains, Bihar is witnessing a thunderous flood that has left over 10 lakh people affected in around 10 districts. More than 15000 people have been moved to shelter homes, and 22 teams of National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force have been deployed by officials for further rescue operations. CM Nitish Kumar has also directed officials to distribute free masks to the rescued as a precaution.

Views: As Mother Nature continues to punish humankind with an everlasting virus, it unleashes yet another attack on the citizens of Bihar. However, due to a heroic comeback by SDRF, many victims were prevented from being swindled by the hands of the unholy waterflood. This is yet another trauma causing immense distress, mass destruction and disruption in our daily lives.

Ayush Soni, AGS Gurugram, X

JEE Advanced syllabus to remain the same

News: In a recent press statement, the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, has announced that the syllabus for JEE Advanced 2020 will not be changed for the year despite numerous requests by aspirants who will be appearing for the exam. Although the institution has decided to relax admission criterion for Class XII results due to partial cancellation of exams due to COVID-19, IIT tweeted that no discussion is planned for the upcoming meeting with Joint Admission Board.

Views: The decision taken by IIT to relax the Class XII results criterion is more than enough. Moreover, changing the syllabus at the last minute will further disturb the preparations of students who have been following the set syllabus.. In this regard, a relaxation in the syllabus is not really necessary.

Rishabh Yadav, AGS Gurugram, XI



Vande Bharat Mission Phase 5 starts

News: Vande Bharat mission was started by the Government of India on 1 August 2020, with an aim to evacuate Indian nationals from foreign land who have been left stranded due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The phase 5 will include a host of additional flights from countries like USA, Canada, Qatar, Oman, UAE, Australia, Germany, Thailand, Singapore, UK, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, New Zealand, Philippines and many more, according to Air India. Over 7.88 lakh Indians have already safely returned to the country till July 22 due to the mission.

Views: The mission, that was initially launched on 4 May had all of us on the edges of our seats because at that time, it seemed completely impossible for the government to pull off a herculean task of such a scale amid this pandemic, and yet today we stand in awe of another management masterpiece successfully executed by the Ministry and supported by the helping hands of our airlines. As this mission is extended to other countries, the nation knows that the government will do their best in helping our fellow Indians. I am confident India will conquer this obstacle with greater sincerity and efficacy than ever before.

Jigisha Pawa, AGS Gurugram, XI



Around The WORLD

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



USA

Tourist spaceship unveiled
Space tourism firm Virgin Galactic, unveiled its 'astronaut lounge' through a virtual media tour. Called SpaceShipTwo, the sleek spacecraft cabin is meant for a suborbital flight to space, taking its passengers 97 km above the earth. It is outfitted with custom seats, 12 windows & 16 cameras and has the capacity to board 6 passengers with 2 pilots. With seats \$2,50,000 a piece, almost 600 tickets have already been sold.



INDIA

Education reforms 2020

On July 29, 2020, after a gap of almost 34 years, the centre announced its New Education Policy, which received the approval of the Union Cabinet. A slew of education reforms were declared, including the discontinuation of M.Phil. Degree, and introduction of 5+3+3+4-year curriculum instead of 10+2 at the school level.



BELARUS

Rally for presidential challenger

Over 60,000 people took to streets in the capital city of Belarus, Minsk, rallying against and challenging the country's long time authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko, in the presidential vote next month. Led by Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, the election rival, the country asks for a 'peaceful change of power'.



JAPAN

Ancient microbes revived

Scientists at Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology have revived tiny microbes that lay dormant at the depths of seafloor of South Pacific for more than 100 million years. It was deduced that with the right food and oxygen, microscopic life can survive in lifeless zone for years.



TAIWAN

Former President passes away

Taiwan's former president, Lee Teng-Hui, also known and celebrated as the 'Father of Taiwan's democracy', passed away at the age of 97 on July 30, 2020 owing to septic shock and multiple organ failure. He was accredited with ending autocratic rule in the country in favour of a more pluralistic and democratic political layout.

AUSTRALIA

News content monetised

Aiming to protect independent journalism, Australia unveiled a draft law that holds tech giants like Google liable to pay the Australian news outlets for any news content appearing in their news feed. This royalty-style system is set to become law this year to salvage the traditional media companies that bleed nearly a third of all the advertising revenue to these digital platforms.





The name 'Raksha Bandhan' literally translates to 'the bond of protection' in English.

Cultivating a career

In The Field Of Agriculture Which No Longer Is The Same As It's Stereotyped To Be

Prakriti Chitkara

AIS Saket, XII

To put up with this fast paced, increasingly technological world, a career in agriculture may sound outlandish at first to some. But, in a country where agriculture is of prime importance and is undergoing every ounce of technological advancement, a career in the same can never be a bad idea. Stepping into this wide realm of agricultural studies can help one to gain a deeper understanding of agriculture, which is a lot more than just farming. Here, take a look.

What is agriculture?

In the most basic sense, agriculture is defined as the art or science of farming, including cultivation of plants and rearing of livestock to maintain and enhance human life. Agricultural science is a multi-disciplinary field that comprises natural, economic and social sciences used in the practice of agriculture. India, being an agrarian economy, relies heavily on its agricultural sector and ranks second in farm outputs globally, with almost 70% of its rural households primarily dependent on it for their livelihood and employment.

Isn't agriculture and farming the same?

Agriculture is not just limited to the traditional notions of farming and cultivation, but is also the preparation and marketing of the resulting products - from the development, design and production to the very sale of everything that farmers use and produce, be it tractors, fertilisers, crops and more. Being a science, it encompasses all that comes in the



process of farming and all that is significantly different from it including horticulture, agricultural engineering, dairy technology, agricultural biotechnology, fisheries science and agronomy.

How do I enter the field?

The first step towards this arena of study is to have physics, chemistry, mathematics and biology as core subjects in 12th. To further get into agricultural science, one can pursue degree, diploma and certificate agriculture courses at UG, PG and PhD levels in its various branches including crop production, agronomy, forestry, seed technology, plant physiology etc. Many prominent universities in India like Amity University Noida and BHU Varanasi, etc. offer agri-

cultural science as a course and conduct their own entrance examinations for admission into their B.Sc. (4 years long) and M.Sc. (2 years) programmes.

Scope and opportunities

As a science, agriculture has grown in leaps and bounds in terms of research and technology. With government schemes like Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, with its aim to blend in AI with agriculture, the field is becoming smarter, more efficient and high-tech with each passing day, even employing trading portals like E-NAM, various data analytics, tools, drones etc. A farmer who has his own land and has got a good yield can earn up to 10 lakh INR per annum. Moreover, studying agricultural sci-

ence can help you land a job in both public and private sectors. As an agricultural engineer, you can work in the agricultural machinery division, working for R&D department or in maintenance. B.Sc. agriculture graduates can enter into job positions such as Research Officer, Quality Assurance Officer, Productions Manager, Farm Manager etc. with state agricultural departments and much more.

The field of agriculture thus is no longer the same. Through the years, it has morphed into a crucial science, augmenting human life every bit. With more and more diverse courses in this field of study awaiting you now, it seems, as the best time to explore this sphere more. 🇮🇳

Aditya Pathak, AIS Gur 46, XII

Rahul loved train rides for all the beautiful landscapes he would catch a glimpse of on the way. But this one was different. This train was taking him to boarding school. Although apprehensive about leaving home, Rahul was a wee bit excited too. After all, he was going to his own 'Hogwarts'. The image of a majestic castle stationed in the hills kept him going. But imagination and reality are two different things, something he realised the minute he reached the school.

A plain-jane building, with paint chipping off in some corners awaited him. He walked through the inconspicuous corridors to reach the number that would soon become his identity - 49. Climbing on his bunk bed, he missed the familiar warmth of his bed. Sure, it was annoying to share it with his brother, but then it was his bed.

The routine alarm had just rung and caused everyone to jump out of their beds as usual. Rahul too trudged along. There was no background music, nor the echo of laughter in the corridors...just plain rush to reach the class on time. The rules were strict and Rahul would realise that soon enough. "It's just two minutes," Rahul thought to himself as he was reprimanded by the teacher on the

Tough love

When You Don't Want To Go To A Boarding School



very first class. Even Mrs Mishra, his Chemistry teacher in the previous school, the one Rahul found unreasonable on occasion, wasn't as strict. 45 other faces glowered at him, while some snickered behind their books.

How he missed Rishabh, his best friend since Nursery. He would have never laughed. One class after the other, Rahul kept staring at the walls of the classroom, trying to find some similarity with his previous school.

This wasn't going to be any Hogwarts, he realised soon enough and along with it the immense love he had for his old school.

The bell rang, signaling lunch time. All the kids shouted in unison and rushed

towards the mess. Rahul sighed at finding some resemblance finally. How happy he would have been if this was his previous school, but today he merely trudged along.

There was rice, *dal* and *subzi* for lunch. It was bland, much like the rest of the school. The food was absolutely no match to the bullet rolls in his canteen. Rahul couldn't bear it anymore. He rushed to his room, fearing his tears might give him away.

Once in his room, he sank into his bed, when suddenly he noticed a familiar round box. He opened the prized possession. *Laddoos* - they always made him smile, a fact that Rahul's mother had always used to her advantage.

As he bit into one, he felt a pat on his shoulder. The hand belonged to Rustom, Rahul's roommate. "Missing home?" he asked. Rahul could merely nod. Rustom had been there. He knew fully well what day one meant and also that day two gets better. Rustom began apprising Rahul on the trade secrets of the hostel - where to hide, the best days to attend the mess, teachers he didn't want to mess with.

"Do you like *besan ke laddoos*?" asked Rahul. "Oh! I love them!"...and while Rahul was still reeling from homesickness, a new beginning at his boarding school had already begun.

The festival is also called Rakhi Poornima, Nariyal Poornima, Rakhi and Kajari Poornima in different states of India.



Back to life!

Here's Looking At Some Endangered Species Who Made A Comeback With A Bang

Priyanka Agnihotri
AIS Noida, Alumna

What we humans have made of this planet is something everyone is now aware of. There is no hidden truth about the fact that we have destroyed the environment and caused our fellow beings a lot of trouble, directly and indirectly, only to realize later that the world cannot survive without the ecological balance that they provide. However, some of these strong beasts have bounced back from the dead and are taking the torch of life forward, with their consistently growing numbers! Here's looking at some of them and celebrating them all!

See ya 'not so' later, alligator

The alligator was one of those poor animals which the humans decided to carry around with themselves, quite literally! Extremely popular for their skin used as a material for shoes, jackets and bags, the alligator was added to the Endangered Species Preservation Act in the US during the late 1960s. Such was their loss mourned that it was in two decades, that they were put back on the fully recovered list, in 1987.

Golden 'Age' Monkey

Native to Brazil, the monkeys lost 93% of their rainforest and their family after the forests

were cleared for development. The numbers dwindled so much as to stoop to a mere 200 monkeys only. But with the help of many conservationists and government schemes, the candle of hope for their conservation began to burn brighter and their numbers increased to 1000!

'Grizzling' in and out of extinction!

The grizzly bear, a popular bear in the wild, was first put on the endangered list in 1975 as America realized that there were only 140 left. Eventually, their

numbers grew and now there are around 1200 only in the Yellowstone area, and about 50,000 around the world. So when they lost their endangered classification in 2017, activists began to worry that the loss of protection might put the species at risk again. But for now, the bears are bearing a brave fight!

The 'dark' horse

Horses roaming around in the wild may seem like a common sight, but these species of wild horses have lost themselves somewhere in the trend. Domes-

tication of horses on such a large scale had led to the near extinction of Przewalski's horse species in the 1960s. It was at that time that the nine remaining horses in the zoos were left open in their old habitat in Mongolia, China and Ukraine. Today, the number has increased to 400, but they're still considered to be an endangered species.

'Tiger' zinda hai

In terms of endangered animals, India was also not far behind, with our very own national animal living on the brink of ex-

tingtion. Luckily, with the efforts of wildlife authorities and campaigns, their numbers have seen a steady growth over the years, with 1411 in 2006 to 2226 in 2014, and 2967 tigers in 2018, the roar in the forest has not died out just yet!

We humans must realize that life in the wild is as essential to the planet as the life inside our homes. Let us take inspiration from these species that returned from the brink of extinction and save other species from becoming the next dinosaurs!



The odd ones out

The universe is filled with wonders. There are some creations, that fill us with amazement - some with the way they look, some with the way in which they carry out certain processes, in this case reproduction.

Amazing World Of Animals

Clown fish

Scientific name: Amphiprioninae



The clown fish are Hermaphrodites, which in layman's terms means that these fish are born males and with age, they turn into a female. The reproductive cycle of an anemone fish is often similar and is correlated to the lunar cycle, i.e the spawning of the fish peaks around the first and the third quarters of the moon and the egg hatches around the full moon or the new moon period. Well, that is quite moon-ish.

Seahorse

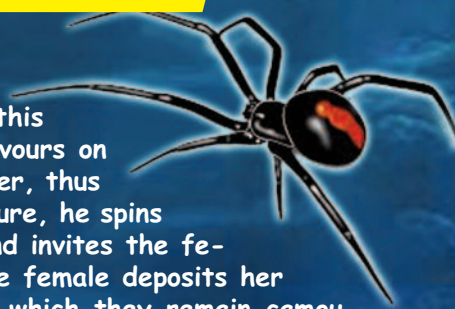
Scientific name: Hippocampus

Seahorses are amazingly inverse creatures. With them, the responsibility of procreation is borne by the male members. The male seahorse is equipped with a pouch. When mating, the female seahorse deposits up to 1,500 eggs in the male's pouch, initiating a 3 week pregnancy that is marked by the male seahorse's inability to move around and search for food. After 3 days of labour, it finally gives birth.

Black widow spider

Scientific name: Latrodectus

Mating is a pretty deadly job with this species. The female spider mostly devours on the male after the mating period is over, thus the name 'widow'. When a male is mature, he spins a sperm web, deposits semen on it and invites the female, they reproduce sexually and the female deposits her eggs in a globular silken container in which they remain camouflaged and guarded. In rare cases, the female catches the male while trying to escape but often the male seems to welcome his fate by actively summersaulting on his partner's fangs.



Male leafy sea dragon

Scientific name: Phycodurus eques

The female produces about 250 bright pink eggs and deposits them onto the male's tail with her ovipositor which is a long tube. After getting attached to their father's brood pouch, the eggs spend a quality time of about nine weeks with their father and in this course, change their colour to purple or orange. When ready to see the world, the male sea dragon shoots the baby sea dragon out of its tail during a long 24-48 hours process. Only 5% of the total eggs survive by the end and they are quite independent by birth.



On this day, sisters tie a rakhi, a cotton bracelet bearing elaborate ornamentation, around their brother's wrists as a symbol of their love and pray for their healthy and long live.

On the fields do we unite!

When The World Stands Divided, It Is Sports That Manages To Bind Us Together

Navya Garg, AIS Vas 6, XII

This world is a fractured place, has always been; with conflict pervading amongst countries and within countries. If only love could bring them together. Well, sometimes it has, the love for a good game that is. History is replete with instances when sports played the unifying factor; thus proving that it was a lot more than just bat and ball, score and goal.

Of synchronized symphonies

A country singing their own national anthem at the beginning of a match is a classic. But what about a country singing the national anthem of another country? France and England were a great symbol of support when they sang La Marseillaise, the French national anthem at an international friendly match at Wembley stadium on November 18, 2015. A crowd of more than 70,000 people sang the national anthem to show support to the 129 people who were killed when three suicide bombers blew themselves up outside the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, during a football match. Before this game, no one had sung an opposition teams national anthem with such vigour.

Of black and white

Rugby was never a very popular game in the country of South Africa considering

the nation's Rugby team comprised mostly whites. So, when the South African team won the 1995 Rugby World Cup, the nation dominated by blacks did not have much to rejoice about. It was then that Mandela, the country's first black


president made an appearance during one of the team's matches. Donning the team's traditional green jersey and cap, he not just showcased his support, but also

brought the divided blacks and whites together. Eventually, the entire nation could be seen rooting for the team, in all its black and white glory.

Of India and Pakistan

Over 1 billion people tuned into their TV sets as India and Pakistan came forward to battle it out during the Cricket World Cup 2019. As we all are aware, India VS Pakistan is always a great deal; with 'VS' taking the spotlight. Even in tennis, India's Rohan Bopanna and Pakistan's Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi played successfully as a team for many years, despite their nations being in conflict. At their matches, fans from both the countries filled the stadiums and cheered for them as one. The team nicknamed themselves the Indo-Pak Express.

Of war and peace

In 2005, Ivory Coast was in the middle of a civil war and the country was completely divided between the government and the rebels. During such trying times, Ivory Coast defeated Sudan to qualify for the football World Cup for the first time ever. The subsequent world cup that was a huge draw for the nation for obvious reasons, saw Ivorian soccer player, Didier begging the country (Ivory Coast) to end the war. As a result, both sides agreed to a ceasefire and organized free elections. And just like that, sports changed the course of history; indeed towards a more peaceful route. 



Investing in investment



The Entrepreneurs Who Want To Include Rural World In The Game Of Finance

Samiksha Dubey, AIS Noida, XI I

“Never too young to start an empire” is no longer just a saying, but the reality of four young minds – Satyam Mehta, a class XII student at **Amity International School, Noida**, and his business partners Naman Tekriwal (alumnus, AIS Noida, now studying at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), Raghav Sharma (a third year student at Delhi Technological University) and Madhav Sharma (a Class XII student at Birla Vidya Niketan). With 83.3 crore Indians living in the rural areas with no opportunities to learn financial dependency and the know-hows of investment, these young changemakers came up with an easy solution to rectify that – with an app called ‘Rural Invest’ that allows rural population to invest in mutual funds through systematic investment plans.

But how exactly does it work?

“To make the app user-friendly, we tried to make the process of investing as seamless and engaging as online shopping,” says Naman. Made with a partnership with Tarrakki, a SEBI-registered investment advisor, “the Rural Invest app allows individuals to register on the platform with just their name, email address, mobile number followed by an e-KYC verification so that the person can choose from a range of risk-classified mutual funds based on their income, age and risk appetite. To make investing easy and personalised, Rural Invest allows users to develop customised investment plans

and offers multiple investment strategies like Zyaada, Investment Strategies, Goal-Based Investing, etc.

But why the focus on the rural sector?

“Doing good is good for business, and at Rural Invest, we aim to leverage the power of finance to empower and lift them out of the vicious cycle of poverty. This dream of uplifting masses out of years-old im-

poverishment through something as simple as an app pushed us towards starting this venture,” says the group. Even with rural internet users outnumbering urban users by 10 per cent, the lack of digital savviness amongst the former did play a part in how the app was to be designed. “To make things as clear as we could for the user, we created a focus-based application which highlights the portfolio and primary features on the home page itself. We also plan to incorporate regional languages in the future, and provide goal-based investing strategy like Child Education, Buying Crops, Retirement




L-R: Madhav Sharma, Raghav Sharma, Satyam Mehta & Naman Tekriwal

etc. The transactions are done through BSE Star Mutual Fund and the payments are directly transferred to the Indian Clearing Corporation Limited, an intermediary settlement platform which settles the transactions pertaining to purchase, redemption and switch of mutual

fund units placed by members on BSE StAR MF platform. So the money invested through the app is always secure,” adds the young entrepreneurs.

But the production stage for this app must've got its own challenges, right?

As COVID-19 paused everything happening in the world, the app wasn't spared from its commotions either. “The pandemic hampered the communication with the technological team, and the inability to meet physically to work also harmed the team's overall productivity. This caused delay in the app launch by two months; our Beta Testing had to be stopped, denting our production stage. To educate the rural group about mutual funds and its characteristics, we had also planned to target 5 villages for financial literacy and inclusion campaigns, which is yet to happen,” recall the founders.

Nothing has stopped the team from working on their app as they use this time to educate the blue-collar workers around their house, and through a unique network of 100+ college ambassadors, they are reaching house-holds, drivers, factory workers in Delhi-NCR, Haryana, and Punjab. Rural Invest is indeed a gem found at the right place and at the right time. 





Vedic power



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

Recently, when I heard that the newly-elected president of Suriname, Chandrikapershad Santokhi (Chan Santokhi) took the oath to office in Sanskrit, holding Vedas in hand, I felt very proud of our rich Indian heritage. A leader

with Indian origin, he did not forget his own roots even when raised to the highest seat of governance. And this virtue is instilled in every person who has imbibed the teachings of the Vedas in their life. Such is the power of Vedas that they sculpt critically thinking individuals who ramify into the world but stay bonded to their roots. Remember, a deeply rooted tree can easily withstand the storms of testing times. That's what I envision for each one of my children at Amity. In a recent talk with His Holiness The Dalai Lama, he shared how India has been the world guru of knowledge since traditional times, and that most of our knowledge is rooted in our Vedas. Knowledge here means the way of living a happy life. From the proven benefits of chanting mantras to teachings which help us manoeuvre life, each Veda is a tool of empowerment of mind and soul. Many of you must have also come across Vedic mathematics. I have seen students with math phobia who became math lovers, all because of Vedic mathematics. So, as we progress in 21st century, let's use the power of Vedas to unleash our strongest and wisest best. 🇮🇳

Something Good



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

These days, whilst sipping my morning cup of tea as I flip through the pages of a newspaper, I see news that leaves me more disturbed than ever. Whether it's the pandemic, world versus China, or the new facets of celebrities coming to fore, it suddenly seems that the world has become so gloomy. And then a chirping bird, a blooming flower, blue skies would just show up from nowhere and reassure me that world is still beautiful. It's only our way of seeing it that has been influenced by media nuggets reporting matters which are human. So, I vow to bring forth to our young readers all that is the best and beautiful in the world to keep nurturing their creativity. You are at an impressionable age, full of energy that needs to be steered in constructive directions. As newspapers bring you news of war, we love to bring you real stories that inspire (read page 7). We strive to kindle young souls with positive thinking and empower them to see the world with joy. That's why you will always find our articles presenting a more positive aspect of the current issues. So, while the world will see a new normal, some things will remain abnormally normal. That is the beauty of life, even in the gloom, there always is a bloom. 🇮🇳

to our young readers all that is the best and beautiful in the world to keep nurturing their creativity. You are at an impressionable age, full of energy that needs to be steered in constructive directions. As newspapers bring you news of war, we love to bring you real stories that inspire (read page 7). We strive to kindle young souls with positive thinking and empower them to see the world with joy. That's why you will always find our articles presenting a more positive aspect of the current issues. So, while the world will see a new normal, some things will remain abnormally normal. That is the beauty of life, even in the gloom, there always is a bloom. 🇮🇳

Published and Printed by Mr R.R. Aiyar on behalf of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan from E-26, Defence Colony, New Delhi 110024 and printed from HT Media Ltd, B-2, Sec 63, Noida (UP). Editor Ms Vira Sharma.

■ Edition: Vol 12, Issue 10 ■ RNI No. DELENG / 2009 / 30258. Both for free distribution and annual subscription of ₹ 900.

Opinions expressed in GT articles are of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors or publishers. While the editors do their utmost to verify information published, they do not accept responsibility for its absolute accuracy. Published for the period August 3 - 9, 2020

An out of time intervention

If You Could Talk To Your Younger Self, What Would You Say?

Aryaman Jain, AIS MV, Alumnus

Person: Hey! Wake up!! Wake up!!
I groggily open my eyes only to find a strange guy in my bedroom in the middle of the night.

Person: Before you scream, I'm you from the future and if I were you... well, I am you; I would probably finish that last chapter you have left for the morning! Stop pinching yourself! It's real. Here, this might help!

The splashing of the cold water jerked me out of my sleep, and surprisingly, the guy was still there.

Person (with a smirk): So "Jason", 18 years old now huh? Don't look so alarmed! I know you like to call yourself Jason when you are alone. I am you, remember?

Me: What is going on? I... I am dreaming, aren't I?

Person: I understand. You... or old me, wow! Didn't really think about the pronoun issue when I set out! We... will feel disoriented, confused, angry and a lot of other emotions for the next 20 minutes but we need to listen to ourselves, okay? This is about you and me, and if you choose not to listen, things are going to be way different.

As I sat agape about all the bizarre things that he said, a possibility - marvelous if true, shattering if not - began to form in my mind. Was this really me?



Future me: So tomorrow is the big exam, huh? Scared?

Me: Like you can't imagine! I didn't do pretty well in the last one, so this is future-deciding big.

Future me: *laughs* Nothing is ever 'future-deciding big'. Take it from someone who comes from the future. That exam you didn't do well in was just one of the exams you have taken and will continue to take. You did well in some, not so well in others. But singularly, they never governed your fate.

Me: Well that's not what everyone else

seems to think.

Future me: Everyone says a lot of things, like our dear aunt who tells you that being friends with Arun will positively ruin you.

Me: I know, right? I don't know why she hates him so much.

Future me: Well, you can't say that the boy doesn't have his flaws. But then you will learn the difference between good and bad friends, says someone from the future. *winks*

Me: Wait, are you saying she is right about Arun?

Future me: No, what I am saying is that you will make mistakes and learn from them. For example, tomorrow you will learn that leaving your chapters for the morning of the exam day is not a very good idea either.

Me: So, do you think that my math teacher is right too?

Future me: About you not doing anything in life because you flunked the math exam? No, because her words have impacted you enough to work harder in the next one.

Me: How do you know this?

Future me: Well, I know things because I am from the future, remember?

Me: Oh yes! So, you mean I should just be following what everyone says.

Future me: Well, no and yes. See, you will make your mistakes. You will make the wrong friends, make the mistake of not studying enough. But one wrong friend and one failed exam will not determine your future; it can't. Making mistakes is not the problem, not learning from them is. And as long as you keep learning, you will be just fine.

Me: And what if I don't believe you?
Future me: Well that will be your mistake, one that you will learn from, albeit the hard way.
And with that he vanished. As for me, I did pick up my book to finish the last chapter. He said something about learning, didn't he? 🇮🇳

Unchained Melody

When Playlist Becomes Your Best Friend



Pragya Pandey, AIS Vas 6, XII D

I came home, restless and full of anger. I was mad at my best friend, for we had a fight. I stomped into my room and slammed the door shut. The next minute, I was laying on the bed, listening to you whisper sweet nothings into my ear. Suddenly, I was calm.

It was smart of you to play 'Kabira' when you did, for that made me realise that I was probably overreacting and should apologise to her. I texted her the lyrics of 'True friend' by Miley Cyrus, a song very close to both of us; the reason why we became friends. And then it struck me how you had given me my best friend, of course you becoming the best-est friend along the way.

Today, you are the one I go to for any kind of mood: the classics, the rock and rolls, the sad but satisfying and the sweet but quirky melodies. When I'm low, you lift me up with Arianaand. When I'm in high spirits, you bring in Ed Sheeran and Shawn Mendes to simmer me down. I can overcome any bad day by listening to you, my playlist.

You, my playlist have always been with me. Be it lulling me to sleep when my brain overthinks or cheering me up early in the morning when I'm in zero mood to go to school. With you by my side, I can bear math problems, but then while writing exams 'Lamborghini chalai jaane oo' hits my head when the answer doesn't. You've led me to the point where I accept myself as I am, and sing "Wo hasena zulfon wali

jaanejahan" every time I look in the mirror (well, not everytime).

Slow morning, heavy downpour, headphones, some coffee and you is the perfect start to my day. While my morning begins with 'Dhoop ke makaan', 'Suraj hua maddham' makes watching the sunset even more beautiful. Dancing to 'Udd gaye' at midnight is a moment of eureka.

It's high time that I apologise to you for shuffling you according to my mood swings, must be confusing, right? But my dear playlist, you are the only one who handles me without a single 'tch'. Trust me when I say, 'kuch toh hai tujhse raabta', because I'm sure we have a special connection. After all, you console me when the world looks black around the edges. You accept me the way I am and tolerate me at my worst. You understand me in ways no one ever has. I laugh, cry and act crazy when I listen to you. You have been with me through all my ups and downs. No matter what, I will always come back to you, 'cause jaane kyun, dil jaanta hai, tu hai toh I'll be alright'.

Yours lovingly,

A girl writing a letter to you while listening to you. 🇮🇳



Issue: Page 3, July 27, 2020

Dear Editor,

This is with reference to the article 'An in(k)teresting journey' on page 3 published in the GT edition dated July 27, 2020. The article tells us about the disheartening truth of study habits and deadlines which is true for most students including me. It makes me recall our very first day of school as well, where we were thoroughly determined to change our irregular study routine. But our consistency starts wearing off after a few days, where we leave work unattended and incomplete, to be done later due to the addicting demands of Instagram. This article tells us if we leave a few questions undone, the first domino has fallen, thus setting off a chain reaction and the only thing that is consistent after that is, of course, our inconsistency. It is an early reminder for the students to pick up their first domino and save themselves now, rather than lament later.

Riddhi Rastogi, AIS Gur 43, XI D



The festival is observed on the last day of the Hindu lunar calendar month of Shraavana, which usually falls in August.

Rags to Riches

Stories That Light Our Passions And Make Us Believe In Ourselves

Part **1**



Prem Ganpathy Founder Of Dosa Plaza

From Rags

Born in a poor family in Nagalapuram, Tamil Nadu, with unemployed parents and seven siblings to look after, Prem Ganpathy became the sole bread earner for his family at a very young age. As a Class X pass out with unfulfilled dreams to study more, he left his home for Chennai in search of a stable source of income, but to his utter dismay, he could only earn a meagre INR 250 per month. Yet his zeal and determination to make something out of himself didn't let him quit, but then his fate wasn't really yielding either. On being promised a salaried job of INR 1,200 per month in Mumbai, he took off for the city of dreams at the tender age of 17, only to be duped and robbed later. Stranded there partly because of a lack of money to go back and also due to the language gap, he still didn't give up. Shuffling through a number of odd jobs, like washing dishes in a local bakery, for INR 150 per month, he finally managed to save enough to begin his new

venture of selling idlis and dosas by 1992.

To Riches

With a capital of INR 1000, he rented a handcart and a few utensils to begin his business opposite Vashi railway station, Mumbai. The authenticity of his recipes and the importance he gave to hygiene soon attracted a lot of customers, generating for him a profit of about INR 20,000 per month. His young customer-base taught him how to use internet, giving him access to try out recipes from across the world, adding a wide range of variety, about 104 fusion mixes to a simple dish of dosa. And then his lady luck never let him down. From a handcart in 1992 to a shop in 1997, to an outlet in Centre One mall, Vashi in 2003 and finally to 70 Dosa Plaza outlets not only in India but in New Zealand, Dubai and Oman, his INR 1,000 venture had become a 30-crore empire, a sole runner in south Indian cuisines with a nationwide popularity for its innovation and variety of recipes. His story is truly a testament of how life's hardships and betrayals are nothing but a speck in front of firm determination and will.

Kanishk Gupta, AIS Vas 6, XII A

Ramesh Babu Owner Of Ramesh Tours And Travels

From Rags

Ramesh Babu, from Bangalore is a shining example of someone who has surged ahead in this cut throat world all on the dint of his determination, risk-taking ability and insight, while still sticking to his roots. Having lost his father in 1979, at the age of 7, Ramesh's life has always been a struggle to survive against conflict and poverty. His mother worked as a maid-servant to provide for her children and their education, while renting out their father's only legacy, a barber shop to their uncle at just INR 5 per day. Struggling for even basic essentials like food and clothing, Ramesh however managed to complete his pre-university education by taking up several small jobs and working as a newspaper vendor alongside, till the very day he finally took over their paternal barber shop from his bickering uncle to run it himself, naming it Inner Space later on.

To Riches

While flourishing as a barber, he always dreamt of owning a car and so ended up buying a used Maruti van in 1994, initially intended for personal use. This car however came with a mortgage on

the family house and so in order to meet all the EMIs with an interest amount of about 6800 INR, he started renting out the car to raise the amount, which acted as a huge turning point in his life. Thus, what began as a passionate need, soon converted into a gigantically successful car rental business by 2004. His very first customer was Intel. Slowly and steadily he began to build a fleet of luxury cars as no one in the 90's dealt with luxury car renting. Criticisms from all the corners didn't stop him from taking such risks. Thus, from a Maruti van, Ramesh moved on to have a fleet of 200 cars including the likes of Mercedes, BMW and Rolls Royce. Several big shots like Shah Rukh Khan, Amitabh Bachchan and a number of politicians have used his rental services. He has also been featured in several news channels and newspapers all over the country, but come mornings and over the weekends, one can still find him giving haircuts at his salon for INR 100, which he says is his true vocation and his way to always remember his humble beginnings. Now, he truly deserves to be called a Billionaire Barber, not just by wealth but due to his larger than life heart.

Shekhar Ranjan, AIS Vas 6, XII B



Oprah Winfrey Talk Show Host, Actress & Philanthropist

From Rags

Winfrey was born to an unmarried teenage mother, Vernita Lee, in 1954, Mississippi, US. The identity of her father was an issue of debate back then, but Vernon Winfrey, a miner, has been noted as her biological father. Both her parents separated soon after she was born and she was left in the care of her maternal grandmother on a farm thus living in rural poverty for the first 6 years of her life. Her grandmother was so poor that sometimes Winfrey had to wear dresses made of potato sacks and was also severely beaten if she failed to do any chores. But she taught Oprah to read and write at just the age of 2, for which she is forever grateful. At the age of 6, she was returned to her mother's care in the Milwaukee ghetto, a very poor northern neighbourhood. Her mother was a maid and never really cared about her. This lifestyle subjected Winfrey to repeated sexual molestation by her cousin and uncle, leaving her pregnant

by the age of 14. The baby however died due to being born premature. Not only this, her poverty was rubbed in her face daily as she resorted to stealing money from her mother. Post it, she was left in a shelter for difficult teenagers, from where she was rescued by her father. He took her to Nashville to stay with him and was very encouraging. He prioritised her education above all.

To Riches

With her father's emphasis on education and oratory skills, she not only participated in her school's drama and debate club but also secured scholarship in Tennessee State University where she studied communication. Her first job was at a local grocery store, but later she attracted the attention of various media houses, becoming Nashville's first Afro-American female co-anchor of the evening news at CBS in 1974. And then there was no stopping. She worked for several talk shows like Baltimore

is Talking, AM Chicago (which was later renamed as The Oprah Winfrey show) etc. Apart from a phenomenal talk-show host career, she excelled in acting too. She acted in Steven Spielberg's 'The Color Purple' based on Alice Walker's book with the same name, for which she was nominated for the Academy awards as the best supporting actress. Later on, she formed her own production company Harpo, where she produced stories that she wanted should reach out to people. Although one of the wealthiest self-made woman in America and the highest paid entertainer in the world, Winfrey has always been involved in various philanthropic missions, one of them being her 1994 proposal bill to Congress, aimed at creating a single database to help track child abusers. The bill was signed into law by President Clinton. Surely, she has won several accolades in her life but the number of hearts she has won is beyond human comprehension.

Paavni Srivastava, AIS Vas 6, XII A

According to Hindu mythology, the ritual originated from Indrani tying a thread around Lord Indra's wrist for protection from demons.



Imaging: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network

Storywala



Dear daughter

Oorvi Gupta, AIS Noida, XII

It was Elizabeth Salvatore's 9th birthday. She fluttered around the house like a cheerful butterfly. It seemed as if she was surfing over waves of happiness. She was the only daughter of Rosalie and Victor Salvatore. As she ran towards the garden, with her blonde hair flying behind her, she closed her mother's eyes with her tiny hands from behind and whispered in her ears, "Guess who?" A

bright smile flashed across Rosalie's face. "Oh dear! It's the beautiful birthday girl." But as soon as she turned to look at her daughter, she found no one. Suddenly, the expression of delight on her face transformed into grief and she frantically ran around the house to look for her Lizzie. She called her name aloud but only heard the echoes of her own voice in return. At one point, she felt light-headed, and abruptly fell on the floor, calling out Lizzie's name till the

Rosalie stared at the picture as she remembered how that smile could light up the whole town; how that voice could easily fill the void in Rosalie's heart. Tears of loss rolled down her cheeks.

end. Her reverie broke as she woke up with a startle. She was panting, with beads of sweat trickling down her face. She got out of the bed and walked towards the large photo frame on the wall that hung in front of her bed.

There she saw the face of her daughter, smiling at her. Rosalie stared at the picture as she remembered how that smile could light up the whole town; how that voice could easily fill the void in Rosalie's heart. Tears of loss rolled down her cheeks. She touched Lizzie's face on the portrait, tracing those long blonde curls to those tiny shoulders. "How did this happen? How did all our joy turn into sorrows in such little time?"

She picked up a rose from the vase kept on the table and gently put it down below Lizzie's picture in respect. "Happiest birthday Lizzie. I hope you're having a good time," she whispered. She was overwhelmed with nostalgia and reminisced how her daughter held her hand and said, "Mom, when you miss me, just look at the brightest star in the night sky. That'll be me, always looking after you." And with these last words, Elizabeth lost her battle with cancer. [G.U.](#)



Eshwarya with her flower pot

Confetti flower pot

Eshwarya Chopra, AIS Vas 1, X

Material required

- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Paper cutter-1
- Paint brush-1
- Colourful sheets-4
- Wooden sticks-3
- Black acrylic paint-1
- A3 size pastel sheets-3
- Appy Fizz bottles-2 (one small, one big)

Method

- Take a large empty Appy Fizz bottle, and using a paper cutter, cut it from the top and bottom in a way to secure its middle neck portion.
- Now take a small Appy Fizz bottle, and invert this neck part over it, inserting its narrow end into the bottle's mouth.
- Stick both these pieces together using hot glue.
- Paint this whole pot-like structure with black acrylic paint or any other colour of your choice.
- Now, using old colourful sheets, cut out some paper confetti.
- Sprinkle it over the pot randomly, while the paint is still wet.
- Take a thin strip of paper, preferably 1cm, and paste it over and around the pot, exactly where it is the widest.
- Keep the pot aside and let it dry.
- For the flowers, take an A3 sheet and cut out 16 equal squares from it.
- Now, stack up these squares, one over the other, and cut this stack from its edges, to give it a wavy heart shape on the top and a flat base.
- You will get 16 wavy heart shaped paper pieces that will act as petals for the flowers.
- Curl the heart shaped edge of about 12 petals by using force and scissors.
- Take a thin wooden stick and on its top end, wrap and paste 4 uncurled petals loosely, by applying glue on their side edges.
- Now, start pasting the curled petals one by one around the stick.
- As you keep rolling and pasting these petals, make sure they are loose and a bit curvy.
- Repeat the process to make 3 such flowers.
- Put these flowers in your pot once it is dry.
- Your confetti flower pot is ready!

Guess The Gibberish



Given below are some nonsensical phrases that will only make sense once you read them in a go, without focusing on the meaning but the collective sound of them all. Go test your word skills and decrypt the gibberish to get the actual phrases.

E.g. – plea center europe as ward – Please enter your password

- 1 Meow tin deh whew
- 2 Wands up pawn eight I am
- 3 White tell huff hunt
- 4 Foyer inn form hay shun
- 5 Wind her ritz cun ink
- 6 Weed owns tan ditch ants
- 7 Eyes cool valley dict or he an
- 8 Sick steamy knits
- 9 Birch who all ray yell lid he
- 10 Trick her worn in

Answers: 1. Mountain dew 2. Once upon a time 3. Trigger warning
4. White elephant 5. Winter is coming 6. We don't stand a chance 7. High school valdicatorian 8. Sixty minutes 9. Virtual reality 10.

PAINTING CORNER

Riya Gupta
AIS Gur 43, XI S



WORDS VERSE

A Counteract

Samiksha Ramesh, AIS MV, Alumna

Glistening eyes rest
Above dampened cheeks
It seems we are ghosts
Not floating sheets

With strangling rage
And spawning suffocation
It feels like drowning
In a shameless ocean

I breathe in and out
Watch the bubbles go

I close my eyes tightly
And begin to slowly float

Confidence charging
Me and my body
I decided to confront
And not feel shoddy

Slowly the ocean
Of agony fades away
Suddenly I am strong
And no longer a prey

Of people who called



Me by various names
Of society's partial
Mean and biased games

All I had to do was
Take a stand for myself
For silence never helps sufferers
But backs up the plunderers. [G.U.](#)

Sunny sun

Mimansha Kumar, AIS Saket, IX B

I have known you so well
For, I see you everyday
You shine sparkly bright
The luminosity hurts my eyes

I see you weeping at times
Making my eyes shimmer
Reminding me of the chimes
When it all shines a little

You help me fight the dark
But when you leave, I fear



To face all my past traumas
So, keep your warmth near

I wish to whisper in your ear
The secret to loving yourself
Because without you, sunny Sun
Nothing here would be any fun. [G.U.](#)



The festival is not limited only to Hindus. It is also celebrated by various Buddhists, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians.

Importance of time

Wisdom tale



Mridul Grover

AIS Gurugram 43, VII

“Ritesh, have you completed your science practical file? There’s hardly any time left for your Class XII board exams,” asked his mother. Ritesh was too busy playing video games and just grunted at her. Even though he had a whole week to finish the practical file, he kept pushing it for later, until he finally arrived at the last minute. His mother had given him constant reminders, but all of it seemed to be of no use because he was determined to not be punctual. Not wanting to do it and having the

belief that it will take care of itself, Ritesh continued playing his video games.

The next day, as the entire class sat with their practical files on display, Ritesh sat empty-handed. “There is still time; it will sort itself out,” he thought. And as luck would have it, he was right. Another teacher came and informed them that their Science teacher will be on a leave for the whole week. The students hung their heads in disappointment, but amongst them sat Ritesh, brain full of joy and overconfidence. Ritesh had taken this incident to his heart, feeling that luck is and always will be on his side and that he should never

worry about anything or take his responsibilities seriously.

And with this newly elevated overconfidence, Ritesh passed away preparation time for board exams by playing all day, having fun. With one day left for his final Physics Board exam, he still sat watching a movie. It was around 8 pm in the evening when his mother had had enough that she finally pushed him to his room to study. “Chill maa, I’ll do it. Don’t be after me!” was his favourite line for her. But as he was sent to his room with no phone and no TV, he had no other option but to finally open up his books. Thinking himself to be extremely smart, he had an-

And with this newly elevated overconfidence, Ritesh passed away preparation time for board exams by playing all day, having fun.

icipated that he would mug up everything in half an hour and be done with it, but as he opened up the syllabus, he came face to face with 14 chapters which were all equally important and lengthy. As he tried to skim through them, he could understand nothing and finally started panicking. “Calm down, Ritesh! It’ll sort itself out!” he told himself. His mind told him that he had two options – either cram as much as I can at this 11th hour, or find a way to cheat in the test. Always wanting the easy way out, he chose the latter. Using whatever time he had left, he decided to make chits for the exam. The next day, as the question paper was handed to him, his eyes almost jumped out of his body. None of the chits he had prepared were useful and moreover, in his worry, he was sloppy and was instantly caught by the invigilator. Ritesh was shaken to his core, not knowing what to do. Things had always worked out in his favour in the past, but guess, his luck had finally run out. He had finally learnt his mistake, but he learnt it the hard way! **GT**

So what did you learn today?
Procrastination will only land you in trouble.



Sneha Asthana

Coconut ladoo

Sneha Asthana

AIS VKC, VI

Ingredients

Khoya (Maava).....250grams
Grated coconut.....5 cups
Desi ghee1tbsp
Milkmaid.....1 small tin

Method

- Put khoya in a pan and stir it on a low flame until it starts losing oil.
- Now, add Nestle Milkmaid and 3 cups grated coconut in it and mix it well.
- Cook this mixture on a low flame stirring gently every now and then.
- Make sure the coconut mixture does not stick to the bottom of the pan.

- The mixture will thicken and turn into a mass.
- This mass should be moist, so make sure that you don’t overcook it.
- If required, add some more condensed milk into the mass for more sweetness.
- Once done, keep it aside so that it cools down.
- Now apply some desi ghee on your hands.
- With greased hands, take small portions of this mass and roll it into ladoos.
- Roll the ladoos in the remaining grated coconut.
- Store these in an air tight container and refrigerate.
- Your coconut ladoos are ready to eat! Consume the ladoos within a week.

It's Me

Know Me

My name: Sara Makhija
My Class: II
My school: AIS Vas 6
My birthday: March 19

My Dreams And Goals

My role model: Dad
I want to become: A kind and compassionate human being
I want to feature in GT because: I want the whole world to recognise me as a proud Amitian.

My Favourites

Teacher: Jaya Tuli ma'am
Subject: Jolly Phonics
Friend: My sister, Siya Di
Game: Lawn Tennis
Cartoon: Peppa Pig
Food: Everything my mom cooks
Mall: Ambience Mall
Book: Peppa Goes Camping



Riddle Fiddle

Arjun Kalra, AIS MV, V

1. As soon as you say its name, it disappears. What is it?
2. What is the definition of the word minimum?
3. If you throw butter out of the window, what would it be called?
4. Where do tadpoles go when they lose their tails?
5. If fishes lived on land, in which country would they live?

Answers: 1. Silence 2. Mini-mum - A little mother 3. A butter-fly 4. A re-tail shop 5. Finland

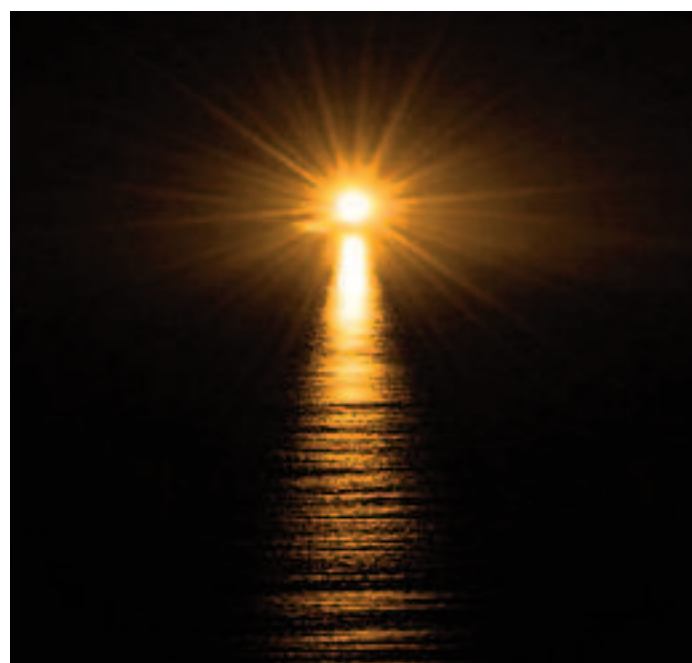
Painting Corner



A few weeks back, a baby elephant died in his mother's womb when humans fed her a cracker laden pineapple. This painting is my tribute to that baby elephant who didn't get a chance to see the daylight.

Shourya Kumar, AIS MV, IV C

POEMS



Never lose hope

Tarini Dayal,
AGS Gurugram, VIII

When life is disappointing
And you are in a dark spot
When you're about to give up
Think about the success you got

How you achieved so much
And you got the deserved credit
You were extremely overjoyed
And in your heart, you knew it

You were amazingly strong
You balanced all and everything
And you promised yourself to

Never give up on anything

So, look at your achievements
And just think about all of it
How you moved past darkness
That you were once stuck with

Today, you are lost in the dark
Yet you do not need any help
For you know it very well
That you have the strength

Beneath these black shadows
There stands a shining light
With all of the positivity
Ready to glow in the night **GT**

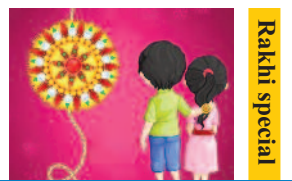


Through the window

Shiuli Ghosh
AIS Pushp Vihar, VI

Through the window I see
A couple of crows and parakeets
In nests, new lives taking wing
And the birds starting to sing
A happy and sweet melody
Through the window I see
Butterflies roaming happily
Fields and flowers bloom
And the sun will rise soon
To light up my entire room
Through the window I see
Clouds like cotton candy
Soft and endearing to me
The sky is clear and blue
And I am happy too. **GT**

To ease the Hindu-Muslim tension during Bengal partition, Rabindranath Tagore used the festival of Raksha Bandhan to promote peace and harmony within the communities.



I'll be there for you

A Day In The Life Of A Tenth Grader

Aayushi Bawa,
AIS Noida, XI F

It was July 15, 2020; CBSE had declared its class X results. Now obviously, we were all waiting for this day. While I was a bit afraid, my parents had all the excitement that could there be. As I switched on my laptop to check my result, I could see their eyes, brimming with hope, staring at me in the black screen. It made me nervous. I could definitely feel the pressure. But somewhere in the back of my mind, the very thought that these marks won't be a judge of my true potential safeguarded me a bit. Expectations, I tell you! But what was still bothering me was the fact that I did not even get a chance to prove my caliber this year. All thanks to COVID-19. The exams that could have rescued me were cancelled. I felt betrayed. But then who can argue with fate. Following the instructions, I filled in all my details on the result website. I was tightlipped, my little brother chirpier than ever. The page said 'loading' and only God knows

what transpired in me for those 20 seconds - the whole world went mute, and I could only hear my heart palpitating. Within seconds, I had my result in front of me - "Passed with 82%". And in that very moment, I jumped, I cheered, I cried and was swelling with pride. The quietude in me was overpowered by whoops and hollers. But there was something amiss in all that celebration. I couldn't figure it out until I turned back to see my parents, only to find that they had no reaction at all. They were all looking at me with a straight face as if mocking me for my 'scanty' achievement. I felt bad, but to respect my efforts and success, I simply chose to ignore. And then what? The entire evening passed in explaining my relatives what went wrong. I mean, did they already forget that we are in the midst of a pandemic? People are dying all over the world but what was bothering them more was my score; a score I had no control over in the first place. Sigh!

In an effort to cheer myself up, I texted one of my cousins but to my utter dismay all I got was an

excuse to escape from having a conversation. "What is even happening to people these days?" I uttered to myself. Still proud of my accomplishment, I smiled and let the moment pass. And just when I was dosing off to sleep, my phone beeped. I rushed towards it to check the notification. There it was, out of all the excuses and ignorance, a text that read, "I'm so proud of you! Where is the party?" with a gazillion heart emoticons, a text from my best friend who is always there at the right time to lift me out of dejection and gloom.

I laughed out loud at this typical 'best friend response' as I felt the urge to do an 'I'll be there for you' karaoke with her and sink into madness. For, whose approval or acclaim would matter if your best friend is proud of you! I say Nobody's. 🇮🇳



WORDS VERSE

A wish and a prayer

Aditi Kashyap
AIS Vas 1, IV D

I wish I could go to school
And meet my teachers in person
To learn at my knowledge junction

Science, SST, English, math
Hindi, sports, all a kind
For a healthy body, soul and mind

Learning online is a lot of fun
But I am still at home all alone
I miss my school of brick and stone

Now everyone stays inside
As there is a fear in the air
Of a virus bigger than all warfare

Wash your hands, wear a mask
No it is not that tough a task
To make this world a better place

The moment will come soon
When I can go out and play
And stay out night and day

To wake up before the light of sun
To catch my bus every morning

And skate around every evening

The fun will then never cease
To be with our mates as we please
Singing, dancing and to tease

So, let us hope to welcome peace
As God and science are together
To take care of our human brethren

My dear God, hear my words
And accept my prayers today
Please take corona far far away. 🇮🇳



It's high time

Jasnoor Kaur Pruthi, AIS MV, XII A

The air I inhaled this morning
Was untainted, clean and pure
It felt as if in all these years
I had not been breathing
But smoking; for, now it is
Like a delayed dose of nicotine

We aren't witnessing a pandemic
We are witnessing karma
For the trees were ruthlessly cut
And all the birds died in pain
Other beings murdered by us
Are now avenging their deaths

They would now rest in peace
As the creatures see us suffer

For us, this lockdown is a prison
But for nature, it is her freedom
Everyone knew it was high time
That we cared about our home

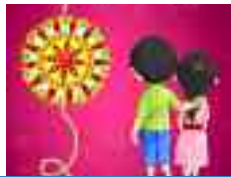
Now the nights are silenced
And the mornings shine and sing
As skies become clear till far
We now sleep under a quilt of stars
The winds pass through the trees
And the farms in happiness sway

Maybe such a time was needed
Not to grant us pain or grief or loss
Perhaps the Earth hadn't given up yet
And that everything can fall into place
It's time we realise that it's high time
That we start mending our ways. 🇮🇳

Artistic Expression



This art work on 'Life during Covid 19' made by Aarohi Kansal, AIS Noida, VI D, won first prize in an art contest organised by Kolor n Canvas, a premier art and craft institute.



It is believed that during Mahabharata, Draupadi tied a *rakhi* around Krishna's wounded wrist and he, in return, vowed to protect her.

Nurturing sensitivity

Educators Discuss Gender Issues And Learning Virtually

HR & Training Department

A workshop on 'Gender Sensitivity', an important issue of the 21st century was held through webinar for the educators of Amity on July 11, 2020. The programme organized under the aegis of HR and Training department was an initiative of the visionary guidance of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, who believes that gender-sensitive educators make learning more immersive and unbiased because of their in-depth understanding of gender-based requirements. The

objective of the webinar was to develop gender sensibilities in educators to help them innovate pedagogies for better classroom engagement with equal participation of genders. The virtual workshop was conducted by Arti Chopra, Principal, AIS Gurugram 46 and was attended by 985 educators, from different branches of Amity Group of Schools all over India.

The session commenced with chanting of Gayatri Mantra along with a virtual lamp lighting ceremony. Chairperson in her address shared the need for nurturing happy children without any bias at school and home. Resource person Arti Chopra ex-

plained that the classroom dynamics play a crucial role in defining how well girls and boys participate in classroom proceedings that affect their performance. Educators are pivotal to these processes, thus their attitude and responsiveness towards these processes, thus their attitude and responsiveness towards gender-specific tasks. Instilling empathy into the hearts of the students about the other gender is crucial for a free, democratic and secular society. She

threw light upon the society's recognition of gender stereotypes and the prevalent patriarchy in many parts of the country that has led to creating biases in the minds of people. She also elaborated upon the essential qualities that a gender-sensitive school should have and explained gender-sensitive pedagogy and teaching-learning materials with the help of examples, videos, interactive slides, questionnaires and activities. The session indeed empowered the educators with skills to identify issues that could create barriers in the minds of children, which would further help them ensure synergized classrooms. [GFI](#)



Chairperson addresses the educators during the virtual workshop



Gender issues and their impact on learning being showcased



Prisha Anand



Shaurya Sisodhia



Navdha Jain

Top skills

AIS Gurugram 46

Four Amitians bagged laurels at state and district levels of KAMP - 2019 (Knowledge and Awareness Mapping Platform), an international e-based intellect assessment platform to evaluate cognizance of 21st century skills, awareness and knowledge of Science, Technology and Humanities. Result of these unique assessments designed for the students of Class V-XII were declared on May 31, 2020. Shaurya Sisodhia (Class VIII) topped state

and won the 'State Thinker Award'. Navdha Jain (Class VI) and Prisha Anand & Jasraj Sahoo (Class VII) were the district toppers and were awarded the 'Medal of Excellence'. Total 22 students from the school participated in this skills assessment program.

About KAMP

KAMP is an initiative of CSIR-National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS). It is designed to instil meaningful learning, and develop inherent creativity, critical reading and thinking skills of the students. The exam maps the proficiency of students in science, technology and humanities through their assessment for science process skills comprising observation, measurements, inferences, classifications, predictions, analysis and communications.



Jasraj Sahoo

Winning water beyond earth

Winners at 'The Saturn Parable'



Amitians engage in the multiplayer virtual game 'The Saturn Parable'

Amity Educational Resource Centre

Three Amitians participated, two of whom won the overall first position in the virtual game, 'The Saturn Parable' organised by Wharton Global Youth Program & Wharton Interactive, University of Pennsylvania, USA and held from July 11-12, 2020. The proud winners of the highly engaging multiplayer game are Dakshesh Bharal (XII) from AIS Pushp Vihar and Pooja Chandna (XI) from AIS Saket who beat 130 participants worldwide as team Saturnus. Saumya Chauhan (X) from AIS PV also participated immersively in the game. Participation of Amity in this one of its kind, Alternate Reality based competition was coordinated by Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC) under the visionary guidance of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF. In the game, team Saturnus set out in a virtual expedition based in the year 2087. Students

assumed the roles of the members of the Enceladus Expedition, the first commercial space mission to Saturn's moon Enceladus. The South Pole of this moon is the only reliable source of liquid water beyond Earth and the team to land there first was to gain exclusive mining rights for water. During the game, all 130 participants interacted with each other in real time and, Professor Ethan Mollick from Wharton Global Youth Program & Wharton Interactive delivered online live lectures.

About The Saturn Parable

The Saturn parable, is a multiplayer virtual game that aims at teaching students how to effectively lead and collaborate on teams using the very latest evidence-based leadership and teamwork approaches taught in Wharton's leadership, strategy, and organisation classes. Each player is required to navigate real-world challenges in a fictional setting, receiving continuous, adaptive performance feedback via gaming interface. [GFI](#)



"I have learnt so many life lessons and leadership skills through The Saturn Parable. It put us in real life stressful situations and tested our abilities. It gave us a taste of what leading a team is actually like and allowed us to learn through these experiences."

Saumya Chauhan



"The competition required us to solve cryptographs, figure out drone paths and read landing maps within the given time. Though we did have a few disagreements, we were able to discuss and reach consensus quite easily. I will forever be indebted to Chairperson Ma'am and AERC for such an experience."

Pooja Chandna



"The immense feeling of pride that filled us when they announced us as the winners was beyond compare. From negotiation to quick and efficient decision making to studying probability and mapping locations, this competition has truly given me an amazing learning experience."

Dakshesh Bharal

Staying healthy

AIS Vasundhara 6

A virtual assembly to celebrate the World Health Day was held by the students of Class V on July 7, 2020. The online congregation commenced with the chanting of Gayatri Mantra and shlokas, followed by news reading. Students spoke about various important services provided by the healthcare professionals, especially nurses and midwives. They also shared the importance of frontline healthcare workers in fighting against the global pandemic. While some students presented a dance recital demonstrating



A virtual message by students

the precautions to be taken during pandemic, others showcased yoga asanas for holistic wellbeing. Importance of mental health and physical fitness was also stressed upon during the assembly which concluded with a teacher's talk on the same. [GFI](#)



A drop of message



Blue waters are life

Crowning glory

AIS Mayur Vihar

An online activity 'Crowning glory' was held on July 13, 2020, for the students of Class II in order to sensitise them towards the importance of conserving water. Students prepared various types of creative headgears themed around blue water drops and wrote quotes related to water conservation on them. It was a virtual activity but the fun and learning was real as tiny tots expressed their inner creativity to their best. [GFI](#)



Every drop counts



Save water spread smile



In the assembly

The best time to tie *rakhi* is during Aparahna (afternoon), and not Bhadra, which is late evening and early morning.

All top quotes contributed by
Maya L Joshi, AGS Gurugram, VIII



An introvert's guide book to small talk

The Sure Shot Ways Of Surviving *Gasps* A Confab



Agrani Rasgotra &
Tanya Talwar, XII, AIS PV

Did you avoid making eye contact with a chatty neighbour you unexpectedly ran into? Does skipping your popular friend's party so you wouldn't have to make small talk sound like something you'd do? Yes? Don't worry, you don't suffer from anthropophobia; you're just an introvert. These weren't your first transgressions against society and they probably won't be the last, but in the meantime, here is a guide to ace small talks, the next time you're forced into one.

Step 1: Make way for Nod-dy

Every time you are stuck in a conversation, remember to nod that neck away. Pretend you're listening to what is being said and be sure to throw in a "Sure, I agree!" or "Oh my, that's true!" every once in a while. Maintain eye contact and chime in with follow-up questions, if possible. Who knows? In this act of pretention, you might end up being genuinely amused by what they had to say.

Step 2: Call of the fandom

Chances are the person on the other side of

the table feels as awkward as you do, because the start of conversations can often be dull and monotonous. If you want to find out whether they are worth the effort of an entire conversation, just try to find a really prominent similarity you might share with that person, because come on, they have *got* to be in a fandom, right? Find a mutual fandom and then you both can fangirl over Jake Peralta together.

Step 3: Buzzfeed-ing

Escaping from a group you're on a name call basis is hard, even if the conversation becomes superficial and meaningless. One way to escape this trauma is to gradually transition out of the boring talk and mention something happening around the globe that majority might find interesting. Discussing current issues will not only shift the attention from you, it might bring out a stimulating chat and also show everyone's worldview, revealing to you who, amongst the crowd, looks at world the same as you do.

Step 4: Comm-you-nicate

All eyes on you and you're afraid you're putting everyone to sleep? Stop. See if the other person continues to opt-in; get a load of their

level of interest. Allow yourself to be interrupted and if they ask you to continue, you know they were genuinely interested. Now continue your tale with your newly found confidence and conviction.

Step 5: It's not me, it's you

If you don't want to talk about yourself, take that pressure off by making the other person talk about themselves. As cynical as it sounds, let's face it, people tend to love talking about themselves. Try using 'you' more than 'I', and it might just be crazy enough to actually work.

Step 6: One call away

Even after you've tried hook and crook and the terror of the conversation just does not seem to end, pull out the cliched trick and hope it becomes your saviour. Look up suddenly and pretend to hear someone calling your name. "Huh...did you hear that? Did someone call me?" Or sneakily text your friend to give you a call and when they do call you, act like it's very important business and step away.

If all else fails, fake an emergency and give an Oscar-worthy performance. [G](#) [I](#)

My first attempt

Chef Disaster At Service

Tijil Jha, AIS Saket, XII

My hands shook as I kept my foot in the kitchen for the first time, not to eat but to cook! One would think that I was preparing for a battle. I know, my brother and my mom can't believe it either. So, to prove them wrong, I'll cook my favourite *chhole chawal* today. Easy peasy, right? With my battle-station ready, I began. So, first step? Soak the white chickpeas and some rice into water. "Not together," my mother yelled. Okay, clear instructions next time, maybe? Looking at the recipe, I realised that it needed to be soaked for at least eight hours. Phew! My work for the day is done. God this was exhausting!

(Eight hours later...)

Back in the fray people. Step two, add the soaked chickpeas, sliced onions, black cardamom, cumin, garlic, salt and bay leaves in a pressure cooker and put it on a medium flame. But what are these things? I know onions, but the others? Well, while I find the ingredients maybe putting the water on boil would save some time. Now, this looks black, must be black cardamom only. "Wait that was tea!" my mom said

but it was too late already. Next ingredient is bay leaves but I found curry leaves and since they are both leaves, I think it won't matter. Sniff, sniff, something is burning. Oh water, water is burning! Remember when I put it on gas 3 years ago! God, I need a rewind button.

Last step, the making of the curry. I set up the mixer and added tomatoes, onions and green chilies in it. I closed the lid and switched the mixer on. Splat! The mixer's lid just went up and everything came out. Huh, I swear this never happens to all those fancy chefs on TV who would just close the lid and go on about their work. "Try putting your hand on it next time," my mother commented. Yes, and try telling me that before I get drenched in tomatoes next time! Urghh!

After remaking the puree, I mixed the chickpeas and puree together and poured my *chhole* into a bowl. I think I'm forgetting something. "Rice, you forgot to make the *chawal* in the *chhole chawal*!" My mother was too late yet again!

I went to my room and dropped on the bed. I wasted a whole day trying to make a dish

I can't even eat now. But still, to prove certain family members wrong, I vowed to try another day and by another day I mean never. Never!



Rashi Garg
GT Network

Do not indulge in gadgets too much, they said. True knowledge lies in books, they insisted. But thankfully, Krishiv did not pay heed to what 'they said'. Why so, you may ask? Well, because had it not been for his interest in gaming and gadgets, Krishiv would not have achieved this great feat. At the tender age of eight, Krishiv Narula, a class IV student of Amity International School,

Go own your game!

Meet Krishiv Narula, A Certified Game Developer

Gwalior has become one of the youngest game developers as certified by WhiteHatJr.

"Whenever I played games online, I wondered how these apps/games were made. I told my parents that I would like to learn more in this area and the next thing I got to know was that I was being enrolled in this programme. I learnt basic concepts of coding like Sequences, Binary Strings, Conditional Loops, etc." (Disclaimer: If you are feeling dizzy thinking what did I do when I was eight years old, then read on to be surprised even more).

Over the course of 48 online classes, Krishiv's curriculum included animations, game design and advanced app structures. He also created interactive apps with deep UX/UI interface as a part of his project. "I remember, last

year my parents gifted me tablet on my birthday and since then my interest to learn more about gaming has only increased. My parents and school supported me a lot. In both the places, there is no discussion on failures and I am being trained to understand life skills- to live a happy and healthy life with a progressive mind-set," Krishiv narrated gleefully.

Taking little pearls of wisdom from the little genius, we asked Krishiv what is it that he wants to do in future and prompt came the reply, "I would like to make educational games for my peer groups which would be interesting as well as educative. For example, interactive games which would have story book characters related to subjects like Social Science and Science," Krishiv asserted with dreams brimming in his eyes. "But, for that I need to work

harder and understand other technical concepts of gaming and I am sure I will be able to do that in future," Krishiv signed off wisely. Being a certified game developer, already, we, at GT, say you are almost there, Krishiv. Kudos to you! Keep inspiring. [G](#) [I](#)



Krishiv Narula, budding game developer from AIS Gwalior