

Vinayak Seth, AIS MV, X C

Characterised by the values of solidarity, and acceptance for all, sport, unbeknownst to none, has the power to unite people in a way little else does. Yet, history stands witness to instances wherein sporting contests hit the skids, raising a rumpus out of mere trifles. Clashes amongst fans, burning of players' effigies...you name it! The rationale behind this indulgence sure does tickle our fancy. After all, when was the last time you saw people tattooing the logo of, say, a bank on their body?

### One clash and another riot What about peace and quiet?

Since times immemorial, sports and its lifeblood - fans, have walked hand in hand. While sports give fans a sense of self, it is through their passion (and cash) that sports get their meaning. Howbeit, analogous to any relationship with an unbreakable bond, there have been ample instances where things got extremely toxic between the two. The plight of fanaticism, as such, has existed amongst us since the very start. Going back to the first Olympic Games held in 776 BC, fans then were infamous for resorting to questionable tactics to make the opposing teams lose. Even as recently as in December last year, a young boy lost his life owing to the clashes that erupted amongst the supporters of France and Morocco after the FIFA World Cup Semi-Final. A similar case of brutality got highlighted in the infamous Vancouver riots of 2011, which resulted in over 150 people getting injured and property loss of more than 5 mn USD. Cases of such violence thus are becoming exceedingly frequent, making the issue a cause of worry.

### Fanaticism is on the rise

#### Who's responsible for the cries?

While it is understandable for sportsmen to feel committed to their team, it is oftentimes

## Fans at it!

### When Sports Ground Turned Battlefield



Illustration: Arnav Singh, AIS MV, VIII

unclear as to why the spectators become so engrossed with their favourite teams. Researchers say that it all starts with needs, for humans, as social creatures, are designed to have psychological needs and wants. Ergo, it is their need to feel a sense of belonging

that makes them choose their team and stand by it, come what may. There's also a strong correlation between how people identify with their nationality, gender, as well as their team. For some, this act of "identification" is both imperative and powerful to their

sense of self. This gets presented in how one refers to their team as "we won" or "we lost". One can certainly argue that this is just a part of the game, which it definitely is, but the problem arises when this association turns into obsessive fanaticism and leads to one going over the line, indulging in altercations or worse, actual physical conflicts.

### More than just bat and ball Is it mere politics for all!?

For sports, of its own volition or otherwise, has also served as a major political tool to influence bilateral relations between nations since the dawn of time. Howbeit, when it comes to answering the purpose, the usage of sports and politics in conjunction has had both positive and negative effects. Olympics, for one, acts as the nonpareil exemplar of the propitiousness of this notion. The 1971 Ping-Pong diplomacy, wherein a group of American table tennis players paid a visit to Communist China and ended up reviving its relations with the US, both of which had not been in contact for 22 years, serves as another example. In the black to this white is the infamous 'Football War', wherein Honduras and El Salvador waged war over rioting at the 1970 FIFA World Cup, claiming the lives of some 900 El Salvadorians and 2000 Hondurans – all over a game. This only goes on to show how what might seem as harmless fun has the potential to quickly escalate and put millions of lives at risk.

It all thus boils down to a simple question - is this what sports were originally intended for? Is this the path we, as spectators, fans or even players, want to course through going forward? The short answer is no. So, while there's no harm in being loud and proud with the crowd, exercising a little restraint as you do so would spare sports the trouble of losing sight of its intended goal. It's only a game after all, and the ball here is most definitely in your court. 🇮🇳

Page editor: P V Sai Kashish, AIS MV, XI E

### THE GT POLL

How do you rate the current budget?

- a) Good
- b) Bad
- c) Average

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**Coming next**  
Worst out of waste

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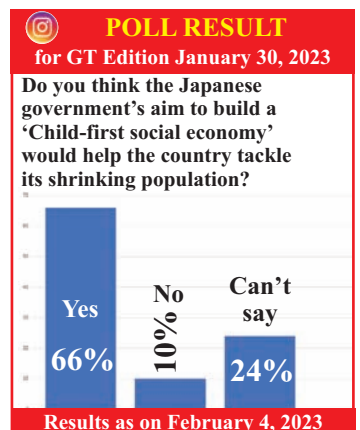


which are pitted against one another at the end of the year, culminating with GT Awards. So, here's presenting the sixth edition of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2022-23'.

This special edition has been brought to you by **Amity International School, Mayur Vihar**, as a part of the 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest'. Each page of this unique edition carries a special story handcrafted by the school's editorial team as a part of the competition. The inter-Amity newspaper making competition witnesses different branches of Amity schools across India churn out their own 'Contest Edition'

### What's inside

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# Around The WORLD

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



## FRANCE

### Protests against pension age

A second wave of protests against President Emmanuel Macron's plan of raising the retirement age from 62 to 64 has hit the country with multiple strikes and violent outrages. Eight key unions have gathered up for the strike which has been disrupting schools, public transport, and oil refineries for the past two weeks. According to reports, around half a million protestors have gathered in Paris alone with around 2.8 million overall protestors seen across the country. Even with the backlash, the Macron government has not announced any plans of backing down with the new scheme.



## BANGLADESH

### 4.7 billion USD support

A support programme worth 4.7 billion USD at the current exchange rate has been approved by the International Monetary Fund for Bangladesh. The fund includes 3.3 billion USD under the IMF's Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility programmes, and 1.4 billion USD under the new Resilience and Sustainability Facility which aims to 'help vulnerable middle-income countries and island states'. The funding also makes the Asian country the first in the world to have access to IMF's RSF policy, and this 42-month borrowing package is said to help Bangladesh preserve their macroeconomic stability.

## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

### Botey first woman PM

Manuela Roka Botey has been appointed as the new prime minister, becoming the first ever woman to hold the position in the African country. She first joined the government sector as the minister for national education in 2020, and still holds the position of the vice dean of the National University of Equatorial Guinea's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. With the investiture, Roka Botey has replaced the former PM Francisco Pascual Obama Asue.



## AUSTRALIA

### Highest Grand Slam viewers

The Australian Open, from Jan 16-29, 2023, has set a new world record for the highest Grand Slam attendance, with more than 9,00,000 audience members visiting the event over the last three weeks. The tournament also broke the single-day attendance record with 94,854 spectators visiting on January 21, 2023. The event ended with Novak Djokovic winning his 10<sup>th</sup> Australian Open as well Aryna Sabalenka winning the Women's Singles title.



## GERMANY

### Winner of hockey World Cup

Beating Belgium by 5-4 in a penalty shootout, Germany has won the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup for the year 2023, held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India. Players Niklas Wellen, Gonzalo Peillat, and captain Mats Grambusch scored for the country in the regulation time to help achieve the feat. This makes Germany the third nation in the world (after Australia and Netherlands) to have clinched the hockey world cup title thrice.



## INDIA

### Budget 2023 announced

The union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the budget for the financial year 2023-24 for the Indian economy in Lok Sabha in nation's capital, New Delhi. In the last full-fledged budget of the Modi government before the Lok Sabha elections in the year 2024, Sitharaman announced major changes in the tax slabs, especially income tax, under the new tax regime, as well as a big hike in the allocation granted for railways and capital expenditure.



## NEW ZEALAND

### Flood hits Auckland

Floods and landslides have hit the biggest city in the country, Auckland, with more rainfall being predicted for the upcoming days. According to weather forecasts, more than a month's worth of rain has fallen in the area in just 24 hours, downing trees, flooding homes, and closing roads. Around four people have been killed and thousands have had their homes affected. The country's new PM, Chris Hipkins, has called it a result of climate change.

## News Flash

► **Antarctica:** New world record for the longest solo and unsupported polar expedition created by British Preet Chandi by covering 922 miles in an Antarctic trek ► **Pakistan:** Suicide attack in Peshawar mosque kills around 100 and injures more than 100



# A man of many hats

## Behind The Scenes Of Storytelling With Storyteller Aayush Gupta

Pranav Manoj, XI &  
Chaitanya Roy, IX C, AIS MV

An author by passion, musician by chance, script-writer by profession, producer by process - Aayush Gupta is a man of many hats. He has been a part of writers' rooms in Eros and Zee, and is currently associated with Yash Raj Films. He has produced and presented shows for All India Radio's External Services as well as national channels. Under his own banner, Guddi Productions, he has directed and co-produced multiple non-fiction shows and documentaries. As GT reporters catch up with him, they bring you the many sides of this multi-faceted personality.

### Authoring a beginning

I started writing poems in seventh grade, and wrote my first book a year later. I sent it to 30-35 publishers, but was rejected by each one of them. I wrote another book during my undergrad, which suffered the same fate. Then I wrote my third book 'Toppers', which was finally picked up by Penguin Publications. I made my foray into screenplay writing in 2015 when I joined a production house. I worked as an in-house writer for three months and as a freelancer

for another one-two years. That was my start to professional writing, and there has been no looking back since then.

### Musical coincidence

Music happened to me by chance. Pt Shambhu Nath Sopori, also known as the father of classical music in Jammu & Kashmir, happened to stay close to our house. My mum suggested I learn from him. I remember visiting him and walking into a room full of classical instruments. He said, "acha bajao jo bajana hai". I tried the harmonium, sitar, but I liked santoor the most. It was relatively easier for a beginner to use. Once I got my certification, I let go of playing the instrument. If someone asks to play now, I can try!

### Filming challenges

Working as an AD for the Punjabi movie Chauthi Koot was challenging. An AD has to be very proactive and anticipate problems beforehand. He ought to be in the mind of a director to make preparations accordingly. The experience was eye-opening, for I realised that films are made in chaos. If you don't enjoy the process, aren't assertive, or cannot make yourself heard, a film set can



GT reporters interact with Aayush Gupta

be a harsh environment to be in. Your hustle is against time. Each day may cost 20-25 lakh INR. One mistake can ruin an entire day of the shoot. I realised I did not like direction, but it taught me how to work and manage people.

### Scripting true stories

Tough – that is how I would like to describe writing for The Railway Men. The web series starring KK Menon, R Madhavan et al was based on a real life event - Bhopal gas tragedy. A lot of research went into it; I was required to go out, meet people, and interview them. Working with a real life event always comes with a lot of respon-

sibility. Even though the background is based on a real setting, the characters and the narrative tend to tilt towards fiction, since you need to present them in a believable form. And thus, there is the need to find the right balance; you try to get as close to the truth as possible, but your primary goal is to tell a story. You ought to be sensitive in the nature of your storytelling, and not sensationalise.

### Producing reality

While I have been writing fiction, I am also interested in documentaries. So, I tried producing a non-fiction show in 2015 based on Indian handicrafts. We traveled

## INTERVIEW

around the country to 26 cities, exploring 26 different handicrafts, and creating 26 episodes. It was a really great experience. I enjoy writing fiction, but I enjoy directing non-fiction because you're finding the story. In fiction, you discover your story as you write; it's in your hands, and you can change the narrative as you desire. But with non-fiction, you discover your story along the way as you interact with people.

### Married to the future

The next thing I want to do is a wedding, and not in the conventional format with six cameras put in a closed room. I want to tell a story, answer questions like who are the people getting married, their likes, dislikes, why are they getting married, etc. I want them to look at the video 20 years later and ask themselves if they have changed. I have seen wedding videos where we don't see the parents speak a single thing through the entire wedding. I want to create a movie where the journey of the parents comes to the fore. My idea is to focus on the story and not the visual spectacle. 📺

## Book Review

# Rake in that review

**Synopsis:** The sixth installment of the seven-part series follows Harry Potter in his sixth year at Hogwarts. The story trudges forward as Harry recovers from the loss of his godfather, Sirius Black. In true Potter style, the book has you hooked as Harry sets out to discover 'The Half-Blood Prince'. Like its previous installments, the book takes the protagonist vs antagonist turn, and our hero and his companions face perilous days ahead. Dumbledore, on the other hand, is required to prepare Harry for what is about to unfold.

**Why it is worth reading:** The book has been well-received by both chil-

**Book:** Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

**Author:** J.K. Rowling

**Published in:** 2005

**Genre:** Fiction, Fantasy

dren and adults. The plot's numerous twists and turns make it extremely unforeseeable for the reader; it steadily develops suspense and creates a captivating enigma. It also depicts Harry's ordeals as he grows up, as well as those of surrounding characters. The novel also finishes on a cliffhanger, which increases one's desire to read the subsequent book.

Overall, the tension in this novel is palpable, and it is difficult to put down. The continual back and forth of Voldemort's existence moves at a breakneck rate from the first to the last page. Furthermore, as the series' penultimate piece, this book is a must-read. Will our hero succeed or will he give in to despair over his losses? Read it and know for yourself.

**Iconic quote:** "It is important to fight and fight again, and keep fighting, for only then can evil be kept at bay though never quite eradicated."

**Rating:** 5/5

**Review by:** Raj Chandra

AIS Vasundhara 1, VII B





# THE WILY VIRA

## How Reflection Of Light Helped Saved The Kingdom

Shivanshi Sharma &  
Apaar Khare, AIS MV, X



Ever since the day the cruel wizard Alzalam challenged the residents of Ray to a battle for supremacy, the entire kingdom of Ray had been restless. The populace was well acquainted with Alzalam's might for he could reduce anyone to ashes with a mere stare. Even the most proficient wizards would see their magic failing before this mighty beast.

Convinced that Alzalam could be defeated by intelligence and wit alone, the queen summoned Vira, one of her wisest advisors. Vira was recognised across the kingdom for her strong strategies and intellect. Realising that the future of her kingdom now lay in her hands, she started working on a strategy to fight the monster.

On the day of the duel, people gathered at the northern edge of the kingdom. The crowd had gone as silent as the night as Vira heard footsteps crunching onto

the gravel behind her. A single glance into his eyes could be the end of her. The only way to kill him would be to make him look into his own eyes. But how would she do that? Before she could act, the evil wizard called her out. "Which of her henchmen has the queen dispatched now, I wonder. Anything you attempt will just bring your demise closer!" Alzalam remarked.

Fighting the impulse to thrust her blade into him, Vira was already looking for ways to put her plan to action. She knew what needed to be done; all she needed was a reflective surface that was big enough. Only his own reflection

### The science of it

The phenomenon of light being reflected off a glossy, smooth surface when a ray of light strikes it is known as reflection of light. The ray that bounces back is called the reflected ray.

could make him stare into his own eyes.

And then, as if in an epiphany, she sprinted in the direction of the Hall of Mirrors. And now all she needed to do was wait for the ideal moment because when the timing was correct, the hall was known to illuminate within a second with thousands of mirrors.

"Are you afraid? Trying to escape the battlefield already?" Alzalam

yelled. He ran to attack and began pursuing Vira. She was moving in a maze-like pattern to throw him off guard while attempting to strike him intermittently. Alzalam also attempted to cast spells to harm her, but nothing was successful. She carefully taunted him, which made him extremely angry enough that he decided to unleash his eyes, and Vira finally tricked him into going inside the Hall of Mirrors. The moment that Vira had longed for arrived as the sun illuminated the Hall of Mirrors. As Alzalam looked into a mirror, his stare was reflected into his eyes, reducing him to mere ashes in a matter of few minutes. At last, Alzalam was defeated and people in the kingdom could breathe a sigh of relief.

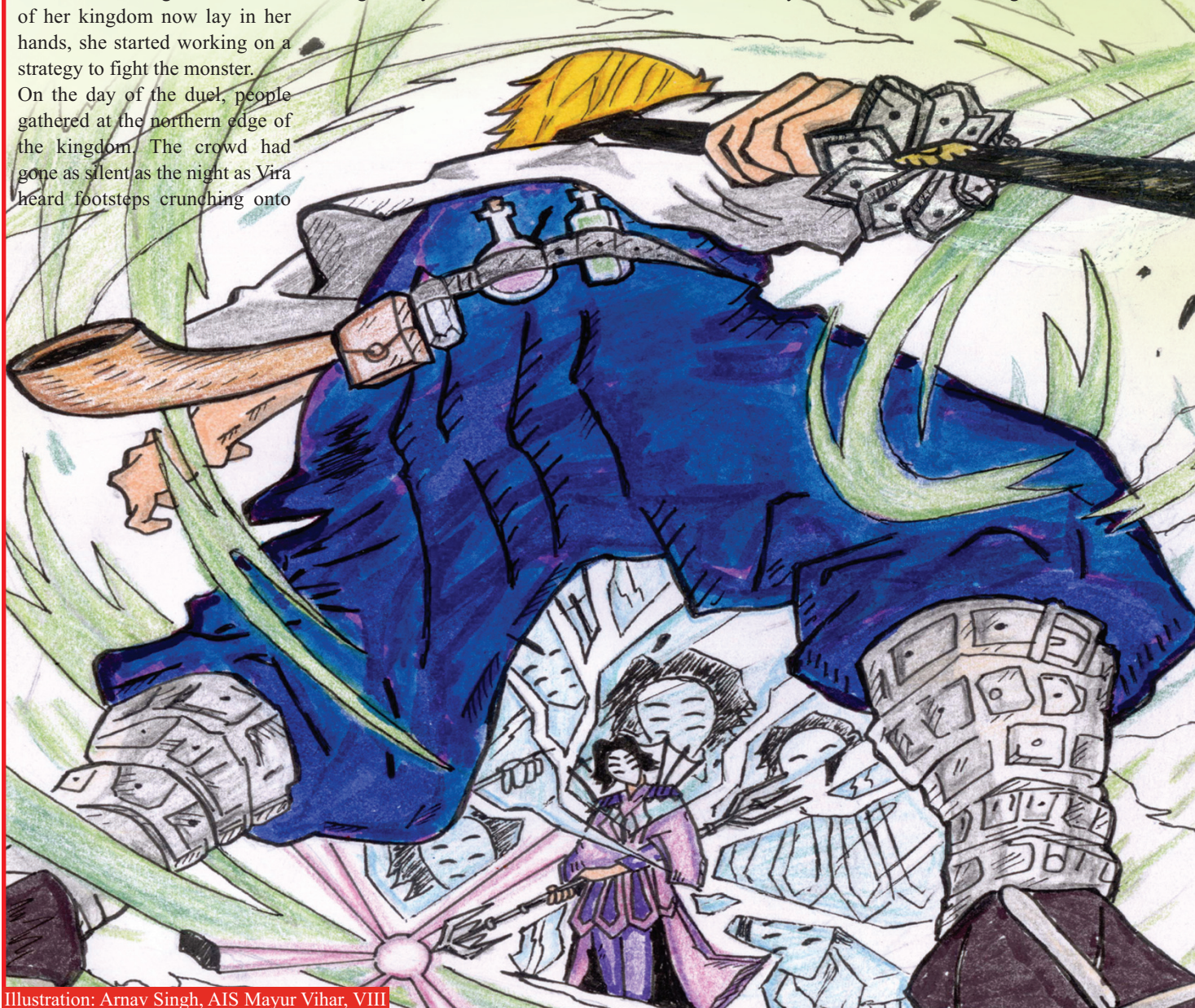


Illustration: Arnav Singh, AIS Mayur Vihar, VIII



FACT FILE

## Fascinating fingernails

Bhavya Dhanuka

AIS Gurugram 43, VIII A

- Known to be a part of body's integumentary system, fingernails have a structure which includes the matrix, the nail bed, the nail plate, and the skin around the nail.
- On average, fingernails grow at a rate of around 3.5 mm per month. In fact, they grow more quickly during the daytime.
- Our fingernails, like our hair, are made up of a protein called keratin. When the keratin cells come out of the matrix, they transform into a hard and flat surface known as the nail plate.
- Often considered to be a skin disease, psoriasis is a nail disease where the fingernails have orange patches and red lines.
- Diana Armstrong holds the Guinness Book Of World Records for having 1,306.58 cm long fingernails.
- Capillaries, the tiny blood vessels under the nail bed, ensure proper blood flow for the growth of fingernails and give them a slight pinkish colour.
- The white marks on the fingernails known as punctate leukonychia (milk spots) represent any kind of trauma to the nail.
- The cuticle of fingernails protects the tissue that grows new cells to build nails. It seals the moisture and acts as a barrier to keep infectious germs away.
- Fingernails can easily determine human health; if the nails are two-toned, then it is a sign of kidney or liver disease.
- When we bite nails, we expose ourselves to the infectious crud that deposits underneath the hyponychium (a skin located under the free edge of nail) and ingesting the same can lead to several gastrointestinal problems.



# Pinning my pinnacles

## For Beauty And Utility Are Only Pin Deep

Anushka Ramesh, XII G, &  
Vinayak Seth, X C, AIS MV

Please maintain *pin-drop silence* (all 'pins' intended) for I am about to, at the risk of sounding narcissistic, talk about myself. Why, you ask. Because there is more to me than being your knight in shining armour. Spare me that ungrateful look, for I am the one who saves you when you lose a button on your uniform, from the 'I'll sew your button on coat (more like I'll sue you in court)' look from your mother. I take offense in being a commodity whose utility is only realised in its absence - especially because my lifetime is more complicated than what you perceive.

Let me take you back to the time when it all began. I was heralded in all my glory, treated no less than a treasure in ancient Greece. The fibula is what I was called, a name *oh-so-pinteresting*. My job was as simple as it is today - to fasten clothes together. Not only was I a fashion accessory, but a status symbol, too. During that time, fibulae were treated like ornaments, made of gold and jewels, with intricate carvings

of sphinxes and lions. Empires came and went, but I stayed a companion to all of humanity through it all.

To keep up with the times, I needed to evolve. That is when Walter Hunt came to my rescue. In 1849, while trying to pay off a mere 15 USD to his friend, he stumbled across my new form. And then came the industrial revolution, whence I could finally be produced in hefty quantities and made affordably at the same time. Fast forward a few decades, and I still look the same, without a doubt, a *pin-nacle exemplum* of what humans can achieve.

Over the years, the people of western Nigeria have started believing that I am analogous to the God of iron (I don't blame them; my persona can be overwhelming). Pregnant women of the region pin me to their garments, especially during noon and night, because ostensibly, I ward off evil spirits that would harm their foetuses. Do you think I'm cap-

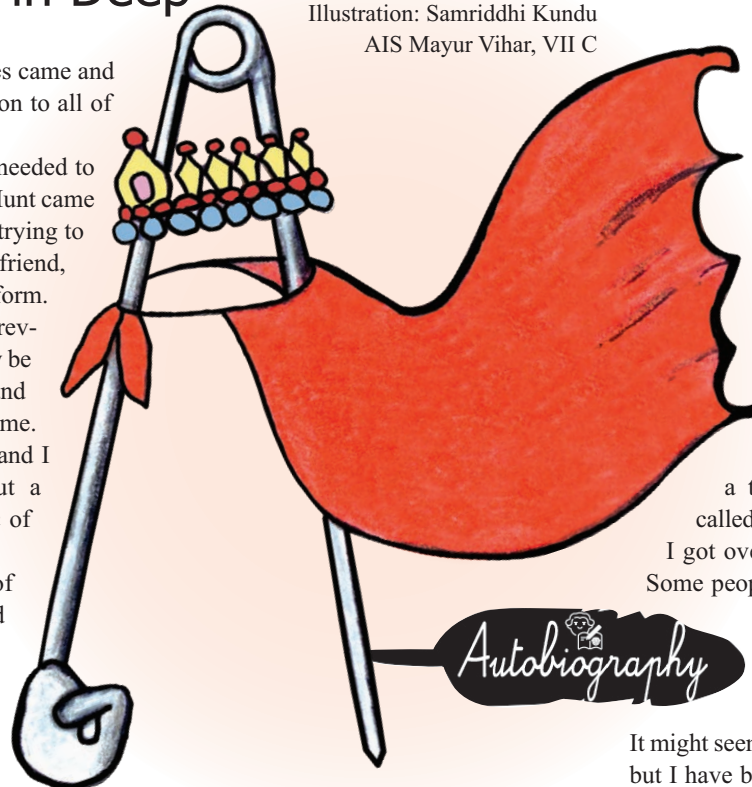


Illustration: Samriddhi Kundu  
AIS Mayur Vihar, VII C

ping? Well, the joke's on you, but my not-so-great size comes with great responsibility to ward off evil spirits and protect children from diseases which resonates in

Ukraine and Mexico, too. In the year 2016, the election of a certain republican brewed-up discussions about xenophobia and colorism, trumping every news outlet. To show solidarity towards the victims and their 'safe' allies, people started wearing me on their clothes. I became a symbol of hope, but eventually came under fire and received a ton of flak from critics who called it the 'white man's guilt'. How I got over that by the *pin of the teeth*. Some people felt I did nothing for those who suffered the atrocities. But I'm not going to lie, I did like the attention and stardom I got!

It might seem hard for you to *pin this down*, but I have been prevalent in every era and arena. Name it and I can assure you that I have *pin there done that*, holding together not just things, but time and people as well. After all, I am a mighty safety pin.



## Gifting all my love

Saanvi Goyal, AIS Gur 43, Alumna

Hey there! Are you looking for a perfect last-minute gift and can't find one? Worry not! Here's the guide for a perfect, jaw-dropping, heart-stealing gift!

### Step 1: Learn about the occasion

The journey to finding a perfect gift begins with an attention to the occasion. See options that are suitable for the event, and if you can't think of anything, simply go for a bunch of flowers. They work for every occasion, birthdays or weddings.

### Step 2: Plan ahead of time

Do not wait until the last minute to buy a present. Planning ahead is nearly always beneficial as well-thought-out gifts are always received positively. More-



over, you cannot ignore that selecting a present, purchasing it, wrapping it, delivering it etc., all require time.

### Step 3: Focus on the recipient's likes

There must have been times when you received a gift that you didn't like so it ended up being re-gifted or collecting dust. You don't want that fate for your gift, do you? So look for acquaintances between you and the recipient, as they can help you in the process of gift selection or give some ideas. It is a wise thing to have some idea about the likes and dislikes of the recipient and select a gift that appeals to their taste.

A gift is supposed to depict your emotions towards the person; it need not be expensive. In fact, a thoughtful gift stays in the mind of the recipient forever and often acts as a catalyst in strengthening any relationship.

## MOVIE REVIEW

### Rake in that review

**Synopsis:** Spirited Away is an epic fairy-tale fantasy that tells the story of Chihiro, a ten-year-old girl who enters the world of Kami (a fictional world dominated by ancient gods, beasts, spirits, and witches) while moving to a new neighbourhood. After her parents are turned into pigs by the witch Yubaba, Chihiro takes a job working in Yubaba's bathhouse to find a way to free herself and her parents, and return to the human world. On her journey, she encounters soot particles, masked spirits, shapeshifting friends, and customers with a total lack of self-awareness. The premise of the

**Movie:** Spirited Away  
**Directed by:** Hayao Miyazaki  
**Released on:** July 20, 2001  
**Genre:** Anime, Fantasy, Adventure

story is based on the Japanese belief that sometimes spirits take children away, but parents think they have been taken away by gods rather than evil forces.

**Why is it watch-worthy:** The movie won the Best Animated Feature at the 75th Oscars. With its surreal storyline and aesthetic art, the film entrances anyone who watches it. It also exhibits profoundness that enhances one's connection to the story; the fluidity of move-



ment and attention to detail in Spirited Away is unprecedented.

**Iconic dialogue:** "Once you've met someone you never really forget them. It just takes a while for your memories to return."

**Rating:** 5/5

**Review by:** Savyasachi Singh, AIS Noida, XII



# Be courageous



Dr Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

Today, let's talk about the emotion that exemplifies courage, or the Veera rasa. The word Veera means bravery, but also embodies the qualities of self-confidence, grit and determination.

This virtue is about having a never-give-up attitude, being steady while facing every obstacle in the path to glory, and above all, having the courage to defend the weak and fight against every injustice. Courage, in its simplest sense, also means having the ability to do the right thing at the right time, without worrying about any consequences.

Being bold and courageous allows us to speak the truth at all times, and only such a person can be a true hero, or a leader and a visionary. If you look around yourself, you will find many such heroes in our daily lives – our soldiers who guard the borders, our doctors who save lives, teachers who sculpt new lives. But the best definition of courage I have found is in the Bhagavad Gita which says, "If you want to see brave, look to those who can return love for hatred. If you want to see heroic, look to those who can forgive."

Indeed, our very first act of courage should be to fight our own pride, jealousy, negativity, anger, etc. When you conquer your own inner flaws, only then can you become a compassionate, loving human being who can build a better world for all. I feel proud that my Amitians exhibit the best of human qualities as they work tirelessly towards their goals and dreams, and one such example is that of Manya Agarwal of Class IX, AIS Vasundhara 6. She has won the CBSE Online Reading Challenge 3.0 in the Noida region, where she attempted the 50-minute online challenge which had 6 different passages with 5 questions each in Hindi. Passing this test of accuracy and speed with flying colours, Manya proved what confidence combined with courage can truly achieve.

Stride forth with courage and sky will be the limit. [GT](#)

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## Fruits of labour



Meenu Kanwar  
Principal, AIS MV

The satisfaction of having the much-anticipated printed issue of The Global Times in our hands is the best evidence we can have of the restoration of normalcy post COVID-19. Conceptualised by our esteemed Chairperson, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, The Global Times displays creative flare and literary brilliance of our aspiring ink weavers. During the pandemic, the e-editions of the newspaper published by the students, for the students, and of the students kept us updated with the latest happenings of the Amity Universe, and at the same time, kept the students engaged in literary pursuits, the credit for which goes to Chairperson ma'am and the resourceful work of the entire GT team.

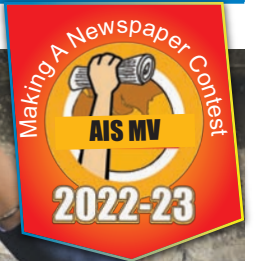
This contest edition of Amity International School, Mayur Vihar, represents the enormous potential that Amitians have to offer, and is a modest effort by budding writers, poets, and artists. The school's GT team, which consists of journalists and artists, has put together a fantastic collection of heart-wrenching poems, insightful articles, and heart-warming stories. My congratulations to the entire team for producing such a fantastic issue that exemplifies their commitment and work throughout the year. I genuinely hope that our readers will like reading it as much as our team enjoyed writing and putting this issue together. [GT](#)

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## Ode to opinions



Pic: Anirudh Singh, XI A | Model: Avni Drolia, IX A; AIS MV



## For Times When 'Right To An Opinion' Wrongs You

**Dharaa Khare, AIS MV, VII A**

The weight of the world, all intricate and woven together, is formed by humans, all different and unique. And how us humans live and function is based on the opinions we maintain. All of us have specific ideas of how to live and breathe in this world, and for most of our lives, this way has worked for us. But as we walk down the path singing our own tune, have we ever stopped to pay attention to the music of someone else? Have we ever stopped to wonder if only our opinion should count as the gospel?

Well, an egotistical person would say yes, but that answer is not very realistic, is it? As much as we would love to have 'our way' all the time, reality remains that us human beings live in a society. Which means that being too set in our ways won't fare well when it is time to maintain harmony. We could get in fights over every sin-

gle opinion or we could live and let live. And even if you aren't a particular fan of peace, think of how the different opinions you receive are usually from the ones closest to you. It might be a family member of yours asking you to participate in old customs. You could say no, citing different beliefs, and spoil the mood, or you could be nice and do something *kisi ka mann rakhne ke liye*.

It is natural that all of us have varying viewpoints, because, after all, the world isn't black and white. In such cases, your goal shouldn't be to blatantly invalidate other opinions, but instead, you should understand where their ideas are coming from and find things you agree on. Who knows? Maybe you'll end up with a better relationship. And even if you don't, remember - not every discussion is a debate with a 'point' to be proven. Not every opponent is the enemy. If your friend sends you their favourite song, will you reply in a

haughty tone, claiming that you have never heard this artist before, and hence, are unwilling to try them out? Or will you give it a go and see if you like it? You won't know until you try. If you love it, yay, new favourite song unlocked! If not, you know to never delve into it ever again. Either way, the experience has taught you something. Different opinions always come with brilliant possibilities of enriching us in new ways. After all, the things you love right now were once foreign to you, and had you been just as wary, they never would have made your life better. Change is always the hardest pill to swallow, especially when it comes from someone else's strong-headed opinion. But being too entitled in your approach might just end up doing more harm than good. Are you really going to shy away from new experiences just because of that? Well, the opinion is yours (and I won't force mine upon you). [GT](#)

## From dreams to reality

Every contest edition is a beautiful journey. It begins with a fresh batch of students receiving hands-on experience, witnessing new ideas transform into beautiful thought-provoking pieces accompanied by illustrations and graphics.

Every year, I am astounded by the discovery of hidden abilities, the in-



Manisha Batra  
GT Coordinator

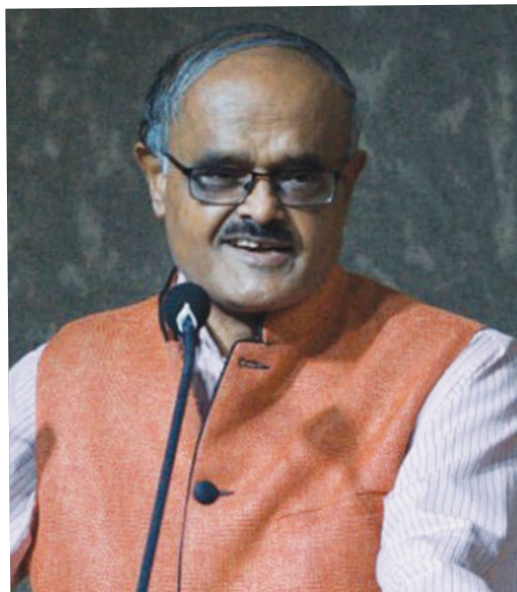
tegration of innumerable skills and the ingenuity of young journalists. I have noticed that there are times when writers come up with gorgeous designs, photographers assist with editing, and designers engage in composing drafts of different columns. And that's the real beauty of being an Amitian, where each one of them receives holistic

training; they are always ready to explore new areas and do not hesitate to give their best in every role offered to them. Hence, the essence of a contest edition is to bring together the efforts of the students and tap into their undiscovered skills. This enjoyable odyssey has brought out the best in the students and fostered their abilities, something that wouldn't have been possible without the support of Chairperson ma'am and the constant guidance of the GT team. Hope you enjoy reading the edition.



# Not factorial, it's actuarial

Heard of actuarial science? This up and coming field focuses on assessment of financial risks in the insurance and finance sector by deploying mathematical and statistical method. If that seems interesting, continue reading as **Marisshi Singhal & Akshit Kaul, AIS Mayur Vihar, VIII**, bring you a guide straight from the desk of experts, enlisting everything that you should know before stepping into the field.



A P Singh

**Journey:** During my initial years in insurance, I didn't know about the correlation between actuarial science and insurance. But over the years, as I started working closely with actuaries, I had a great experience in exploring numbers and analysing data. And now, as a professor, I share the same experience with young students, something I find very fruitful.

**Educational qualifications:** Having done +2, with a 60% score in math, one can take up BSc/MSc in actuarial science. But make note that there are very few institutes like Amity offering the same. This can be followed by several professional courses pertaining to one's area of interest. Institute of Actuaries of India (IAI) offers several professional courses that are widely recognised across the country.

## Meet the expert

Director, Amity School of Insurance, Banking & Actuarial Science, A P Singh holds expertise in the insurance sector. Having worked with LIC India for 37 years and closely with actuaries thusly, he understands the ins and outs of the business.

**Skill set:** One needs to have very pronounced mathematical capabilities to make a mark in this field.

**Work life:** It's not your regular 9 to 5 job. Companies give you time-bound projects and targets.

Sometimes people even work for 20 hours a day.

**Challenges:** The corporate sector is very demanding; you need to give your best, and the industry will recognise you.

**Remuneration:** An average salary of 8-9 lakh INR p.a. is the norm in the field. This can go up to 15 lakh INR.

**Scope:** As far as work opportunities are concerned, the scope is immense. There has been 100% placement for graduate and post graduate students in the subject at Amity, having been picked up by companies like Deloitte, Accenture, PwC etc. So, there is a huge demand. The field is growing, which is why I like to refer to it as the 'sunrise sector'. Not many people know about it, and hence, you have the advantage of joining early on.



Irwinder Singh Kohli

## Meet the expert

An appointed actuary for Care Health Insurance, I S Kohli has been in the field for over 25 years. He has worked in several segments including life, general, and health insurance.

is welcome to this field. However, companies are always looking for those with practical experience. Besides, a good understanding of math and stats is a must.

**Work life:** There's no fixed schedule. Some people even work 12-15 hours a day.

**Challenges:** A part of our profession requires us to predict the market's future, which is not easy. When your predicaments come true with some degree of variation, it gives you a sense of satisfaction of understanding the field well.

**Remuneration:** It varies from company to company, and market to market, so there is no specific salary.

**Scope:** It is a promising field, given that currently there are only a few actuaries in India, and data science is an emerging profession. You can join a company or start your independent consultancy.

**Journey:** When I started my professional journey, there was no professional lobby in India for actuarial science. In the early 2000s, when the government opened the insurance sector to private players, I realised that this sector has a lot of potential. Besides, I was naturally inclined to this field due to my love for mathematics and statistics. I've been in different sectors of the field over the years. Right now, I'm keen on health insurance as it is a priority.

**Educational qualifications:** Anyone who wishes to enrol for IAI needs to undertake the ACET test, conducted twice a year.

**Skill set:** Anyone with a financial instinct

**Journey:** After my MBA, I had the opportunity to work for corporate finance and private equity. That's how my journey began. Later, from private equity, I moved to investment banking and have been here ever since. It has been a roller coaster journey, working all these years.

**Educational qualifications:** Any degree in finance is helpful e.g., MBA (finance), CA, or CFA. And then a specialised IAI course is required.

**Skill set:** Presence of mind, interpersonal skills, communication skills, hard work etc., have an influence.

**Work life:** As we deal with the global markets, we work over 15 hours a day.

**Challenges:** Every deal brings its challenges. If you learn to overcome emergencies with creativity and enthusiasm, it



Aditi Singh

## Meet the expert

Head strategist for Satin CreditCare Network Ltd., Aditi Singh has an experience of 14 years as a finance actuary. She has worked for strategic inputs, managing key stakeholders, and investor relations.

gives you an adrenaline rush.

**Remuneration:** For rookies, 15-30 lakhs p.a. is the average. One can expect 40-100% increments in the first few years.

**Scope:** The world will always need money and people who can manage it. The field of finance actuary will always be in demand in the future. With the economic growth of the nation, the influx of actuaries increases. The market today is full of opportunities. There is a demand for actuaries in mutual funds, private equity funds, venture capital funds, and other corporate finance roles in most MNCs and NBFCs.





# Strengthening the witch

Yashasvi Bhardwaj

AIS Mayur Vihar, XI I

A long time ago, somewhere in the east (well, not too far east. After all, we haven't reached Japan yet), there lived a young girl who called herself an amateur witch. "An amateur witch?" you must be wondering, but her story was a little different. She wasn't a witch by birth or by profession, but rather by accident. You see, her journey began when her aunt died in an accident while trying her hand at a spell to reach mortality. Ironic, we know, but let's try not to laugh. Anyway, when her aunt passed away, she left behind all her worldly possessions to her only family – her niece. As this niece received the house filled with books on spells and witchcraft, she was intrigued about the profession and decided to give it a go to attain her biggest dream – strength. Ever since she was young, she loved the idea of being powerful, so she decided to try to find a spell that would make her dreams come true. She rifled through the books of potions and spells, and soon found a papyrus that promised her the greatest strength in the entire world. She, however, was not so great at reading Latin. In fact, she didn't know the language at all, but there was nothing a little *jugaad* could not fix. Using broken Google searches, she translated the text and



Illustration: Arnav Singh, AIS Mayur Vihar, VIII

found the list of ingredients needed to gain unparalleled strength – the head, and a whole lot more. All of these seemed too excessive, but it was time for her to have her protagonist motivational-

When it “smelled like a cheese moulding for the past 500 years”, as the instructions said, she pinched her nose and drank all of the disgusting potion.

song-playing-in-the-background moment. She walked deserts, forests, mountains, and valleys to gather what she needed. She met creatures that looked CGI and people who were worse than Dolores Umbridge, but finally, she had everything she needed. Following the Google-translated instructions as much as she understood them, she brewed the potion. When it “smelled like a cheese moulding for the past 500 years”, as the instructions said, she pinched her nose and drank all of the disgusting potion. A weird feeling rang through her body, and soon she could see that the papyrus had grown a mouth and started talking in a deep voice that paralleled Morgan Freeman. “True strength comes from struggle and efforts or something like that, so the only thing I have for you is to tell you to keep struggling to achieve the greatest strength in the world - whatever that is - and stop believing stupid books for so-called ‘witchcraft’. I mean, really, bro? You know this is real life, not Hogwarts, right? Stop wasting your time and mine. Ok, bye!”

Graphic: Akshita Rathore, AIS MV, VI A

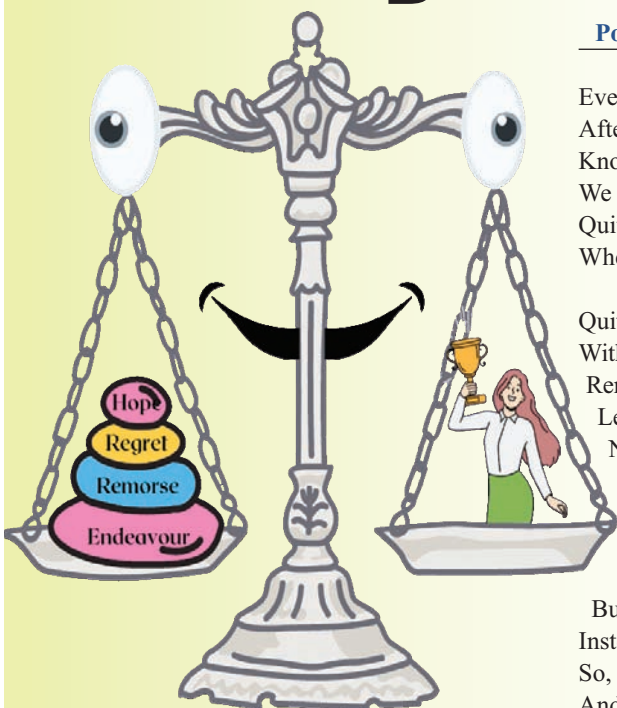
## For a bright future *Poem*

Poorti Maheshwari, AIS Mayur Vihar, VIII C

Everything transpires for one good reason  
After the odds there is a merriment season  
Knowing all of this, we still decide to quit  
We think we are impotent, and we do admit  
Quitting is a choice we keep in our mind  
When the option to stay on is equally lined

Quitting today can make us regret it in future  
With questions that have tormenting answers  
Remove you must the word ‘quit’ and try again  
Leading yourself to go closer to all your gains  
No matter how difficult the situation may be  
Must not you quit, unaware of what life may be

When we lose all our hope, it is the time we quit  
And then we keep falling into the remorseful pit  
But life isn't always about quitting and falling  
Instead, we must see it as rising and rocking  
So, don't quit and keep yourself on cloud nine  
And always make your future shine bright. **GT**



## Read Play and Win 14

Reading GT can be fun as it can fetch you a prize too. Participate in this interesting contest simply by clicking on the link mentioned below in the online edition/taking a picture of the sheet and mailing us your responses at editor@theglobaltimes.in. So, get set, go!



Q.1 Who is the page editor of page 3?	Q.2 Which school has prepared this Contest Edition?	Q.3 The title of the first sub-heading in 'Fans at it!' is _____.
Q.4 What is the headline of the article written by Dharaa Khare on Page 6?	Q.5 Name the author of the article 'Pinning my pinnacles'.	Q.6 The Fact File on Page 4 is on the topic of _____.
Q.7 What was the biggest dream of the witch in 'Strengthening the witch'?	Q.8 "Director, _____, AP Singh holds expertise in the insurance sector."	Q.9 Which is India's first independent anime studio?

Name:.....Class:.....School:.....

Results of Read Play & Win-13: Shriya Pasricha, AIS Gurugram 43, VIII B; Mahira Grover, AIS Saket, VII C; Ayanish Singhal, AIS Noida, II I

[Click here to participate](#)

or log on to <http://theglobaltimes.in/readplaywin/>



# MV Ganga Vilas



Come Experience The World's Longest River Cruise

51

Nights of luxury river cruising from Varanasi to Dibrugarh

Welcome aboard the MV Ganga Vilas - a 3,200 km long cruise, covering 27 waterways along the banks of the river Ganges, outlining 50 tourist spots, including national parks and UNESCO world heritage sites. Flagged off on January 13, 2023, by PM of India for its maiden voyage, the cruise blends cultural and modern amenities, offering a boutique experience on water. Built with a unique architectural style that reflects Indian heritage, the vessel consists of 18 luxurious suites for a capacity of 36 passengers. Furnished with amenities such as a gym, a spa, a 40-seater restaurant on the main deck, a sun deck et al, the cruise redefines luxury. Here's a detailed itinerary of the voyage.

**Day 01** **Varanasi:** Witness Ramnagar Port, visit Kashi-Vishwanath Corridor, & see *aarti* at Dashashwamedh Ghat.

**Day 2-3** **Mirzapur-Chunar:** Chunar Fort, Ghantaghar, Bharat Mata Mandir, Banaras Hindu University, & Bharat Kala Bhawan Museum awaits you.

**Day 4** **Ghazipur:** Rest for the night in Ghazipur, & wind up at the mausoleum of Lord Cornwallis in the afternoon. Don't forget the archaeological site of Sarnath.

**Day 5-7** **Buxar:** Visit the War Memorial & Sita Ram Upadhyaya Museum in Buxar. Rest for the night, & visit Chirand archaeological site the next morning.

**Day 8-9** **Patna:** See the Takht Sri Patna Sahib Temple & Patna Museum, & enjoy a day of sailing & amenities onboard.

**Day 10-11** **Munger:** Tour the Bihar School of Yoga in Munger to experience the rich heritage of Yoga along with breakfast.

**Day 12** **Sultanganj, Samda Ghat:** Look out for the Ajgavinath Temple in Sultanganj.

**Day 13-14** **Bateshwar sthan:** Stop by the excavation site of Vikramshila University, & later move towards Nalanda.

**Day 15** **Farakka, Jangipura:** The cruise will cross the Farakka navigation lock & move toward Murshidabad. Experience the Farakka Barrage there.

**Day 16-17** **Murshidabad:** Drop by the Hazarduari Palace, enjoy a tonga ride, see the Katra Mosque as you pass by Plassey, and explore the historic city of Murshidabad.

**Day 18** **Matiari-Kalna:** Enjoy an early morning walk to the riverside village of Matiari.

**Day 19-22** **Kolkata:** The cruise will travel from Kalna to Kolkata, so do go around to the Flower Market and the house of Mother Teresa for sure. The next day, see the National Museum of Kolkata & New Market.

**Day 23** **Namkhana:** The cruise will now sail towards the Bay of Bengal to reach the fishing port of Namkhana, the gateway of the Sunderbans.

**Day 24** **Bhagabatpur:** Early in the morning, journey off to Bhagabatpur Crocodile Project, a breeding and protection area for estuary crocodiles.

**Day 25-26** **Antihara:** Sail through the wildlife area of the Sunderbans, but don't miss the visit to the Sixty Dome Mosque in Bagerhat.

**Day 27** **Mongla-Kotka:** Sail to the forest station and complete the Forest Department formalities

**Day 28** **Harbaria Kotka:** Enjoy a canoe ride in the mangrove forests.

**Day 29-30** **Morleganj-Harbaria:** At dawn, explore the narrow creeks & canals of Harbaria. Also, sail to Barisal & visit the Oxford Epiphany Church, one of the oldest churches on the sub-continent.

**Day 31** **Barisal:** Morning visit to the Floating Market in Barisal, Dhaka, is a must.

**Day 32** **Dhaka:** A tour of the capital of Bangladesh with its sights and monuments such as Dhaka University, Curzon Hall, the National Assembly, & the Old High Court will be given.

**Day 33** **Sonargaon:** Get set for a cultural reverie with an exclusive excursion to Sonargaon, with a visit to Panam City, & Sadarbari. Also visit the historic Goaldi Mosque.

**Day 34** **Aricha:** Sail towards Aricha Port, which is known for its hilsa fish.

**Day 35-36** **Tangail, Sirajganj:** Sail upstream towards Sirajganj & visit the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Atia Mosque in Tangail. The next day, do see the Bangabandhu Bridge & Hatikumrul Navaratna Temple.

**Day 37-38** **Chilmari:** The tourists will move to Chilmari River Port for customs & immigration, but after that, there is an excursion to Rangpur.

**Day 39** **Dhubri:** Sail upstream to the Indian border & complete the immigration formalities.

**Day 40-41** **Goalpara:** In Goalpara, the guests will visit the Burdwara Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib & the marble statue of Queen Victoria.

**Day 42** **Sual Kuchi:** Take a trip to the Pandu Port in Guwahati, & visit the Aswaktanta Temple in the afternoon.

**Day 43-45** **Pobitora, Mayong, Singri:** Visit the Kamakhya Temple & Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, & then sail upstream to Singri.

**Day 46** **Silghat:** An afternoon excursion to Kaziranga National Park will be conducted for the guests.

**Day 47-48** **Biswanath:** A morning sail to Biswanath Ghat aka Gupta Kashi is organised, & then the cruise will sail towards Dhansiri Mukha.

**Day 49** **Majuli Island:** The cruise will visit the Majuli Island, & continue sailing upstream.

**Day 50** **Nimat Ghat:** Do explore the ghat near Sivasagar.

**Day 51** **Dibrugarh:** The morning will bring you towards the end of the tour. Au revoir!

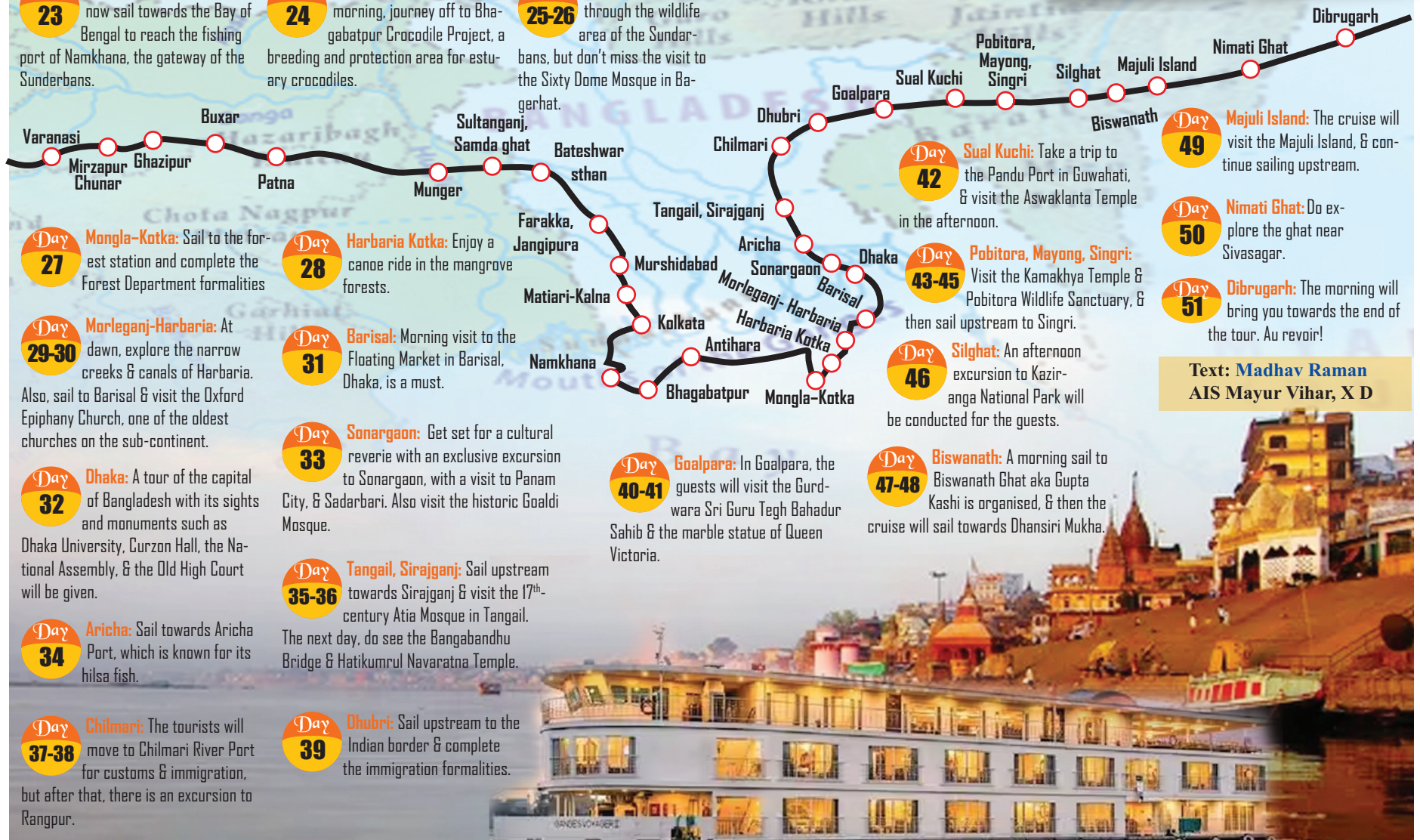
## Highlights

- Explore India on a completely unforgettable journey
- First ever cruise vessel to be made in India
- 51 nights of luxury river cruising along the river Ganges
- Cover 50 tourist spots, including national parks and UNESCO world heritage sites
- Boarding charges, Wi-Fi, and an all-inclusive on-board gratuities package for the guests

## Ticket price\*

12.59 lakh INR per person for the 51-day trip  
24,962.25 INR per person/per day

\*Booked completely till March 2024  
Bookings open for April 2024



Text: Madhav Raman  
AIS Mayur Vihar, X D



# Anime state of mind



The Dawn Of Anime Revolution In India, Powered By Studio Durga



Chaitanya Roy, IX C & Avni Drolia, IX A, AIS MV

‘Anime’ - a form of animation, with its often complex and detailed plots, has today managed to find a place in the hearts of millions around the globe, a great deal of them from our very own nation. To further its craze amongst the Indian masses thus, Rajorshi Basu, a Delhi-based professional musician, conceptualised and founded Studio Durga, the nation’s first independent anime studio, and with it, indianised the art form altogether. Here’s how...

### The state of interest

“I remember watching my first ever anime way back when I was just 3-4 years old. With time my interest in the art form grew further, and so did my desire to make an Indian variant of it. How-

beit, it was only when I went to Japan for a month as an entertainment researcher and got familiarised with its making that I decided to bet the ranch on it,” surmised Rajorshi on his inclination towards anime. It took him three years hence to do the necessary research work before he launched Studio Durga in 2017. This, however, is not to say that India hadn’t made animes in the past. “What makes us at Studio Durga different is that we work independently without any foreign aid,” he tacked on.

### The state of adversity

The way to success for Studio Durga as such was filled with as many glitches as one can possibly imagine. “First off, since the audiences had never heard of something called Indian anime, it was an onerous task to acquaint them with this genre. Finding the right people for its production served as another major roadblock. If that wasn’t enough, distribution of the final product is something we are



Some stills from Karmachakra

still struggling with. Even though we have access to some of the biggest streaming services available today, not much gets done when it comes to the actual acquisition of independent movies like ours.”

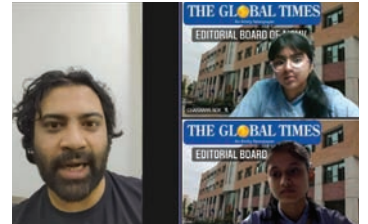
### The state of work

“With Studio Durga, my goal is to produce Indian anime that is a harmonious fusion of Japanese and Indian cultures,” he enunciated as we set out to understand his objective better. Outlining the process of work, he shared, “First and foremost, we develop a storyline, sources for which are varied - from

manga to novels to original scripts. We then go on to write a detailed script, and a set of rough sketches are drawn. Then, we move to the characters’ line art animation and get them coloured, processed, and composited. As for the music, editing, and film production bit, that is completely handled by me, for that is where my skills lie. As such, it takes almost two months to make one 25-minute episode.”

### The state of recognition

“And this is precisely the procedure we swore by while producing Karmachakra, our debut film,” he



GT reporters with Rajorshi

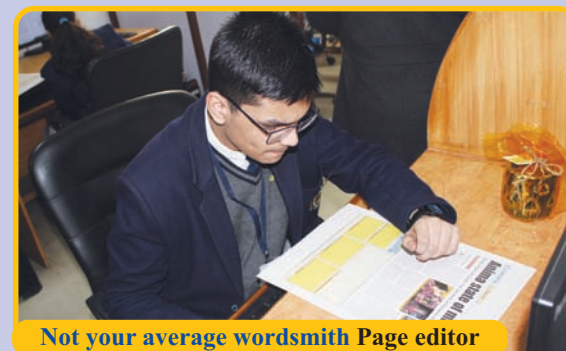
stated. An 80-minute-long Bengali anime film, Karmachakra is a mystery drama about an orphan girl trying to find her roots. After its first episode aired on YouTube in 2020, it created ripples, making Studio Durga the only Indian studio to get nominated for the Independent Shorts Awards, LA. They won under the category ‘Best Animation Short’. “The Indian anime community and those abroad have reacted very positively to it, with many seeing it as a step forward for animation in India,” he added with a proud smile. Anime is exacting and expensive, but if you have the courage to choose “the road less travelled by” like Mr Basu, everything is possible. **GT**



Not your average ideators Writers



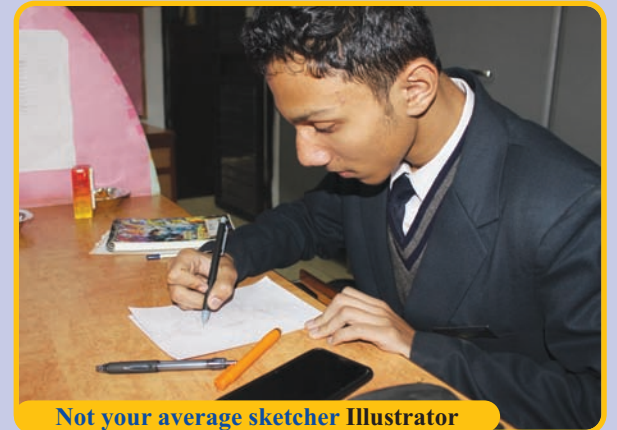
Not your average squad Mayur Vihar EB



Not your average wordsmith Page editor



Not your average storyteller Page editor



Not your average sketcher Illustrator

Pics: Anirudh Singh, AIS MV, XI A

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Page editors: Avni Drolia, IX A & Nandini Rastogi, VIII B, AIS Mayur Vihar



# Matters of wellness

## Transformational Workshop For Amitasha Students



A glimpse of the event



Amitasha students interact with the audience

### Amitasha

Around 300 students of Class V and above from Amitasha, the school for less-privileged girl child, founded by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, participated in a 'Well-being Program' hosted by AIS Noida. The programme, held on January 24, 2023, marked the celebration of National Girl Child Day, which is celebrated every

year to spread awareness about inequities faced by girls in the society and to provide them with adequate opportunities to rise above the same.

The workshop, thoughtfully crafted for Amitasha students, as such aimed at enhancing their personality, and thereby fostering their inner happiness. Resource person Dr Ekta Sibal, a globally renowned energy healer, international meditation guru, and India's no.1 inner-self transfor-

mation specialist, deeply impacted the girls with interesting stories and facts on physical and mental health, connecting them with real-life experiences. She emphasised upon the need for one to become self-aware in order to empower oneself and become an exceptional student and human being.

The workshop was a unique insightful experience. Chairperson in her address, lauded the efforts of team Amitasha and students in making the program a success. **GT**

## Reading Champ

### AIS Vasundhara 6

Manya Aggarwal of Class MIX won the CBSE Online Reading Challenge 3.0\* in the Noida region held on

Dec 22, 2022. She attempted the 50-minute online challenge which had six different passages



Manya

with five questions each in Hindi. The questions were challenging and the extracts included bio sketch, case study, unseen poem, infographics, and book review.

\*CBSE organises an Online Reading Challenge in English & Hindi for Class VI-X every year, with the aim to expose students to a range of reading texts & enhance their reading literacy which is a crucial aspect of language acquisition.



School principal and students sing national anthem

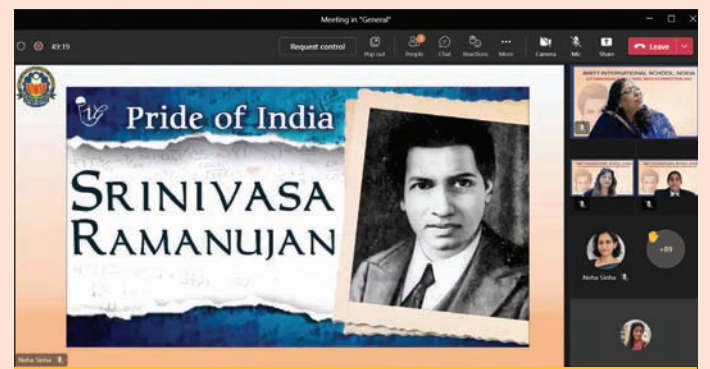
## A day of two festivals

### AIS VKC Lucknow

Senior wing of the school held a special assembly to celebrate both Basant Panchami and the 74th Republic Day on January 26, 2023. An amalgamation of culture, art and Indian history, the event began with the school principal Rachna Mishra unfurling the national flag.

Following which, Class XI students presented dance on patriotic tunes, shared amazing unknown facts about India, and even briefed

their peers about the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. Class IX sang Saraswati Vandana and played a fun mind game to enrich their knowledge of Indian culture and heritage. The assembly culminated with a video of the national anthem in sign language recorded by the school's Youth Power team Divyamansa, and an address by the school principal, who motivated all to hone their spirit of patriotism and fulfil Founder President's vision to make India a knowledge superpower. **GT**



A mathematical homage to the greatest mathematician

## Ramanujan'22

### AIS Noida

The school organised the 22nd edition of Ramanujan, an inter-school mathematics competition, on Dec 23, 2022, to commemorate birth anniversary of mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. The competition, held at national level with 26 teams, was graced by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF.

The event comprised two rounds. The first round required students to submit rap or poems based on Math. This was fol-

lowed by a quiz in the second round. The second round further had five sub-rounds - riddles, busting math myths, higher order thinking skills (HOTS), etc. First position in the competition was bagged by Aradhya Goel (XI) and Siddharth Gupta (XII) from AIS Noida. Second position was won by Girik Agrawalla (XI) and Ishanya Jain (XII) from AIS Noida, and the third position went to Bhavya Goel (XI) and Hemang Mathur (XII) from AIS PV. An inspiring video of the life and times of Ramanujan was also shown towards the end to the participants.

## It's Bazinga again

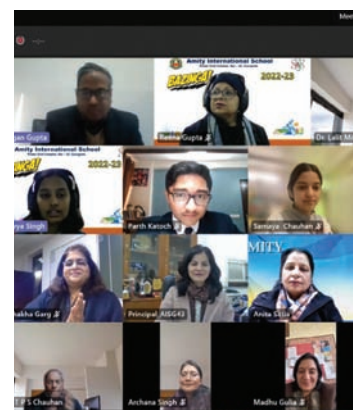
### Amity R&D Division

The third edition of Bazinga, an inter-school science quiz for Class IX and XI, was held online under the aegis of Research and Development division of Amity Group of Schools from January 9-11, 2023. The curriculum-driven science quiz is an innovative initiative of the visionary Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, and aims at promoting critical

thinking and innovative learning in young minds.

Total 109 schools pan India participated in the competition which was hosted for Class IX by AIS Gurugram 43 and for Class XI by AIS Saket. The quiz had interesting rounds like testing of concept, computational abilities, video graphics, latest in science, connect the pictures, and rapid fire questions. Quiz masters for Class IX were Navy Singh and Harshit Grover of AIS Gurugram 43, and for Class XI were Utkarshini Mishra and Sehen Dey of AIS Saket. In Class IX, Sarthak Bhakuni of AIS Saket stood first, followed by Parth of AIS Gurugram 46 and Samaya Chauhan of AIS PV at second and third position, respectively. In Class XI, Niamat Gill of AIS Noida stood first, while Ayush Singhal of AIS Gurugram 46 bagged second position and Bhavya Goel of AIS PV came third.

All the winners were given Bluetooth earplugs as prizes, while the participants got e-certificates. **GT**



Bazinga session underway



# Dine with us



Witness The Daily Dinner Table Drama Unfold In An Indian Household

Shivika Gupta, VIII A &  
Marisshi Singhal, VIII C, AIS Mayur Vihar

If there's anything in this world that comes even remotely close to the façade of "ek ke saath ek free" scheme, it's dinner with an Indian family - you get food and drama, both at once. From savoury victuals to the unusually usual family gossip, including a failed bride hunt for your distant cousin, the Indian dinner table readily serves it all and how! Read on and let the baking madness loose, because why not!

## The call (not your average phone call)

"Khaana ban gaya hai!" your mom shouts for the nth time, convening the final food meet of the day. As others start gathering in the living room, you somehow miss the call (calls, to tell the truth), having already forgotten about and surpassed the 2-minute leeway you asked for 10 minutes ago. "Ab Maggi thodi hu main," you try and reason it all in your head as you walk down the stairs, only to be interjected by the masterstroke "meri baat ki toh koi value hi nahi hai is ghar mai".

## The preparations (food's ready, but are you?)

You sprint towards the dining table, only to see your stubborn sibling occupy your favourite chair. "Really now!? Have people already forgotten who's the favourite kid here? The disrespect, the audacity, I tell you!" your manage to murmur. "Bethne ke liye bhi alag se invitation chahiye?" comes the motherly voice again and you take the next best seat, fuming with anger still. Howbeit, having made a huge sacrifice already, you eye the TV remote next. "I have it!" breaks your evil sibling. "No, not you again, you little Dudley..."

## The never-ending intervention (the unexpected kind)

And if that wasn't enough chaos, the doorbell rings and enters your not-so-sprightly neighbourhood aunt, Mrs

Sprightly with her repugnant South Delhi swag. But she comes bearing a plate full of delicious home-made *paneer lababdar* just in time, and that's got to count for something. What ensues next is the general show-off of the new silk saree she bought and trash-talk about the supposedly old, worn out one *Bittu ki mummy* wore last week- all out of nowhere. "Ab khana nahi thanda ho raha, mummy?" you want to enquire, but who are you to comment!

## The talk (worse than the PTMs)

But who would have known that Mrs. Sprightly's much appreciated exit would pave way for THE talk. Yes, the one about you, that you are highly unwilling to be a part of. "It's me. I, I am the problem, it's me..." starts playing in your head as the dining effort takes a sharp turn towards your hopeless grades. How? You are clueless. "Aur phone pe lago" makes its inevitable entry on your mom's invitation, only for your father to pick up from there and blame you for the extravagant *bijli ka bill*. You hope and pray to skip to the only good part - food?

## The food (heated up like the situation)

Having somehow evaded the continuous fault-finding, you finally reach for the food. But even before you get the chance to do so, you get slapped with countless "Khana kaisa bana hai? Bata? Bata?" from your mom. "Bahut acha bana hai, mummy" is your retort even without tasting it, knowing too well even the compliments won't work now. Back in your mind you wonder, "Is nivale par toh bilkul nahi likha hai mera naam!" as you gulp down the insult - we mean food, one bite at a time.

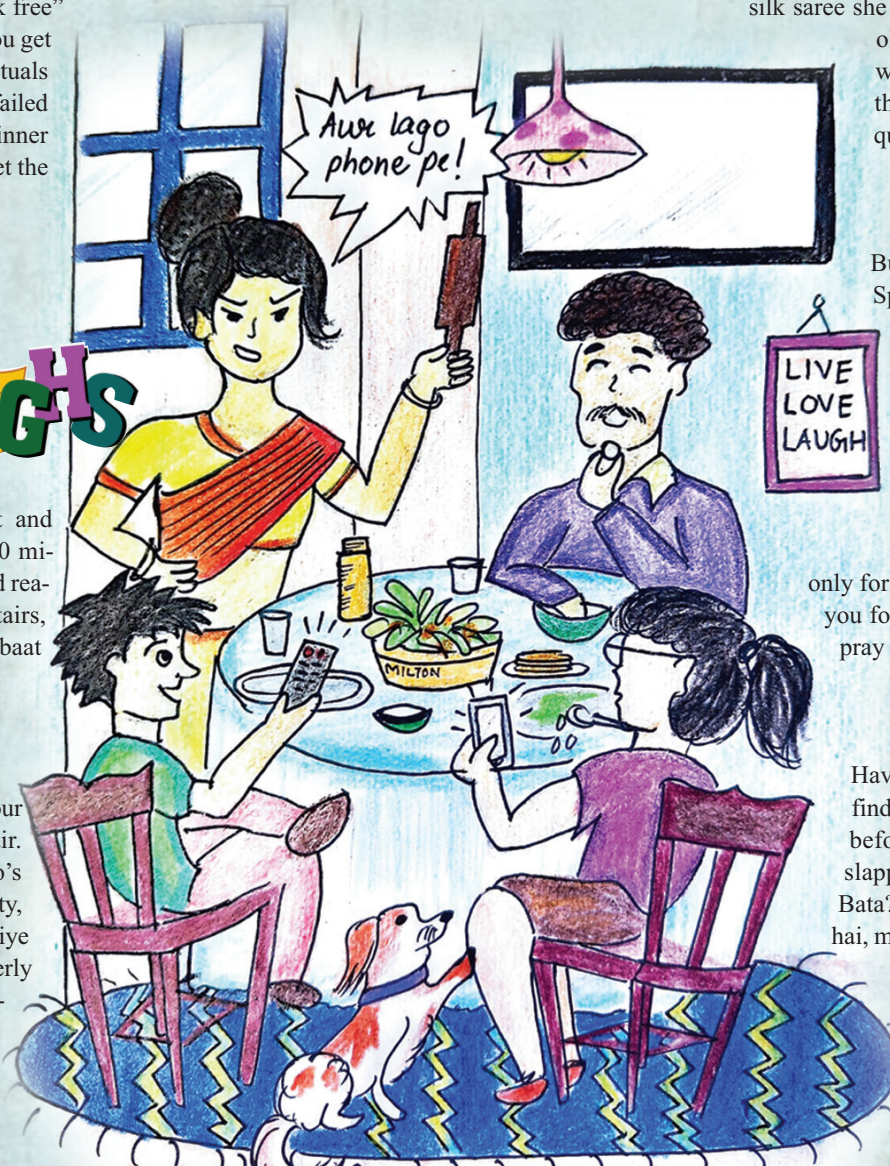


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