

Vedika Singh

Amity Global School, Gur, XI

The social dilemma

The Bizarre Reality Behind Social Media's Polarising Matrix

Social media today stands to be an essential part of our lives; it aims to keep us connected with the people we know and love, and even with strangers on the other side of the planet. Yet, over the past decade, it has turned from such a platform to a powerful political tool that can alter the face of our system and manipulate it to a great extent. How, you may ask? Well...

Curating content or echoing alone?

With increasing usage of social networking sites, almost every platform now operates to create hyper-personalised feeds for its users, which is why "rather than getting a diversity of perspectives, we see an echo chamber," says author Nicole Dahmen. Acting as a filter bubble, it shows posts that align with the beliefs and interests of the users, feeding them their own thoughts and creating an illusion for everyone feeling the same. "What's in your filter bubble depends on who you are, and it depends on what you do, but you don't actually see what gets edited out," states Eli Pariser, an internet activist. Because of such mind-numbingly repetitive mechanics, users ignore dissenting information and form

polarised groups where everyone believes what they want to believe, and no opposition is entertained. If we don't hear or see it, it doesn't exist, right?

Forming fraternity or spreading fakeness?

With such an influential formation of societal perception, it comes as no surprise that people often end up following the ones echoing their own perspective. Individuals often end up seeing news catering to their specific beliefs. Due to such echo chambers, as concluded by Matteo Cinelli et al., a 'group vs group' mentality is created that further fuels political divide. This has significant implications on political beliefs,

support, and ultimately on action. Furthermore, Aarhus University found that sharing false news by Twitter users in the US had less to do with ignorance and more to do with extreme political affiliation and the news available for use in denigrating the opponent. A bipartisan phenomenon takes place which ends up creating a highly polarised political climate where the 'fake' in fake news is often ignored for the greater good. It isn't so bad if we are just skipping over the moral line and not directly high-jumping over it, right?

Aligning affiliations or manipulating customers?

If social media is being plagued by its users, the innocence of these platforms stands far from being claimed. One such instance is a leaked video of an unnamed engineer of Twitter confessing that the site used to align with the far-left (before Elon Musk took over) and clamped down on right-wingers. Platforms might claim to

be unbiased, but they intrinsically aren't and have their own political stances. Various countries (Brazil, Belarus, Turkey etc.) chomping down on political views shared online, too, stand to be a blaring proof of the fact. Besides, some countries have also introduced a long list of IT rules requiring platforms to stay away from controversy, and if the site wants to stay functional, they must play by the rules. Giving up free speech for the illusion of protecting users sounds about right, right?

The small screen we hold in our hands tends to dictate what we see; when used to reinforce our current belief systems, it may sing the song we want it to sing, but ultimately it does end up affecting our ability to be rational. It may not mean much on an individual level, however, it multiplies into a problem once the question becomes communal, national, and even international. Reinforced perceived realities push us toward extreme positions, but this is how we always wanted social media to function, right?



Graphic: Aarushi Agarwal, Amity Global School, Gurugram, X

Page editor: Viwaswan Jha, Amity Global School, Gurugram, XI

THE GT @ POLL

Do you think the Japanese government's aim to build a 'child-first social economy' would help the country tackle its shrinking population?

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

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the_global_times

Coming next

Contest Edition (AIS MV)



This special edition has been brought to you by Amity Global School, Gurugram, 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' which are pitted against one another at the end of the year, culminating with GT Awards. So, here's presenting the fifth edition of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2022-23'.

What's inside

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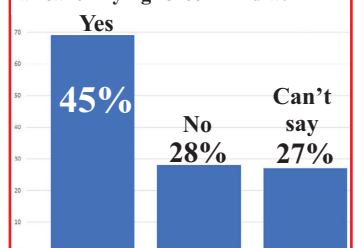
The great Grammy, P9

Uber se bhi upar, P10

POLL RESULT

for GT Edition January 23, 2023

Do you think the implementation of a uniform civil code would act as a real unifying force in India?



Results as on January 27, 2023

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Around The WORLD

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



USA

WHO calls investigation over cough syrup deaths

The WHO, on Jan 23, 2023, linked the deaths of over 300 young children and infants in Gambia, Uzbekistan, and Indonesia in 2022 to 'contaminated cough syrups', and urged for 'immediate action' against the same. The cough syrups, reportedly manufactured in India and Indonesia, possibly contain high levels of toxic chemicals such as diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol, which are used as industrial solvents and antifreeze agents. A probe has been ordered into the same.



NORTH KOREA

5- day lockdown in Pyongyang

North Korean leadership, on Jan 24, 2023, announced a five-day lockdown in the country over an 'unspecified respiratory disease'. During this period that lasted till Jan 29, the citizens were asked to stay inside their houses and to submit multiple temperature readings to the authorities every day. The lockdown sparked massive panic purchasing by citizens of the nation, who were unsure of its duration.



JAPAN

Falling birth rate raises concern in the nation

PM Fumio Kishida has announced a state of alarm in the nation owing to its falling birth rates. To rectify the same, the government has decided to double its expenses on children-related programmes by June and set up a new government agency to tackle the same by April. The country is at the stage of a 'now or never' situation, where if they don't act on time, the nation will not be able to fill the gaps in its rapidly aging society, a shrinking workforce, and the scarcity of young people.



SWEDEN

Holy Quran burned

Right-wing politician Rasmus Paludan, on Jan 21, 2023, burned a copy of the Holy Quran in front of the embassy of Turkey, sparking protests in the nation's capital, Stockholm. The move comes at a time when the relations between Sweden and Turkey are already strained. PM Kristersson called the act "deeply disrespectful." Also, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) remarked that acts like these must be put on halt immediately.



NIGERIA

First Nigerian nominated for Oscars

Nigerian singer Temilade Openiyi, popularly known as Tams, has created history by becoming the first ever Nigerian personality to be nominated for the prestigious Academy Awards on Jan 24, 2023. She is nominated in the category of 'Best Original Song' for her contributions to the song 'Lift Me Up' by Rihanna for the movie 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.' The results for the same will be announced on March 12, 2023.



CANADA

Highest number of francophone immigrants

The nation witnessed its highest French-speaking population immigration outside of Quebec since 2006, which is over five times higher than that in the last 16 years. Since French is the first official language of the country and its French-speaking population was declining, Canada has been striving to ensure vibrancy of Francophone communities. The country will soon introduce C-13, a bill which aims to ensure its efficient perpetuation.



INDIA

India to host SCO council meeting

As the current president of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the nation has planned a series of high-level talks with the SCO member states. A conference of SCO's chief justices is planned for March, followed by a meeting with foreign ministers in May. The External Affairs Office has formally sent invitations to the seven members, making it India's first invite to Pakistan in 12 years.

News Flash

► **Germany:** Patriot air defense deployed to Poland ► **Pakistan:** Nation's rupee falls steeply to a historic low of 255 against the US dollar ► **Brazil:** Health emergency declared over 570 deaths of children due to malnutrition and other diseases caused by mercury

Radhika Gupta Inspires Us To Be Ambitious, Aspire Big, And...

...be **limitless!**

INTERVIEW



Radhika Gupta, MD & CEO, Edelweiss Asset Management Ltd

Viwaswan Jha, AGS Gurugram, XI

MD, CEO, daughter, mother, author, wife, and one of the first female leaders in the world of finance in India – Radhika Gupta is a woman of many hats. The MD & CEO at Edelweiss Asset Management Limited, author of the bestseller ‘Limitless’, and nominated to represent India at World Economic Forum in Davos; her laurels are limitless, indeed. Here’s taking a closer look at her journey.

Limitless opportunities

Though I believe that age is just a mindset, I am grateful to be one of the youngest CEOs in the country. Sky is the limit for what the youth can achieve, and as Indians, we are currently living in a period of great developing unicorns. We have transcended into a period where one does not need grey hair to become a leader. I started out by interning at Microsoft, associating with McKinsey as a student in consulting, and finally entering Wall Street as a fund manager. In 2009, I decided to start my own venture of Forefront Capital, which was eventually sold to Edelweiss Financial Services. Little did I then know that I

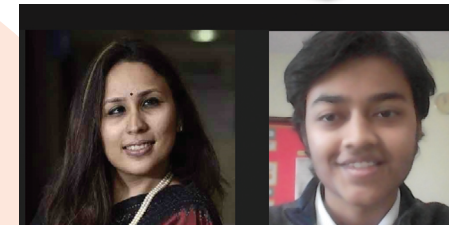
would end up becoming the CEO of Edelweiss Mutual Fund in 2017 and will see my business grow from 6,000 crores to over 90,000 crores.

Limitless challenges

I think any woman who has risen to the top of the ladder in any domain has found it really hard, and the same is true for me as a woman CEO. In this male-dominated society, women have to work harder to achieve results. For me, I’ve overcome these challenges through persistence. On days I resented being a woman in a man’s world, I have refused to quit. Over time, I’ve won people’s respect, and my confidence has grown because the more you persist, the greater the respect you earn. Not just this, but I also had a tough experience as a child, because I was born with a broken neck. In fact, it is my interaction with others that has made me realise that everyone’s imperfect on some level, and everyone is beautiful in their own way.

Limitless exposure

Being the daughter of a career diplomat, I have grown up in diverse countries like Pakistan, Nigeria, Zambia, Denmark, and Italy. My family lived in these countries when times were tough, but my parents always taught me how to make the most of my surroundings. It made me adaptable to change, and helped me in navigating through the ever-evolving world. As I started sharing my experiences with people, I started receiving positive feedback and appreciation. I real-



GT reporter interacts with Ms Radhika

ised that many people were plagued by similar questions, which is what inspired me to write my book. It is essentially a compilation of my thoughts and philosophies, and how one can overcome both internal and external limitations and boundaries.

Limitless motivation

In my youth, I was motivated by the cliché wishes – money, brands, career growth, etc. When I entered my thirties, I was motivated to work with the best clients and build successful businesses. Now, my biggest motivation has been to just give my best to the opportunities that come my way. My core motivation, however, will always be creating a global impact. Giving a TED talk, for instance, connected me with people and gave me a great sense of self-confidence.

Limitless change

In life, we will forever be faced with situations where we have to take risks and push the status quo. Change will always be a part of our life, so what I advise people to do is to accept and adjust to it. And the best way to do that is to let go of the past, to hone our skills, and to be self-aware. 📖

Book Review

Rake in that review

Synopsis: Three childhood friends, who have now grown up to become thieves, take refuge in an abandoned general store to lay low for some time after their most recent robbery. When a letter drops through the mail slot in the store’s shutter, little do they realise that their lives are completely set to change after this seemingly innocuous moment. This simple request for advice by the writer of the letter sets the trio on a journey of self-discovery. Over the course of a single night, they take upon themselves the responsibility of offering guidance to more letter-writers, similar to the manner in which the kind-hearted former gen-

Book: The Miracles of the Namiya General Store
Author: Keigo Higashino
Published in: 2012
Genre: Fiction, Mystery, Fantasy

eral store owner had once done.

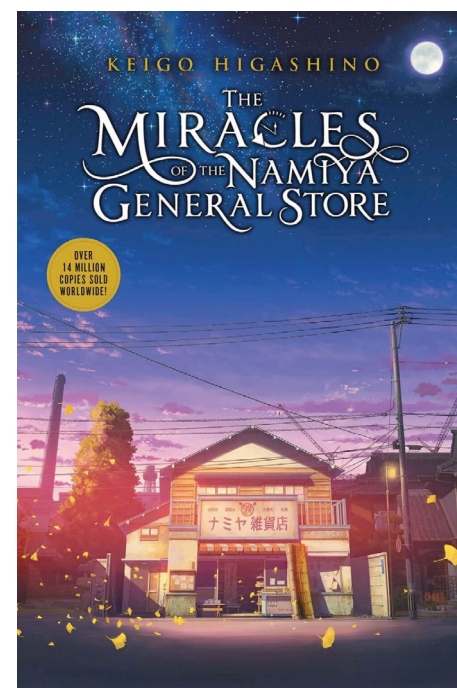
Why it is worth reading: This beautifully written book has touched the hearts of millions of readers around the world, and has been adapted into several movies and dramas. It has been referred to as being similar to a Russian doll, where one uncovers a new, yet a very closely-related narrative, layer by layer. Every single char-

acter has its own distinct story. They all seem completely unrelated at first, but then gradually get interconnected and centered around the general store. The book inspires people to be helpful and develop love and compassion. It also reinforces the importance of staying united. Undoubtedly, by the end of it, the book will leave you feeling uplifted and inspired.

Iconic quote: “Be a fighter. Give it everything you’ve got. Even a losing battle is worth fighting. Go out and make your mark.”

Rating: 5/5

Review by: Parmeshi Juneja
AIS Gurugram 43, VIII D



The mystery of



Scrutiny Of Varying Temperatures

Aadvik Bhargava

Amity Global School, Gur, X

This is a story of a small town called Joyland and its ever-so-effervescent Happiness Express, the prime train of the town that connected it to lands far away. Needless to say, the train was the town's lifeline, always bustling with life. It was courtesy this very train that John was the most important person in all of Joyland. And why wouldn't he be? After all, he was responsible for taking care of the beloved Happiness Express.

But John was now turning old. He realised that the train demanded more work than what his weary bones would allow him to do. Thus, he decided to hire someone for the job. After assessing almost every man in town, John entrusted the reins to Oliver. A simple guy, he was hardworking and seemed like the best choice.

Diligent that he was, Oliver tried to do his job with utmost sincerity. He would start before the break of dawn and work till midnight. Even in chilly winters, he would fight the freezing cold to do his

regular inspection before the train commenced with its trips. It was during one of these chilly mornings that Oliver noticed something unusual. He found that the tracks were shorter than what they had been. To doubly check, he even used a measuring tape, only to realise that his fears were true. The rails were indeed short. Bewildered, he quickly sent a word to John, who was out of town.

On the other end, John almost panicked when he opened an envelope to find the message "Happiness in trouble." He quickly darted off to Joyland. However, by the time he reached, it was already noon. The station was occupied with frenzied passengers, who were waiting to board the train and get about their regular business. Confusion ensued for it was the first time that the services of their favourite train in Joyland had been stalled.

"What's the matter?" asked John. A frenzied Oliver explained the situation. Listening to Oliver's story, John chuckled, and asked him to take him to the track. He asked Oliver to measure the track again. This time, the tracks

The science of it

Every material is subjected to thermal expansion - a tendency to expand when heated and to contract when cooled. Therefore, bridges are built with metal expansion joints in order to expand and contract without causing any faults in the overall structure. Thermal expansion makes possible the workings of thermometers and thermostats.

measured the usual. Oliver, utterly confused, checked again. They were the same size they had always been. But how was this possible? John laughed, and explained the law of expansion. "Most objects, much like the metal in the rails, expand and contract depending on whether they are hot or cold. When you noticed that the rails were shorter than normal, the sun hadn't risen yet and so the surrounding were far cooler. This resulted in the rails contracting. And now it is almost noon; the surroundings are far hotter, and the rails expanded to their normal size."

Oliver sighed in relief. The train resumed its services and normalcy was restored in Joyland.

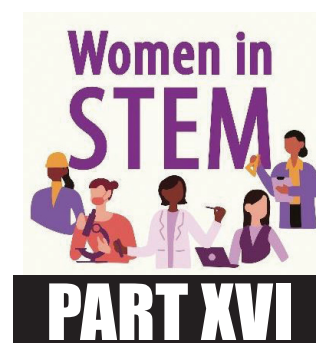


The pioneering Bertozzi discovery

All For Bioorthogonal Chemistry



Ruchita Nair, AIS MV, XI I



Don't fret if you have never heard of the term 'bioorthogonal chemistry', for it was only recently that American chemist and Nobel laureate Carolyn Ruth Bertozzi coined this ground-breaking term. The term refers to compatibility of chemical reactions with living systems where Bertozzi studied cell surface sugars called glycans and the impact they have on human diseases such as cancer, inflammation and viral infections. Currently a professor at Stanford University, Bertozzi has an illustrious educational and professional background. She completed her undergraduate degree in Chemistry at Harvard University, and her PhD at UC Berkeley. During her postdoctoral work, she studied the activity of endothelial oligosaccharides in promoting cell adhesion at sites of inflammation. A Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator since 2000, she joined her current position at Stanford in June 2015, and was among the first faculty to join the interdisciplinary institute ChEM-H (Chemistry, Engineering & Medicine for Human Health). She is not only a MacArthur Fel-

low, but has also received several awards for her remarkable contribution in the field of chemistry and for training a new generation of scientists. She received the Lemelson-MIT Prize, the Heinrich Wieland Prize, the ACS Award in Pure Chemistry, and the Chemistry of the Future Solvay Prize amongst others. Under her stewardship, The Bertozzi Group develops chemical tools to study the 'glycobiology' underlying diseases like cancer, tuberculosis, and, most recently, COVID-19. In fact, several technologies developed in the Bertozzi Lab have been adapted for commercial use. Actively engaged with several biotechnology start-ups, Bertozzi cofounded Redwood Bioscience, Enable Biosciences, Palleon Pharmaceuticals, InterVenn Bio, OliLux Bio, Grace Science LLC, and Lycia Therapeutics. That's not all. She has also published more than 600 research papers in some of the world's most renowned science journals. Indeed, Bertozzi is a living example of how a woman who is driven by passion and perseverance can become the epitome of academic and professional excellence, even in fields that are thought to be male-dominated. [GFI](#)





Shades of love

Expressing What You Feel

Ananya Mittal &
Anika Bansal, AIS Vas 6, XI

There are plenty of languages in the world, roughly 7000 to be precise, but there's one that is universal to all – the language of love. Finding a language that is unique to you when it comes to expressing affection is essential in exploring one's personality. Developing on this idea, American author Dr Gary Chapman, in his book *The 5 Love Languages*, expressed how the language of love differs from person to person, and the five prime ways of expressing it.

Words of affirmation

Words, especially kind words, are powerful. Spoken affection, compliments, and even keeping in touch via texting go a long way towards telling people that they're loved. This can range from thanking your mother when she brings you snacks to reminding your friends you love them when you end your conversation.

Acts of service

Actions speak louder than words, don't they? Acts of service could range from baking someone their favourite cake if they had a bad day to putting their things away when they're exhausted. It's like showing someone that you're always going to be there.

Gift-giving

Gift-giving is straightforward, except that it has complexity and depth to it. A person who presents a gift spends time finding it and try their best to make it perfect for the receiver. People who feel loved when they receive gifts appreciate the thought gone into it more than the gift itself.

Quality time

To the people whose love language is quality time, they feel most adored when their loved ones spend time with them. They feel loved when they can share common activities and get complete attention during this time. Besides, when the people they love fail to spend one-on-one time with them, they feel unloved.

Physical touch

Holding hands, hugging, etc., when done with the consent of the receiver, makes them feel appreciated. The roots of the same can be traced back to childhood - a kiss on the forehead from a mother before going to school, a reassuring hand on the shoulder from a father, a hug from a friend, etc.

Once you know how to express love, it's better to find out how you like to receive it as well. Remember, the more loving expressions we can make room for, the better off we are. **GT**

Under the curse

Autobiography



Bhangarh Fort, A Tragic Record Of Betrayal

Maya L Joshi, AGS Gur, X

As you walk through the allegedly eerie lanes of a perfectly ensconced (opposed to the popular belief) village in the Alwar district of Rajasthan, you reach me, the 'most haunted place in India' - the Bhangarh Fort. For those wondering, no, I wasn't always dubbed so. My tragic tale began in 1573 AD when the Kachwaha ruler of Amber, Raja Bhagwant Singh, commissioned my construction for his younger son, Madho Singh.

It took a while, but princes soon started living in my seven-storied set-up. I was filled with traditional *havelis*, exquisite palaces, market-places, five entry points and numerous holy temples. For decades, the sounds of laughter and joy continually filled my courtyards. But since all good things must come to an end, things took a turn for worse for me, too, when the Chalisa famine of 1783 hit the village. And if this wasn't enough, legends (as they call it) about my ruin began soon after and continue to do so even today. One of them attributes the famine to my creator's relative, Ajab Singh. They say that the land on top of which I

lie was previously home to an ascetic, Balu Nath, who was reluctant to give it up. However, my creator was able to persuade him into moving by promising that I will never cast a shadow on his dwelling. This promise was kept until Ajab Singh attempted to strengthen my periphery by adding columns on all corners of the fort. A shadow was created, and the furious ascetic cursed me. People believe that soon after the curse, everything about me lost its magic. And since I was only a building, there wasn't much I could do about it except fear for my future. Now, I know humans consider themselves as great storytellers, but at least make your tales believable?

But sadly, there's more! For there are some that pin the blame on Princess Ratnavati, yet another descendant of my creator, who was known for her nonpareil beauty and kindness. She had countless suitors, one of whom was a sorcerer. This sorcerer, it is said, casted a love spell on her perfume after realising that he would never be able to get the princess to fall in love with him. Here comes the twist - the princess eventually found out

and threw the bottle at him in retaliation. However, the bottle turned into a boulder mid-flight and crushed him. But there's more, for just before the boulder hit him, the sorcerer was able to curse the whole village and the Bhangarh royal family, and so came the ruin. Tell me I didn't just narrate the script of one of Ekta Kapoor's soap operas, because I definitely feel like I did.

Jokes apart, I have been mostly alone since then. There are still temples, a mosque, and the *bazaar*, but never any permanent residents, or the laughter, joy, and liveliness that I used to witness once. For, despite science having rubbished these rumours, people still think of me as a sanctuary for ghosts, that if entered after sunset, would kill. It pains to see your dreams crumble down this way, and nothing, I repeat, nothing can be worse than this.

So, my dear readers, do come and visit me before you pronounce any judgement and seal my fate. You may or may not feel a strange breeze or hear an unusual sound, may or may not encounter ghost-like creatures, but you are sure to quench the inquisitive traveller in you!



Graphic: Jayashree Kumar, Amity Global School, Gurugram, X

Be fearless Hair me out...

...As I Narrate This Entangled Mess Of A Story



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

In my last column, I had promised to share with my dear Amitians the meaning and importance of each of the nine emotions (rasas) imbued in human nature. Today, let's talk about the 'Bhayanak rasa' or 'the feeling of fear and dread' brought by the anticipation of danger. It also denotes weakness of heart and lack of strength in character. Hence, one must observe and learn from the life of distinguished personalities who have exhibited extraordinary fearlessness in facing every challenge life threw at them. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and many others have, through every action of theirs, taught us the value of fearlessness. They were not afraid of thinking differently and were ready to face the consequences of their action in order to achieve their goals for the betterment of society.

Each one of us can also follow this path as explained in a shloka from the Bhagwad Gita.

अभयं मित्रादभयममित्रात्, अभयं ज्ञातादभयं पुरो यः।
अभयं नक्तमभयं दिवा नः, सर्वा आशा मम मित्रं भवन्तु।।

(I should neither be afraid of a friend, nor of the enemy. I should not be afraid of either the known or what is yet to come. Let me be fearless both in the night and in the day. May every person in every direction be my friend.)

I am sure that every Amitian has the determination to conquer their fears and forge a path unique to themselves. At the same time, let me caution you that being fearless does not mean being disrespectful or aggressive. 'Fearlessness' or 'Abhayam' as Lord Krishna explains in the Gita, in fact, requires a lot of discipline, of both body and mind. It means having the courage to fight against all kinds of injustice, dishonesty or discrimination. It also means one must believe in the phrase 'nothing is impossible'. I can assure that at Amity, my dear students will always have the freedom to create a distinct path for themselves and the courage to fly high in the sky of success. 🇮🇳

Uplifting youth



Arti Gupta
Principal, AGS Gur

AGS Gurugram made its mark as debutants at The Global Times' Making A Newspaper Contest in 2021-22. With the blessing of our respected Chairperson ma'am, our students stood tall and brought many accolades to the school in various categories.

The appreciation they received in their first attempt, added the much required fuel of passion and enthusiasm in young journoes for the second time. As you peruse through this edition, you will witness research, critical thinking, creativity, and linguistic skills in their work. I noticed students collaborating in teams, honing self-management strategies by meeting deadlines, prioritising work, and evaluating perspectives. Also, I believe that communication is undoubtedly the best skill, as it empowers the young learners to express themselves and share their views. Our alumni have greatly expressed their gratitude to The Global Times for giving them a platform to strengthen their communication skills.

Indeed, language acquisition is the hallmark of international curricula. We boast of a strong reading programme through the IB PYP (International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program). I am sure you will enjoy reading this edition. 🇮🇳



Pic: Aarushi Agarwal, X | Model: Aashi, VI; AGS Gurugram

Aarushi Agarwal
Amity Global School, Gur, X

“Hair is never a straightforward biological fact, because it is almost always groomed, prepared, cut, concealed, and generally worked upon by human hands. And such activities socialise hair.” (Kobena Mercer in his 1987 essay 'Black Hair/Style Politics'). Thus, forming an integral part of a person's identity and by virtue of that, of the society at large, it says so much about us. And yet it isn't talked about much in our discussions of art and culture. Here's to righting this wrong.

A strand of tradition

Since time immemorial, hair has been considered sacrosanct in sundry religions and cultures across the world. Continuing to do so, it has become emblematic for most people. Majority of Muslim women, for in-

stance, believe that hair should not be visible in public, and so do Sikh men, thus the need for burqas and turbans. Hair have played a key role in many ancient societies. In Ancient Egypt, hair represented strength and dignity, and in Mesopotamia, it described social status. The same sacredness that binds people in one culture serves as an impediment in mingling with those from others.

A brilliant example of this are cornrows. Once used as a symbol of resistance during slavery, they hold a special meaning for the black community, thus any attempt by a non-black individual to get the same hair is not only considered disrespectful, but also exploitative.

A strand of convention

Over the years, stereotypes have been established with regards to hair. Case in point - the 'dumb blonde' stereotype wherein having blonde hair equals being half-witted. On the



other hand, people with black or brunette hair are often considered less feminine. Though most stereotypes surround women, men aren't exempted from it as well. Earlier, the norm for both genders was to have long hair. However, after WWI, men had to have short hair. This gained popularity, and now, short hair symbolise power and strength, or whatever fits the patriarchal narrative. Moreover, hair also impacts the way people perceive themselves. Surveys show that people who like their hair are confident about their appearance.

A strand of economy

The haircare industry is a big part of our economy through commodities such as shampoos, oils, etc. In fact, hair itself is bought and sold. The global hair and scalp care market was valued at 80.81 billion USD in 2020, and is projected to expand at a compound annual growth of 6.6% from 2021-2028. Fast paced trends contribute to these figures, as people change their hairstyles with fashion.

Hair, as such, means care; it means race, culture, resistance or whatever you want it to be. It is private and public, and by virtue, they're sacred - something that shouldn't be thought of as a simple part of human body, well, because it clearly isn't! 🇮🇳

Pleasures of writing

The accolades won by our students at the GT Awards 2021 and the excitement of holding a copy of The Global Times in hand after two years was enough to have kept the AGS Gurugram editorial team's motivation sky high; it has kept us working hard and diligently on our contest edition



Priya Chokra
AGS Gur Teacher
Coordinator

feel inspired by these gifted souls for a long time. The collaborative spirit, research skills, social skills, and enthusiasm to curate a collection of inspiring stories, argumentative articles, heart-warming interviews, and funny pieces has been the maxim for the past year.

As the GT coordinator, I

who are blessed to be the students of Amity Group of Schools because they have a great platform to unleash their creative potential and ideas through writing for The Global Times. The editorial team of AGS Gurugram is excited to present their writing ingenuity that you will love reading. In the words of Annie Proulx, 'Writing comes from reading, and reading is the finest teacher of how to write,' so we must aim to become avid readers in order to become better writers. Happy reading, everyone!

Up, up we go!



The aviation sector has witnessed a formidable growth in the past two decades, making it a promising career. Burgeoning with several career choices, the field is a paradise for aspiring professionals who dream of flying high. Read on as **Maya L Joshi, Avikshit Upadhyay & Vanya Mehta, Amity Global School, Gurugram, X**, help you gain an insight into this world of clouds.



Captain PP Singh

Eligibility & skills: To be an airline pilot, the educational qualifications are 10+2 with physics and math. The rest of course depends on acquiring a pilot's license and clearing a driving test. Apart from this, one must master several technical and non technical competencies related to flying the airplane such as flight path control and understanding of HMI (Human Mission Interface), problem-solving, decision-making, situation awareness, communication, etc.

Primary responsibilities: An airline is a highly regulated enterprise and every function works based on a set of laws. There are three main regulatory bodies in India, namely DGCA (Director General Civilian Aviation),

Meet the expert

An accountable manager for Jet Airways, Delhi, Captain Singh has also served as a pilot and squadron leader for the Indian Air Force. He currently heads the Jet Airways revival team as a key executive.

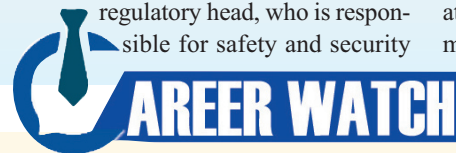
BCAS (Bureau of Civilian Aviation Security), and the AAIB (Aircraft Accident Investigation Board). An accountable manager acts as the regulatory head, who is responsible for safety and security

and in case of accidents, which in turn ensures the safety and security of passengers and airport personnel.

Typical workday: The day begins at 9 in the morning and ends at 7. Every day we have meetings with teams, like airport services, cabin safety, flight operations, security, sales, company personnel, and the DGCA, BCAS, etc.

Growth spectrum: Airlines offer several opportunities. Becoming a pilot is the most rewarding part yet there are many other opportunities as well. One can become an accountable manager, airport manager, airline manager, airport director or aviation meteorologist.

Remuneration: An average remuneration for an accountable manager is almost 2-3 crores per year.



Capt. Sudha Bengani

Meet the expert

An airlines captain, she is also the secretary for Society for Welfare of Indian Pilots (SWIP). Having worked with Jet Airways earlier, Capt Sudha Bengani is well versed with the ins and outs of the industry.

varies from day to day and depends on the flight plans. Some pilots fly overnight, while others fly early mornings. However, all pilots must arrive earlier than their call time to make preflight inspections, get weather briefing, make performance calculations and load navigation computers.

Growth spectrum: Everyone starts by training as a co-pilot and after completing a particular number of flying hours, they can apply for full Air Transport Pilot License (ATPL). With experience, you can also become a flight training instructor, an operations manager or an investor in private airplanes.

Remuneration: A trainee officer starts at 1 lakh per month whereas a senior first officer earns 2-3 lakhs and a captain's pay goes up to 6-7 lakhs per month or more.

Eligibility & skills: To be a pilot, you need to study physics and math in 10+2. After completing training at a flying school, you must acquire PPL (Private Pilot License) and a CPL (Commercial Pilot License). The ability to understand aircraft and avionics are essential skills for becoming a pilot.

Primary responsibilities: The primary role of a pilot is to fly planes safely. Along with flying, a pilot must be good with finding the safe routes, navigating a flight, analysing weather conditions, etc. In case of emergencies, the pilot should be able to keep the cabin crew and passengers calm.

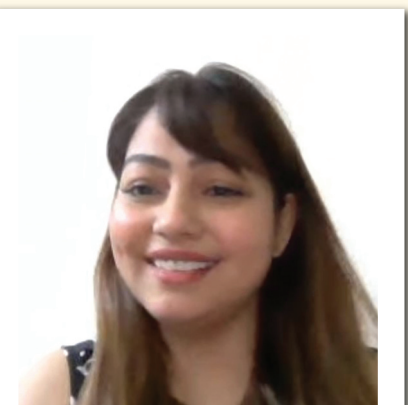
Typical workday: The working pattern

Eligibility & skills: In terms of educational qualifications, 10+2 with a diploma in air hostess training, or an undergraduate degree in aviation is a must. An age limit between 17-26 years with a minimum of 157 cm (for females) and 170 cm (for males) height and a 20/20 vision in both the eyes are must. Communication skills as well as understanding body language is also essential to build a career.

Primary responsibilities: The prime responsibility of a cabin crew member is to ensure safety of the passengers, along with service and comfort. A major part of it includes doing pre-flight checks, checking the safety equipment of the aircraft, catering, boarding passengers, briefing passengers on safety requirements and assisting them during the flight.

Meet the expert

A cabin crew trainer at Indigo, Neesha Kakar has worked for Indigo and Jet Airways in the capacity of a cabin crew member. She is currently responsible for grooming new trainee cabin crew.



Neesha Kakar

Typical workday: The first thing we do is check our roster and write down all the details of our scheduled flight. In addition to this we must maintain a neat uniform and a standard look.

Growth spectrum: After a certain point in time, we eventually have to come back to the ground, because being a cabin crew member we must pass medical exams. However, afterwards one can become a trainer or an instructor, or join the HR team for cabin crew recruitments.

Remuneration: A starting salary of 4-4.5 lakhs p.a. However, it varies due to differing flying and layover allowances.



HACKED

There were two sides with black screens and a curtain of light in the center, through which I could see my wooden bed.



Illustration: Gauri Sharma, AGS Gurugram, IX

Gauri Sharma
Amity Global School, Gur, IX

Just as we stared at the board, the crevices of the wooden contraption suddenly started to seem more sinister than they originally appeared.

We closed all the windows and doors. The board was placed on top of our laps and we sat on the ground, facing one another. The mysterious aura was already settling in. I took in a shaky breath and looked up at my friend.

"I guess we should stop," my lips trembled in terror as I muttered. "Let's just continue," she gulped. "Is there an entity in this room?" we questioned shakily while firmly holding the planchette underneath the pads of our fingers.

I gasped out loud when the upturned pointer moved to the letter 'YES'.

"Stop! Let's stop now!" I said, abruptly removing my hand. She swats my hand back, "fine, calm down first."

I sniffed and nodded. She spelled the letters G-O-O-D-B-Y-E on the board and stored it back and thus, ended our game of Ouija before we even started it.

"You are a coward," she snarked. "I have to go home now," I said while looking at the time, 6 pm. She nodded and I left.

However, there was no indication of fear, the lights didn't flicker, and the wind didn't blow. So, I went back to my house with complete skepticism.

I lay in my bed for about an hour, trying to ward off the uneasiness

when my phone pinged with a notification. I checked the contact's name. It was my friend. "You know you should always finish what you started." The message read.

"What are you talking about?" I

reacted completely amused.

"Want to play a game? It's called 'Tag, you are it'."

"Sure," I replied.

"There is only one rule - I will ask you questions and if the answer is yes, I will send you a picture."

"Okay..."

"Tag, you are sitting on your bed right now."

I flinched harshly at the text.

"Yes," I said.

Image sent

I clicked on the picture, which appeared to have been taken from within the closet. There were two sides with black screens and a curtain of light in the center, through which I could see my wooden bed. Weird.

Before I could reply, another message popped up on my phone's screen.

"Tag, you are facing the South right now."

Frayed breaths came out of my mouth as I opened the compass app. South. How did she know?

"How do you know that?" I questioned in utter terror.

Image sent

Shakily I clicked on the image.

This time it was a picture of

blankets bundled up together. It looked like someone was dozing.

"I don't want to play anymore."

"You will have to finish what you started, sweetheart."

I was shivering by now.

"Let's play a new game; it is called 'Simon says'. So, Simon says look in your closet."

Tears lined the waterline of my eyes, something was there. Something bad. My notifications were crowded by the texts.

"Simon says look in your closet. Simon says look in your closet. Simon says look in your closet."

I stood up shakily, like my legs had a mind of their own. It was revolting, yet I moved forward while tightly gripping my phone.

I opened the closet; there was nothing out-of-the-ordinary. Then, I felt I was being pushed into it, and the doors shut with a THUD.

I gasped in horror banging on the door, crying for help. Ping!

Image sent

The photo was of my friend, sleeping, and then it hit me, that she wasn't the one who was clicking the photos. Ping!

"Simon says look behind you."

Graphic: Qayla Unis Kamili, Amity Global School, Gurugram, IX

Happy blues



Kasak Jain
AGS Gurugram, XI

I was seven when I first visited you
Standing there in front of the blue
All bewildered I was watching you
You looked real and seemed all true

But it all turned out to be just a tease
As I started dancing with every breeze
Filled with merry, I ran towards you

I bowed down and kept admiring you

I'm talking about the oceans and waves
It all came so big, blue, tall, and brave
Silent conversations that we engraved
Brought joy to me, your gift that I'll save

Today I am 17 and I am here again
You are as beautiful as I saw you back then
The cold water, seashells, and the view
Stayed constant throughout as I grew.

Read Play and Win

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 author of the article 'The social dilemma'?	Q.2 Name the experts interviewed on page 7.	Q.3 On which page the poem 'Happy blues' has been featured?
Q.4 Name the American author who has written the book 'The 5 Love Languages'?	Q.5 What is the headline of the article written by Aadvik Bhargava on page 4?	Q.6 Who is the author of the book 'The Miracles of the Namiya General Store'?
Q.7 Who is famously known as the 'Ahmedabad no Rickshawalo'?	Q.8 Which school hosted Dhananjay Mohan ATL Innovation Fest 2022?	Q.9 When was the first Grammy awards held?

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

Results of Read Play & Win-12: Shrey Mishra, AIS Saket, III D; Nishchay Verma, AIS Gurugram, VIII C; Aahana Singhal, AIS Noida, VII A

[Click here to participate](#)

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

THE GREAT GRAMMY

The Lowdown On The Most Prestigious Music Award In The World



Maya L Joshi, Amity Global School, Gurugram, X

Trevor Noah: Hello, and welcome! I am your host, Trevor Noah, reporting live from the red carpet of the 65th Annual Grammy Awards held in LA, California. Before the ceremony starts, let's have a quick Q&A with some of the main names for tonight. With 79 nominations overall, our first guest is also the most nominated artist tonight. Please welcome Beyoncé. Queen Bey, how does it feel to be the most nominated female artist in Grammy's history?

Beyoncé: I am honoured. You know, The Grammy Awards aka the Grammys are such a huge deal in every musician's career. They are presented by the National Academy of Recording Art and Sciences to recognise musical achievements between October 1 of the previous year to September 30 of the Grammy year. And it goes without saying that the Grammys are regarded as the most prestigious awards in the industry.

Trevor: Yes, you are right. Winning this Gramophone Award – that's what they were originally called because of the trophy being a gilded gramophone – is a huge deal. Thank you for talking to us, Beyoncé, and I wish you all the best for tonight. Now, our next guest is a seven-time nominee and also the first musician of Indian origin to perform live at the Grammys as well as serve as the presenter. Please put your hands together for the incredibly talented Anoushka Shankar.

Anoushka: Hello, everyone.

Trevor: You have attended various Grammys, so how does it feel to compare the past ceremonies to today's?

Anoushka: I don't think we can look at today's Grammys without remembering the past. We all know that the event found its origin in the 1950s in the Hollywood Walk of Fame project, where the committee realised the need of a specific award show to appreciate amazing musicians. When it was first thought of, the committee wanted to name the event Eddie to honour Thomas Edison, the inventor of the phonograph, but after a mail-in contest with around 300 participants, the name Grammy was chosen, and in 1958, the first Grammys were awarded. The rest, as you know, is history.

Trevor: It really is. Thank you for stopping by, Anoushka. For the rapid fire, our next guest is the youngest artist in Grammy history to win all four of the General Field categories – Billie Eilish.

Billie: Thank you. I overheard your conversation

with Anoushka, and honestly, I was so fascinated that I just had to google the first-ever Grammys.

Trevor: Oh, really? What did you find?

Billie: With everyone gathered here today, under one roof, it was so amusing to know that the first Grammy ceremony, in 1959, was held simultaneously in two locations – the Beverly Hilton Hotel in California and the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York. And the second Grammy ceremony, also held in the same year, was the first one to be televised.

Trevor: But it was in 1971, the 13th Grammy function, when the ceremony was first aired live on TV.

Billie: That's true. And another fun fact I found was that at the first Grammy ceremony, only 28 awards were awarded to the nominees.

Trevor: Wow, the number has definitely grown since then, even reaching 109 in 2011, but categories keep getting added or removed almost yearly. For today's ceremony, there are 82 genre-specific awards. Anyway, thank you for that fact file, Billie. Moving on, let's meet the next guests as they are the perfect example of the worldwide legacy of Grammys that move beyond boundaries. The most

Grammy-nominated Korean artist in history, BTS!

BTS: We're excited to be here, Trevor, especially after attending hybrid-Grammy online in 2021 because of COVID-19. Before that, the Grammys were usually held on January 31 of every year, but they were postponed in 2021 and 2022 to March and April respectively due to the pandemic. Even in 2023, we are meeting up for the event quite late. It's February 5th, isn't it?

Trevor: Right! And tonight, you guys are hoping to win one of the coveted awards, I assume?

BTS: For sure. We want that iconic gramophone trophy that is in a class of its own. Did you know that they were originally gold-plated and assembled by hand by Billings Artworks? And in 1990, the design was changed to a trademarked zinc alloy that made the trophy less prone to damage? And when we first attended the ceremony in 2019, we discovered that 'stunt' trophies are awarded to the recipient on stage because the real trophies are engraved with their names after the broadcast is over. These same stunt trophies are used for every year's broadcast.

Trevor: Even I didn't know that! Thanks for the info, guys. The ceremony is about to start, so let me welcome my last guest at the red carpet – the man who made history tonight by being nominated for Album of the Year with a Spanish album. Bad Bunny, welcome. It's such a great achievement, isn't it?

Bad Bunny: Gracias. Yes, it is. Even with Latin Grammy Awards, which were started in 1989 and which reward Latin music recorded in Spanish or Portuguese, it is a great honour to be nominated for Album of the Year. It is one of the four coveted General Field categories - Album of the Year, Record of the Year, Song of the Year, and Best New Artist, so winning would mean a lot.

Still, I am happy to be nominated because I know the selection process is very rigorous – entries are nominated online, over 150 experts ensure the work being entered in the correct category, members of NARAS voting for General Field nominations, and the top five then becoming the final nominees. Then the final voting ballots are again sent to the members to determine the winners, which will be announced tonight.

Trevor: Yes, we have gathered here tonight to see who finally wins, so let's finally start the show. Welcome to the 65th Grammy Awards!





Uber se bhi upar

Unfolding The New-Age Generous Uber, Providing Free Rides



Avikshit Sahil Upadhyay, X & Gauri Sharma, IX, AGS Gurugram

It is a truth universally acknowledged that if you, standing by the roadside, shout ‘auto! auto!’ twice, at least two auto rickshaws, coursing through the wailing wind with their bumpy backrests, instantly pull over to offer you a paid ride (emphasis on paid). Now, what if we tell you there’s someone who does it for free? Meet Uday Jadhav, an inspiring auto driver from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, who has completely revolutionised the way public transit system functions and how!

Motivation driving the motor

Having worked as a masseur with a local doctor for some good 15 years, Uday bhai started his auto-driving journey, ‘Ahmedabad no Rickshawalo’ as he calls it, in 2010 with the concept of gift economy in mind. “The desire to work for the larger communal good stemmed in me post a chance encounter with Jayesh bhai, a janitor at Hanuman Ram Roti Seva Trust, a community



A small library for the riders

kitchen in Kalupur. To see him put his nose to the grindstone every day for no pecuniary advantage in return made me question my life choices and simultaneously, ignited in me the drive to live for others,” he recalls.

Gearing up for a gift economy

In a gift economy, commuters can pay as they wish. As an economy of generosity, it requires humility and conviction on both the driver and the passenger’s part. For Uday bhai, this is true living. “And not just that, my auto has dustbins; a small library, the contents of which I allow people to take home in order to circulate knowledge; a padded seat; some cheerful slogans on the outside; snacks and chocolates; and even a



Uday Jadhav providing free auto ride

whiteboard for children to scribble on,” adds Uday bhai, “in fact, superstars like Amitabh Bachchan, Kajol, and Sant Murari Babu have all ridden in my auto!” So who’s the real star, we wonder!

Bumps along the road

The concept of gift economy, however, is known to result in economic uncertainty. But Uday bhai’s wife stands as his pillar of strength. “My wife’s akin to Goddess Parvati. She is supportive and manages with whatever little we have,” he states. Besides, the people around him have been generous too. People have tested Uday bhai’s honour on several occasions though. “Once a man called me back after the ride, having inten-

tionally left a box of money in the auto, and checked if the box was still there. And it was! The man was shocked but thankful,” he shares. There are also times when people don’t understand the concept of gift economy, but “that’s bearable,” he says with a warm smile.

Navigating the world

Uday bhai’s journey as such has been full of unforgettable moments, but one in particular keeps reminding him of why he started what he started. “It was when a man had his wallet stolen in a train, and none of the auto drivers outside the station came forward to help him or offer him a free ride. Since I let him in, the gesture touched the man, making him cry and salute my ‘goodness’. And it is owing to such occurrences that my faith in my profession solidifies with each passing day.” Being an ardent follower of Gandhiji’s methods, he aspires to be the change he wishes to see in the world, and his efforts towards achieving the same have been fruitful too, as several auto drivers across the country attempt to follow his footsteps. Isn’t his service then *Uber se bhi upar!*? It most definitely is! [G I](#)



Pics: Aarushi Agarwal, AGS Gur, X



The team giving shape to ideas



The editorial board of Amity Global School, Gur solemnising the hard work



Writers working diligently



Illustrators creating masterpieces



Designers crafting the design

For more pictures, log on to www.facebook.com/theglobaltimesnewspaper or www.instagram.com/the_global_times

Innovation fest

The Annual Science Symposium For Young Minds



Chairperson and eminent guests at the Innovation Fest



AIS Noida

The 18th edition of Dhananjay Mohan ATL Innovation Fest was organised on November 18, 2022, virtually to kindle scientific thinking and curiosity in young minds. The annual inter school science symposium envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, witnessed the participation of around 220 students from 16 schools across Delhi/NCR. A total of nine competitions were held as part of the event. In 'Dive

In or Scuba', AIS Vas 1, AIS Noida, and AIS Saket secured first, second, and third place, respectively. In 'Think-O-Rator', AIS Saket won first prize, and AIS Gur 46 and AIS MV both secured second prize. The third position was collectively bagged by AIS Noida, AIS PV, AIS Saket, and AIS Gur 43. 'Beat Maker' category saw AIS Noida at first position, AIS Vas 1 at second position, and AIS MV at third position. 'Biz Teen Tycoon' saw AIS MV at first position, AIS Noida and AIS Saket at second position, and AIS PV at third position. 'Row 'O' Bot' saw

AIS Noida bag first position, AIS Gur 46 secure second position, and AIS PV fetch third position. In 'Game 'O' Fest', AIS Noida came first, AIS Gur 46 and AIS Vas 6 came second, and AIS Gwalior came third. 'Model Mania' had AIS Gur 46, AIS Noida, and AIS MV at first, second, and third position, respectively. In 'Toon Fiesta', AIS Noida and AIS PV bagged first position, AIS Gur 43 and AIS Gur 46 bagged second position, and AIS PV again bagged third position. Lastly, in 'Twist-A-Tale', AIS Vas 1 stood first, AIS Noida secured second position, and AIS MV won third position. AIS Saket lifted the coveted overall rolling trophy at the event. **GT**

Stamping success



AIS Vasundhara 6

Aashee Jha of Class X emerged as one of the top five state winners of UP in the Stamp Design Competition organised by the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication, in collaboration with CBSE. She won the award for designing a stamp depicting the cultural and political diversity of India. Approximately 10 lakh students participated in the event organised as part of 'Har Ghar Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav - Souvenir Aur Stamps'. Top five entries from each state were selected in the



School principal with Aashee

competition. It was held under five sub-themes, namely Freedom Struggle, Ideas@75, Resolve@75, Actions@75, and Achievements@75, for the students of Class VIII-XII from all over India. Aashee will be felicitated by the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication, Government of Uttar Pradesh, soon for her designed stamp. **GT**

AIS Vasundhara 6

Twelve students from Class VI-VIII participated in the International Jamboree for Bharat Scouts and Guides held from December 21-27, 2022. They were selected by the government of Uttar Pradesh and Bharat Scouts and Guides Association of India on the basis of their skills and merit in scouting and guiding. The programme was hosted by India after 10 years, and saw some 50,000 scouts and guides take part in it from 22 countries. The week-long event, with 'Culture for the Youth Solidarity' as its theme, saw various programmes held on the topics of agriculture, horticulture, science, books, art and culture. The students had the experience of a lifetime as they participated in star gazing, science conclaves, puppet show, a concert by Shankar Mahadevan, jungle trail, beach walk, industrial visit, challenge



Principals and educators with The College Board members

K-12 Roundtable

ACCGC

The College Board K-12 roundtable discussion for the principals and educators on December 15, 2022 was hosted at AIS Noida. The conference, envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, was held under the aegis of Amity Career Counselling & Guidance Cell (ACCGC). The programme was aimed at demystifying the digital mode of SAT, i.e., transitioning to online mode, and making it easy for the students appearing for both SAT and Advanced Placement (AP) programmes. The discussion was attended by 45 principals and counsellors from various schools across Delhi/NCR. The event began with the lamp lighting ceremony, which was accompanied by a welcome address by Renu Singh, director principal, AIS Noida. Opening remarks from the head of

ACCGC followed soon after, wherein she spoke about Amity's decade long journey with The College Board. She also mentioned the exemplary achievement of ACCGC and AIS PV being the biggest AP Test Centre in India, catering to the maximum number of students across the nation.

Key speaker Rushi Sheth, vice president, international division, The College Board, USA, also addressed the attendees and elaborated upon the usage of the 'Bluebook' app which will make appearing for and submission of SAT exam easier and safer for all. Meenakshi Kachroo Chatta, senior director, South and Central Asia - The College Board, and Mehak Verma (K-12 outreach manager, South Asia, The College Board) showcased their successful projects, including AP, SAT, and PSAT, in India. They also heartily lauded the support extended by Amity Schools in implementing those projects in India.

Scouts and guides



Scouts and guides team at International Jamboree

obstacle course, SDG presentation, etc. On December 24, the school team, as part of the folk-dance competition, gave a scintillating dance performance depicting the state of Uttar Pradesh. Their science model on soil fertilizer and Covid virus detector got special recognition, as a report of the same

was featured in the local newspaper, Kannada Prabha. The scouts and guides also got an opportunity to interact with international colleagues, exchange souvenirs, take part in group activities which helped them develop character to play a constructive role in the society, and ultimately build a better nation. **GT**

All I need is coffee



An Account Of A Bitter Breakup Between Coffee And Its Consumer

Lakshya Narula, AGS Gurugram, VIII

One doesn't have to be a barista or a coffee maniac to reckon the galvanic impact that a flagon of freshly-brewed concoction of milk and beaten coffee can have on an individual. Whether you are cradling one on your way to work on a blue Monday or simply sipping one after having exhaustedly dashed out of your diurnal dance lessons, it's almost impossible for most to picture a day without it. But this fixation isn't mutual for everyone, not even for the same person at all times, or is it? Here's what the caffeinated beverage thinks about this emotionally ambivalent relationship.

Disclaimer: The ensuing conversation took place between Miss Coffee and her therapist, Doc Bru. Though the latter refused to divulge much regarding the case, and rightly so, for he was under the oath of confidentiality, but then who wouldn't want to get featured in The Global Times! Well, that's what he said.

"There was a time when she would not function without having a cupful of me first. And now, she no longer gives a hoot," elaborated Miss Coffee.

"So, her sudden indifference towards you is what's bothering you?" asked Doc Bru. "Yes! She apparently feels a little too perked up upon consuming me now. How is that my fault?" stated Miss Coffee.

"Well, you definitely are renowned for being an energy booster."

"But that doesn't mean you would discard me on grounds of your love for sleep? Doesn't she care at all?"

"I mean sleep is essential for survival,"

Doc responded, trying to settle her nerves. "I am one of the basic necessities of life, too, and should be treated as one. It's *roti, kapda, makaan*, and coffee, believe me!"

"Yeah, it sure is!" Doc Bru calls. He turns to laugh within him, careful to not let Miss Coffee see anything but his solemn face.

"It is. Well, except when it is not. For, now, she only pays heed to me when she has her own selfishness to feed, when she needs to get some work done. I absolutely abhor this tempestuous bond. I am out of this," Miss Coffee retorted angrily.

"Hmm. Have you ever considered altering yourself a little bit for her?"

Miss Coffee snapped. "Why else do you

think I come in a variety? Red eye for when she's dealing with a tiresome morning, doppio to put some extra pep in her step, mocha to fight her late night chocolate cravings, and whatnot. I have tried it all, just for her."

"Well, that's sad!" remarked Doc, sipping on a cup of latte simultaneously.

"Don't tell me that's all you have for me. I paid a 500 bucks for this session."

"You charge that much for a mugful," replied Doc Bru, a little offended this time.

"Well, that's for all the health benefits I offer, Doc."

At this, Doc Bru's eyes suddenly lit up as if in a state of epiphany, and he added,

"Well, then, why don't you jot it down on a piece of paper as a billet-doux for her?"

"Absolutely not. She recently came across a 1981 New York Times opinion piece that claimed that the chemicals in me are driving all those indulged in my consumption, even if moderate, to an early grave. She would never believe my word," responded Miss Coffee tut-tutting at the idea.

"Well, try maybe?" Doc requested.

"Umm...so, here goes nothing..."

Dear Joe,

You know we have been best friends since the very day you started stressing over things you can't control. And trust me, I cannot thank life enough for that. I mean, don't get me wrong, but that's the sole reason why you got addicted to my presence in your life in the first place, and I am every bit grateful for that. Why have we, then, become so distant now? Why are you letting frivolous things like rest, sleep, relaxation, and so forth come in between the aromatic bond we share, one that can never be replicated with chai? Trust me, none of these would shield you from developing deadly diseases like coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes, colon cancer, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's etc., like I can. None of these can bring your liver enzyme levels within a healthy range as I can, and needless to say, none of these can brighten your mood like I can. Why can't you, then, make me your topmost priority? Am I that bitter of a companion for you? I think not. Please prove me right and come get hooked on to me once again. I will be waiting for you on your side table tomorrow morning.

Yours warmly,

Miss Coffee"



Graphic: Riya Kharyal, Amity Global School, Gurugram, XI

In Spotlight



Editor-in-chief: Anshita Kumar



Make acquaintance with the team of AGS Gurugram



Co-editor-in-chief: Maya L Joshi