

## Topping with Change...

...As The Simple Plaything Takes On Profit, Audience, Diversity & Much More

PV Sai Kashish, XII E & Nandini Rastogi, IX B, AIS MV

Toys are perhaps mankind's noblest creation. Moulding young minds at an impressionable age and subsequently the society, they are more than mere musings. These toys, at a closer glance, reflect our society in more ways than one. So, when the society undergoes a transformation, these things of play, too, echo sounds of change.

### Of changing numbers

Once valued at 141.08 billion USD in 2021, the toy market is projected to touch 230.64 billion USD by 2030. India is also said to push its market to at least three billion USD by 2028. These numbers make a strong case for toys being the forerunner of moolah. Which is why it doesn't sound surprising that the Indian government has brought down toy imports by 70%, upping exports by 61.38% in the last three years. The government is leaving no stone unturned to boost the domestic toy industry; events like Toycathon 2022, The India Toy Fair 2022, and approval of 19 toy clusters etc., are a step in the same direction.

### Of changing characters

However, the growth of the industry is not restricted to its monetary value. The demand of toys has increased

and so have the specifications. Now, the market asks for a diverse approach – the toys need to be of different races, genders etc. The Barbie that once used to be skinny now comes in variations of a plus-sized body, vitiligo, diverse skin shades etc. Not just that, the modern-day toys also tend to the learning need of its owners. From the ones that stimulate the brain (Newton's cradle, jigsaw puzzle etc.) to the ones that harbour creativity (Lego creation sets, toy pianos etc.), toys are a way of preparing kids for a better future.

### Of changing audiences

Everyone assumes the demographic of toys to be kids, but the reality is quite the opposite. According to CNBC, adults who buy toys for themselves make for one-fourth of all toy purchases, accounting to around nine billion USD annually. Toymakers, too, seem intent to please these 'kidults' with lines like Hasbro's Black Series for action figures of Star Wars and Marvel. All big movie franchises have their limited-edition toy merchandise, almost all of which is bought by 18+ years old. Even BTS have

created various toy series like BT21, Tiny Tan, and Wootteo, all of which have been sold out in as less as two minutes, with almost 95% of buyers being adults.

### Of changing preferences

The societal landscape we live in today is at its dynamic best, with toys mirroring these developments. For instance, the popularity of movie-based toys is reflective of the upsurge in online streaming. A 19% increase in revenue was recorded for these toys. The classics can be seen making a comeback in every sphere and toys make no exception. The Tonka Mighty Dump Truck, a classic toy in the US, has witnessed a 250% increase in sales year over year. As the world switches to sustainability, toy makers are following suit, with giants like Mattel pledging to utilise 100% recyclable material, a respite given that toy industry alone is on track to produce one million toys annually. If one can rent

homes, cars, furniture etc., then why not toys? Toy subscription services, yet another trend, have already stepped in.

Toys may have been created as a way to keep a fussy child busy, but the object has grown to be so much more. With such a complex narrative, it is safe to say that toys are not just a child's plaything anymore.



Imaging: Pankaj Mallik, GT Network

### THE GT POLL

What impact will the removal of Matterhorn mountain peak from the Toblerone chocolate packaging have?

- a) None at all
- b) Smear its classic image
- c) Invite more global buyers

To vote, checkout our Instagram page @the\_global\_times

### Coming next

Contest Edition (AIS PV)

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### What's inside



**Tête-à-tête with Joost Wedge**  
World cyclist Joost Van Wedge who has cycled around the world for nearly 25 years, covering 43 countries, shares his experience.

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Understanding the scientific concept of sundials, a time-keeping device that shows the time as the sun moves across the sky and casts a shadow.

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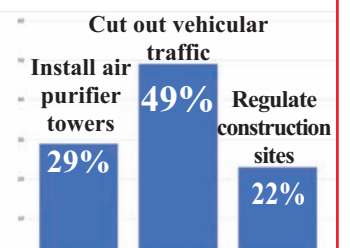
**Code: Operation Blue Star**  
Decoding the military operation launched by PM Indira Gandhi in June 1984 to neutralise the Sikh militants across Punjab.

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### POLL RESULT

for GT Edition February 13, 2023

What should the Municipal Corporation of Mumbai do to deal with the alarming air pollution in the city?



Results as on March 11, 2023



# Around The WORLD

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

## CANADA

### Probes on meddling

On orders of PM Justin Trudeau, 'an independent special rapporteur' will review classified reports from the 2019 and 2021 federal elections in the country to decide if Chinese interference was at play. Though China has denied any election interference, claiming it to be "purely baseless and defamatory", Trudeau has claimed that such reports challenge the country's "sovereignty" and "strike us to our very core as Canadians". Also, the details of the rapporteur have not been disclosed, rival political parties are calling for it to be a public inquiry.



## SOUTH KOREA

### Compensation for labour

South Korean government has announced a compensation pay for about 150,000 citizens who were forced to work in Japanese factories during World War II due to the Japanese colonization of the Korean peninsula during the time. Though Japan has hailed the proposal as a positive one, many victims are protesting the plan as they hold Japan accountable for the crimes. The victims are also against the government backing out of the previous plan of making Tokyo pay reparations.

## USA

### Three years, 135 nations cruise

Life at Sea Cruises has opened doors to the world's first cruise that offers a three-year voyage that would cover 135 countries in seven continents. According to the itinerary, the MV Gemini Vessel will visit 13 out of the 14 'wonders of the world', cover more than 130,000 miles, visit 375 ports, and will set sail from Istanbul on November 1, 2023. The ship will have 400 cabins and room for 1074 passengers at packages starting from 29,999 USD to 109,999 USD per person per year.



## UNITED KINGDOM

### 50% world to be overweight

According to the World Obesity Federation, more than half of the world's population is set to become 'obese' or 'overweight' by the year 2035 if no action for improving health statistics are taken. More than four billion people, with the rates rising the fastest amongst children, will be affected, and low and middle-income countries in Africa and Asia are expected to face the most severe results.



## SOUTH AFRICA

### New minister for power crisis

To tackle and deal with the unprecedented power shortages in the country, president Cyril Ramaphosa has appointed the nation's first ever electricity minister Kgosientsho Ramokgopa. The tasks under his wing will be ending the daily blackouts which last up to 15 hours a day, and dealing with allegations of corruption against the state-run energy giant, Eskom.



## INDIA

### Global alliance for big cats

The Indian Express has reported that under its leadership, India has proposed the launch of a mega global coalition with the aim of protection and conservation of the seven big cats of the world – tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar, and chive. The proposed International Big Cat Alliance has pledged support of 100 million USD or over 800 crore INR for the cause in funding that is to be generated over five years.



## BANGLADESH

### Fire at refugee camp

UNHCR has reported that at least 15 people have been killed and 400 remain missing due to a fire in the Rohingya refugee camp. It is also estimated that 40,000-50,000 people have been affected, and at least 10,000 makeshift shelters have been destroyed by the fire. The fire started at Camp 11 of Cox's Bazar, home to more than one million Rohingya refugees who fled Myanmar to escape ethnic cleansing.

## News Flash

► **New Zealand:** Earthquake of magnitude 6.9 ► **Egypt:** Newly discovered chamber inside Great Pyramid of Giza ► **WHO:** Regional Director for Western Pacific Takeshi Kasai fired over racial misconduct ► **Mozambique:** Cyclone Freddy to hit the country again



# Around the world on a **bicycle**

## Experience A Cycling Tour With Renowned World Cyclist, Joost Van Wedge

### Mentor Talk

With a desire to see a world without borders, world cyclist Joost Van Wedge has been cycling around the world for nearly 25 years, covering a total of 43 countries. In his latest cycling tour, he has covered eight countries namely, Thailand, India, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Albania and traversing almost 9100 kms. Recounting his cycling experience with Amitians during 'Around the world on a bicycle' programme organised by Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC) he sheds light on everything that makes him a cyclist by heart. GT brings you the excerpts...

#### What were the highlights of your experience while traveling through India?

Indians are a hospitable lot, and I loved the folks in Assam, Meghalaya, and Sikkim. In Assam, I celebrated Bihu festival with a Bodo family with whom I stayed for a week. I love the natural beauty of this country.

**Arti Pandit, Amitasha Noida, X**

#### What is the philosophical side of your cycling quest?

It is about experiencing the world with all my senses. It's fascinating to travel to various places, and meet different people.

**Mohammad Suhail, Atulasha, XII**

#### What was your average speed throughout the journey?

It depends on the terrain I am traveling on. On mountains, it can be 5-6 kmph and while



Joost Van Wedge

going upward or down, it can be 70 kmph.

**Rubani Singh Tyagi, AIS Saket, VIII**

#### How did you cope when the pandemic struck and the world came to a standstill?

I believe that focusing on the positives is what matters the most in any situation. During the pandemic, I tried to be in touch with people who are positive and are willing to help others. Also, nature, mountains, landscapes - they all helped me to boost positivity in my mind.

**Sanjana Chauhan, AIS Pushp Vihar, IX**

#### What have you learnt in your journey which is essential for the world to know?

Our body can do far more than we think. One needs to keep pushing boundaries. It is also important to take care of your environment and keep it clean and healthy.

**Ananiaah Wheeler, AGS Gurugram, IX**

#### How do you overcome barriers of language and culture?

I don't consider these as barriers, as these are the facets I like to explore. In fact, I had many beautiful conversations with people



Dignitaries at the event

around me without speaking a word. Sometimes I have used sign language, or drawn or showed a picture, to express my views.

**Ritika Yadav, AIS Mayur Vihar, XI**

#### If given a choice to reside in any other country, which one would it be?

The more I travel, the more I appreciate my own country. But, if I do have to make a choice, then it would perhaps be Italy, as it has a good climate and great food.

**Ayush Verma, AIS VKC Lko, VIII**

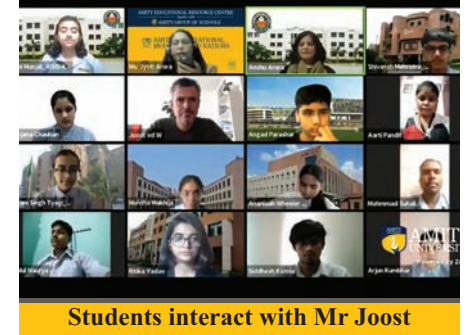
#### What inspired you to take up cycling?

In the past I had some mental health issues and cycling helped me relieve stress. Also, I come from the Netherlands where the number of cycles is greater than the number of people, it is part of our culture. And it is something that keeps me going.

**Angad Parashar, AIS Mohali, X, Vidhi Singh, AIS Raipur, IX & Siddesh Kotnis, AGS Noida, XII**

#### Which has been your easiest and most difficult journey so far?

Europe and Thailand was easy, as it has de-



Students interact with Mr Joost

cent roads and good tourist infrastructure. The most difficult journey by far has been Meghalaya due to the Garo Hills that are very steep.

**Nishtha Makhija, AIS Vas 1, IX**

#### Have you met anyone who inspired you?

I once met a Belgian traveler who was very free-spirited. Then, there was an inspiring girl in Tajikistan who was on a quest to change her life.

**Kayaan Khaterpal, AIS Gur 43, VIII**

#### You would have observed different cultural practices. Did you adopt any in your life?

I have experienced so many cultural practices around the world. And, I always take the positive aspect of every experience and incorporate it in my life in my own way.

**Simran Jain, AIS Gur 46, X**

#### If you had not chosen this path, what would you be doing?

I would perhaps be hiking in the mountains. In fact, I am still seeking myself as a person.

**Vaishnavi Yadav, AIS VYC Lko, VIII & Adwithiyaa Puri, AIS Gwalior, VIII**

### AUM

Amity University Mumbai organised its first-ever Amity International Short Film Festival, AMISHORTS 2023, on February 16-17, 2023 to connect students with the world of cinema and to help them grasp global issues. The festival was inaugurated by Dr AW Santhosh Kumar, vice chancellor, AUM; Ashok Rane, film critic and chief guest of the event; Tanishaa Mukerji, actress, and Amanollah Sayadi, director, Iran Cultural House, Mumbai.

Speaking at the event, Dr AW Santhosh Kumar said, "Cinema always attracts the youth. With the advent of OTT platforms, content

## AMISHORTS 2023

### Amity University Mumbai's International Film Festival



Akhilendra Mishra



Screening of short film 'Agnidaah'

is readily available. I am sure the students of AUM would connect to world issues through these fantastic movies especially curated

for them. From Iran to Argentina, we have prominent countries of world cinema participating in AMISHORTS." Ashok Rane, too,

praised the event by highlighting the importance of short films in shaping the career of filmmakers. The festival started on a bright

note with the screening of Agnidaah. Its lead actor, Tanishaa Mukerji, and director, Yogendra Chaubal, introduced the film to the audience followed by a short Q/A round. The session also saw the screening of a Hindi film Barat by Akhilendra Mishra, who emphasised on the importance of producing local language films on a large scale. Overall, the festival saw the showcase of 15 films from different nations along with various award-winning Indian films namely Prashna, Sea of Clouds, and Half Day.

Filmfare award-winning Marathi non-fictional film, Varasa, closed the festival on a high note, with everyone already gearing up for AMISHORTS 2024.

# A sunny time project

## Rediscover The Magic Of Time Through Sundials, The Ancestors Of Our Clocks

Sneha Sharma & Ananya Sharma

AIS Vasundhara 6, Alumnae

Following their summer routine, Doraemon and Nobita were playing with their friends in the park when suddenly Shizuka remarked, "Hey guys! What about the summer project? Have you all started? We just have three more days." Nobita, who was clueless about the project, was woken from his slumber. He rushed home and took the assignment brief which read, "Make something which tells us the time." Nobita scratched his head. "We already have clocks. What else can tell time?" The only way out was taking help from Doraemon. So he rushed to Doraemon. "Sure, I'll help you but there is a catch - you will have to use your brain!" said Doraemon. To Nobita's surprise, Doraemon did not take out a gadget from his pocket but some tools - a simple wooden stick and a circular wooden block. Nobita was bewildered; he had no clue on how to use these two items



for his project.

At this point, the last hope Nobita had was his friend, Shizuka, who was an expert in the subject. They went to their favourite spot, the city playground, and started to ponder. Unfortunately, after hours of contemplation and recurrent failure, they both gave up. As Nobita got up to leave, he punched the wooden stick into the wooden block in frustration, and the stick turned slant, by nearly 60 degrees.

Shizuka noticed the altered structure and paid special attention to the shadow cast by

the stick under sunlight. She asked, "What time is it?" Nobita replied, "Around 12; let's go." Shizuka turned to him, "Look at the shadow of the wooden block." She then took a piece of chalk and marked a dot on the casted shadow. Another hour passed and they realised that the shadow moved to a different position. She again marked the spot and both of them waited till the sun was about to set. They found it similar to the working of a clock. And voila! The project was done.

On the day of submission, Nobita presented the summer project. "I have come up with something interesting for this project. All you need is three things - a wooden circular block surface, a wooden stick, and good sunlight. What you all see in front of you is a circular wooden block called the dial plate. The markings on its surface represent time. The numbered lines are called the hour lines, similar to a clock. And the wooden stick attached to the surface of a dial plate is known as gnomon. When you place this device under sunlight and the position of the sun changes, the shadow casted by the stick onto



### The science of it

**A sundial is a timekeeping device consisting of a flat circular surface or platform (dial) and a thin rod (gnomon) attached to it. The device shows the time as the sun moves across the sky and casts a shadow of the gnomon onto the platform, indicating the passage of time.**

the wooden surface also changes, telling us the time. For example, when the sun is above our head, the shadow is casted on hour line 12 i.e., it is 12 pm and the shadow is shortest, but it keeps getting longer as time moves ahead. I would like to call this device Nobidial!" And with that, a huge round of applause resonated in the classroom. 🇮🇳

## How to brew chaos

### The Not-So-Legal DIY For Creating Encryption Keys

Mahi Modgil, AIS Gurugram 46, XII

This write-up is heavily inspired by Cloudflare, a corporation that uses lava lamps for internet encryption. Turns out, lava lamps are not just mere pieces of decoration or something to go "Ooooooo sooo pretty" at and then proceed to stare for six hours.

*Disclaimer: This DIY project can only be conducted by the multi-million dollar company that is Cloudflare Inc. Well, at least legally \*winks\*!*

#### Material required

- Lava lamps - 100
- Camera - 1
- Endless amount of computers
- A bucket load of randomness
- A dash of chaos
- A giant wall with shelves
- Cloudflare Inc (can easily be bought for 431 million USD at your nearest convenience store)

#### Knowledge required

- Randomness is essential for secure encryption. Each new key that a computer uses to encrypt data must be arbitrary, so that an attacker can't figure out the key and decrypt it. It's like creating a lock and throwing the key away in an endless ocean. Even finding a needle in a haystack is a metaphor too mild for it.
- The production of such unpredictable and chaotic data needs a source. The 'real world' turns out to be such a source because events in the physical world are erratic, volatile, and even fluctuating. In other words, it's perfect!
- Lava lamps are an excellent candidate for such unpredictability. They are the chosen ones, if you will. The 'lava' in these lava lamps never takes the same shape twice, which actually explains the 'ooh-ah' element we love reacting with. As a result, observing them is great for procuring absolutely random data, exactly what we want.



#### Procedure

- Take the lava lamps and arrange them on the shelves of a wall.
- Now, mount a camera to the wall in a way that it points at the lamps.
- Put on a timer, allowing the camera to take photos of your set lamps at assigned regular intervals.
- Once done, send the images to a computer server.
- Store all these digital images as a series

of numbers, with each pixel having its own numerical value. This way, each image would be a string of totally random numbers that the server can use as a starting point for generating secure encryption keys.

■ Congratulations! You have successfully copied Cloudflare's business model.

*(Copyright claims might be issued, if you don't want to go to jail that is.)*



# The girl with the matchstick

When A Mighty Stick Of Chemicals Illuminated The Dim Dark World With Its Strike

Yashasvi Bhardwaj, XII &  
Apaar Khare, XI, AIS Mayur Vihar

Shivering with cold, the poor little girl walked out on the streets. She wanted to sell some matches to put bread on the table. After a night of roaming around, she failed to sell a single matchbox. Cold and dejected, she sat down and lit up a match, when she suddenly heard a voice. The match was talking to her!

“Hi! No, down here. I, as you can see am a matchstick. I’m lit. Get it? Anyway, let me tell you something about me. My bloodline started in 1826, when my grandfather, the English Chemist John Walker was mixing some chemicals, potassium chlorate and antimony sulfate, with a dried piece of wood. He left the stick outside, which resulted in the chemicals drying on the stick. The stick accidentally brushed against a rough surface, resulting in a fire. No wonder they called my grandpa a friction light! People loved him. Millions in sales in just a few years. The only downside was that...”

With that the light died, leaving the little girl both amused and overwhelmed; amused for she’d never seen a matchstick

talk before, and overwhelmed for the information she had just been bombarded with. Nonetheless, she wanted to know more and hastily lit up another matchstick, and to her surprise the voice started to talk to her again. “So sorry, my life is short but as someone said, *zindagi lambi nahi, badi honi chahiye babu moshai*. So, I was saying that there was one downside - when lit, his head would bounce off like a little fireball. Back then, everything was made of wood, and I mean everything, so it would be safe to say that grandpa was actually a hazard.”

The innocent child exclaimed, “Oh, was it so? You guys really lit things up!”

“Yeah! You could say so, until my father, the light of the family (quite literally), came along. He was almost identical to my grandfather, but instead of antimony sulfate, he had white phosphorus, which was easier to light. With that com-

mened the dark times for matchsticks. You see, my dad was convenient to use, but the workers who manufactured him faced a lot of respiratory

problems, which lead them to revolt, and as a result, I was born.”

The light went out again, and she lit a third matchstick. “With the ban on white phosphorus, I was made with red phosphorus, which is non-reactive. I am also much safer (after all, I am the safety match!) and loved. In fact, I am so adored that there is an art dedicated to the collection of my kinds. It’s called Philumeny, with many paying thousands of dollars for vintage matchboxes. Today, I even have an extended family and my off-springs are being used in a way that I never thought of! The new range of infinity matchsticks are made from metal and can be reused over 10,000 times.” On that final note, the last match, too, went out.

The little girl, having learnt that even the matchstick had a huge family, was even sadder. She frowned, trying to come to terms with her fate. Just then, a passerby, feeling bad for the little girl, offered her a warm blanket along with some food. There sure was light at the end of the tunnel matchstick.



Pic courtesy: Hridank Arora, AIS PV, X A

## Off to Lhasa!

Embracing The Mighty Hills

Hridank Arora, AIS PV, V A

**Place:** McLeodganj

**Top sights:** Dalai Lama Temple, Palampur, Bhagsu Falls, Tibetan Museum

**Best time to visit:** December-February

**Delicacies to try:** Thenthuck, Tibetan noodles and breads, thukpa, kimbap, bok choy soup

**Things to carry:** Woolens, emergency kit, trekking shoes, waist bag, water bottle

**Souvenirs to buy:** Tibetan mats and carpets, Thangka paintings, Kangra tea, shawls

**Languages to know before you visit:** Hindi, English, Tibetan,

Gaddi, or Pahari

**My experience:** On the very first day of our trip, me and my family visited the Dalai Lama Temple. Inside the temple, one can find a beautifully decorated statue of Buddha sitting on a carved pedestal while the pilgrims walk around the statue in clockwise direction as they rotate the prayer wheels. In fact, it was a different experience altogether to learn about the lifestyle of monks and the unique architecture of the holy shrine. The next day we went to Nor-



A fun-filled vacation for Hridank in the amazing McLeodganj



bulingka Institute, an organisation that works for the preservation of Tibetan literature, art, and culture.

The artwork and paintings there beautifully capture the ancient Tibetan culture in its truest

and purest essence.

On the final day of the trip, we travelled to Palampur, also known as Tea Capital of North India. The tea gardens in Palampur are perfect for a wonderful and memorable afternoon walk where the aroma of the leaves

from tea plants transports you to another heavenly world.

**My favourite memory from the trip:** During my visit to the tea garden, I spotted an ATV bike and had a thrilling ride on it with my family. Overall, my trip was amazing!



# Winning over 'disgust'



Dr Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

Having elaborated on 'love' in my last column, I feel it is important to also talk about the emotion that's in stark contrast but is equally pertinent for human existence. I am referring to the *vibhatsa rasa*, or the feeling of 'disgust' that arises when we encounter something brutal or immoral. Disgust usually leaves one helpless and vulnerable. In our day-to-day life, there arise many moments which make us feel dissatisfied, and it is then when it becomes necessary to deal with the feeling of disgust. In fact, whenever we face a situation which makes us feel disgusted, we must act and vent our feelings rather than leaving it unresolved.

This is especially needed for children who are sensitive to every word and action that they hear and observe, so teaching them to handle disgust becomes more crucial. For example, if children feel disgusted with stories of corruption or crime, they should not only discuss about it in detail, but they should also be guided on how to channelise the same into a constructive action to make a positive impact on society, a path they are already headed on as was reflected in their recent feat.

Five Amitians - Hridyansh Yadav (XII) and Bhavya Goel (XI) of AIS PV, Sarthak Giri (XI) of AIS Vas 1, Yug Bansal (VI) and Vanya Bansal (VII) of AIS Gur 43, and AIS Vas 1 alumna Anika Joshi, recently participated in the 'Know Your Leader' programme that was held to honor the memory of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the Parliament. The event involved a candid interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence. Hridyansh, Bhavya and Anika also spoke on Netaji's contribution during the India's struggle for Independence. 🇮🇳

## Indian cinema



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

Last year, Indian film actor Priyanka Chopra delivered a powerful speech at the UN General Assembly. This year, another popular actor, Deepika Padukone, has been selected as a presenter at the upcoming Academy Awards, an event where the Golden Globe winning song, Naatu Naatu from the Telugu film RRR, will be performed live. It is a matter of great pride for us that Indian cinema has become the voice of the nation, and its artists have become

global ambassadors who represent our rich culture. Having said that, it is also true that Indian cinema has always had an impact on the global milieu. From the veteran director-actor Raj Kapoor who had the entire world crooning to his song Awaraz Hoon and the erudite Satyajit Ray whose films won him the honorary Oscar for Lifetime Achievement, to costume designer Bhanu Athaiya who won the Best Costume Design for Gandhi at the 55<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards, we have had many cinematic milestones. Indian cinema is special because it blends fantasy and realism into a complete package. But, for me, being recognised globally is not just restricted to celebrities. It is a victory of millions who work behind the camera – spot boys, makeup artists, choreographers etc. It is a true celebration of unity in diversity. In the making of one scene, one song, and one film, people of various states, languages, cultures, and religions come together as a cohesive unit. As our nation marches ahead, I hope that our cinema continues to find love from one and all. 🇮🇳

# Vital lessons

## It's Time To Inculcate Gandhian Lessons In Our Life

Aarushi Mahajan & Suhani Sirohi, AIS Noida, Alumnae

**M**ahatma Gandhi, or Bapu as we lovingly call him, is one of the most influential names of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. While his political contributions gave India its independence, his social and moral ideologies enlightened not only India but the rest of the world as well. He will continue to inspire and guide generations to come with a life philosophy that can be summed up in a small phrase – 'Simple living and high thinking'. It becomes imperative and important that we inculcate Gandhian principles in every aspect of life and governance in order to transform oneself and society. Here's taking a look at some of them.

### Perseverance

The struggle for India's independence spanned several decades, and Mahatma Gandhi persisted throughout this difficult journey with truth and non-violence as his only weapons. Even during the toughest of times, his belief in the cardinal principles of personal sacrifice (*satyagraha*), self-rule (*swaraj*), and self-reliance (*swadeshi*) never wavered. It was only through this patience and perseverance that India triumphed over two centuries of colonial subjugation.

### Fundamental values

Values are lasting beliefs or ideals that shape a person's character. They hold massive influence over one's attitude and serve as broad guidelines in all situations of life. Mahatma Gandhi had a rock-solid value system - of truthfulness, respect, under-

standing, acceptance, appreciation, and compassion - which served as a foundation for all of his ideas, and played a massive role in the national movement for the Indian freedom.

### Initiative

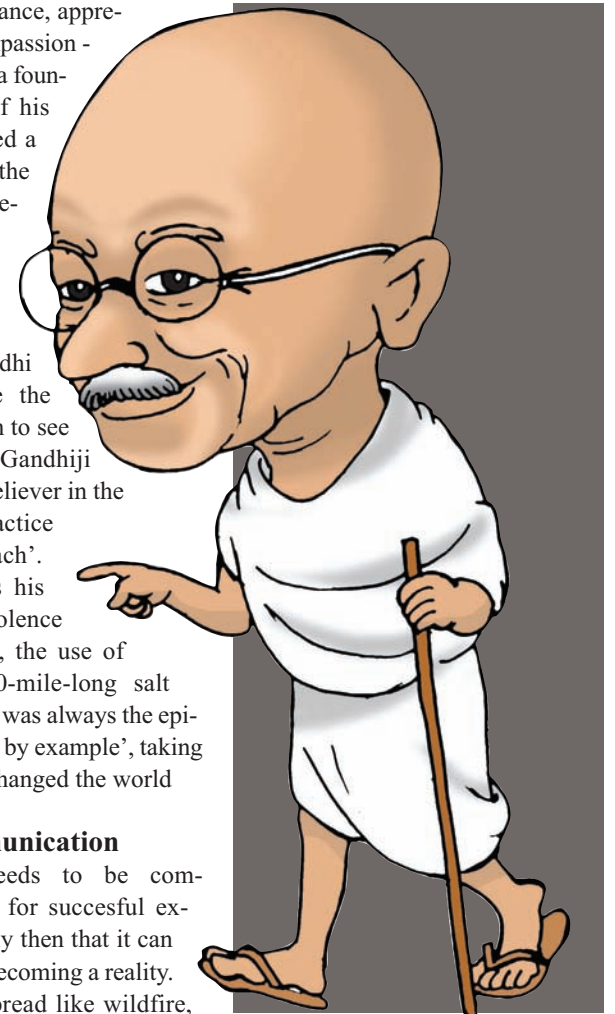
Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Gandhiji was a staunch believer in the notion of 'practice what you preach'. Whether it was his ideas of non-violence and *satyagraha*, the use of Khadi, the 240-mile-long salt march, Gandhiji was always the epitome of 'leading by example', taking initiatives that changed the world

### Communication

Every idea needs to be communicated well for successful execution. It is only then that it can culminate into becoming a reality. Ideas tend to spread like wildfire, especially when they come from one's role model. A wonderful strategist, Gandhiji understood the importance of regular communication, and he efficiently used the media of the time to influence millions of Indians and truly unite them as one complete entity against colonial oppression.

### Flexibility

We often find ourselves in situations that are completely different from our original plan, and we then become demotivated to pursue our



goals. But Gandhiji always stressed on the importance of flexibility in one's life. He taught that one must always strive to make the best of all situations. He reinvented the rules, meeting the needs of the hour, and created an unconventional approach to deal with the Britishers.

If we can imbibe these great human and moral qualities, nothing can stop us from achieving a happy, healthy, and harmonious future. 🇮🇳



Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'Strengthening the witch' published on page 8 of the GT edition dated February 6, 2023. The story is really a good one. It was written by Yashasvi Bhardwaj of AIS Mayur Vihar. Along with the story, I also really liked its illustration on the page, which was made by Arnab

Singh. Although I liked the entire story, I didn't like the part where the amateur witch met CGI people, but my teacher then explained its relevance in the story. I liked the ending because I loved how the magic spell told the amateur witch that magic is not real, and that if she wants something, she should work for it. Overall, the story was great, and I enjoyed reading it.

Miraya Negi  
AIS Mayur Vihar, IV B





# Code: Operation Blue Star

An Episode That Triggered A Series Of Cataclysmic Events In India



## 1 What is Operation Blue Star?

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**Operation Blue Star** Overview  
1 June 1984-10 June 1984

It was a military operation launched by the former PM of India, Indira Gandhi, and carried out by the Indian security forces between June 1-10, 1984, to neutralise Sikh militants from different Sikh temples across Punjab. The main attack was carried out on the Golden Temple of Amritsar, from where Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, leader of the orthodox Sikh cultural and educational organisation Damdami Taksal, and his followers were operating.



## 3 How did the temples come into the picture?

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Many Sikh extremists like Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale were taking advantage of this strained atmosphere. With his supporters, all armed with automatic weapons, Bhindranwale went to the Golden Temple, after being invited by Harchand Singh Longowal, the then president of Shiromani Akali Dal, to take up residence in the temple. He made the guest house, Guru Nanak Niwas, his headquarters from where he gave interviews to media, taught his followers etc. Soon, the authorities started noticing that religious places in Punjab were giving shelter to extremists.



## 6 How did it change the political scenario of the country?

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As the operation targeted various Sikh temples including the religion's holiest site, the Golden Temple, it was criticised by Sikhs who saw it as an attack on their religion. There were cases of several Sikhs resigning from their posts in the government as well as returning awards conferred on them. The biggest aftermath was the assassination of PM Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984, by her two Sikh bodyguards. Her death ensued an outcry, which led to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. In these riots, according to the Indian government, 2,800 Sikhs were killed in the capital and 3,350 in the rest of the country. However, independent sources estimate that around 8,000-17,000 people lost their lives. Strides were made to restore a semblance of normalcy with the signing of the Rajiv Gandhi-Longowal Accord in 1985, in which the central government agreed to some of the demands presented, but the cycle of violence in Punjab continued for nearly a decade.



## 2 Why was there so much tension between the Sikhs and government?

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At the time, India's Sikh population claimed to suffer from inequality. This was the time when the demand for a separate Sikh state 'Khalistan' was gaining momentum. The roots of the same dates back to British colonial policies that sought to divide Sikhs and Hindus. The British army recruited many Sikhs to use them against Hindu rulers that rebelled against the British Raj. After independence, tensions between Punjab and the Centre escalated further. The Punjabi Sikh political party, Shiromani Akali Dal, presented the government with Anandpur Sahib Resolution, a list of demands like recognition of Sikhism as a separate religion, creation of a separate statehood etc.; but it was rejected by the then PM, Indira Gandhi. These growing tensions led to many political protests, including a march led by LK Advani and AB Vajpayee of BJP against the lack of government action. With nationwide elections coming up, Indira Gandhi knew she had to control the mounting tensions in the state to gain electoral popularity.



## 4 What exactly happened during Operation Blue Star?

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The operation started on June 1, 1984, when the security forces, on the order of Indira Gandhi, opened fired on various buildings with the aim of killing militants. Army units surrounded the Golden Temple on June 3, and a 36-hour curfew was imposed with all communication, electricity, water, and travel being suspended. The army attacked the militants with tanks and artillery, who also responded with Chinese-made grenade launchers, anti-tank, and machine-gun fires. The fight continued from both sides, but by the morning of June 7, the armed forces gained full control of the Golden Temple.



## 5 What were the casualties on both sides?

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As per the official figures, 83 army men died and 249 were injured. On the other hand, there were 1592 militant deaths and 554 civilian casualties. The high number of civilian casualties have been pinned to the army for allowing pilgrims to enter the temple on June 3, 1984, but not letting them leave after 22:00. According to the official stance of the army, warnings were made for the evacuation, but in April 2017, the Amritsar sessions judge Gurbir Singh said there was no evidence to support the claim.





# The grocery store

## Storywala



The place was decently crowded, but in Lily’s mind, it felt too full. Everyone moved closer to her until they were in her personal space.

stopped the home delivery system due to cost cutting. Since we are both here, why don’t we shop together? I’ll help you and you can help me reach the top shelves,” Mr Wilson kindly stated. He grabbed her hand, presenting her with a reassuring look. Together they stacked their carts with what they needed, and Lily offered to drive Mr Wilson back.

“I know it is not easy for you to do this,” Mr Wilson spoke, “but I am proud of you, nonetheless. When the situation gets tough, there is no shame in asking for help. The next time you have to go shopping or anywhere else and you feel too scared to do it, just let me know and I’ll help you.” With this, Mr Wilson switched on the radio, letting the melodious songs fill their car as Lily’s anxiety eased up a bit knowing there was someone she could rely on.

*Social anxiety disorder (SAD) is a chronic mental health condition in which social interactions can cause irrational anxiety, fear, self-consciousness, and embarrassment. It is a fear of being watched and judged by others. As per the recent statistics, the disorder impacts 7.1% of the population worldwide.*

Shridulla Singh, GT Network

Once upon a time, in a countryside farm, lived a girl named Lily. She lived all by herself; she stayed away from everyone and had created a system where everything she needed was delivered to her doorstep. She was scared of strangers, which is why she never went out into the city unless it was an emergency. One day, such an emergency struck her. Her supplies were exhausted, and she awaited the arrival of the delivery man. She waited the entire day, but by night, she realised that nobody was coming. “I don’t have any food. What will I do?” The thought of starving forever made her panic, so as soon as the next day came,

she rang the store. To her dismay, nobody picked up. In the end, she knew what she needed to do. She grabbed the car keys, and gathering all her courage, she drove with her favourite songs playing on loudspeaker. The songs helped her to calm down a bit. At last, Lily stood inside the grocery store, watching everyone go about their shopping and living life so easily – something Lily wish she could do. The place was decently crowded, but in Lily’s mind, it felt too full. Everyone moved closer to her until they were in her personal space. She felt too claustrophobic. Just then, “Lily,” a known voice called out to her. It turned out to be Mr Wilson, her neighbour. “Ah, are you here because they didn’t deliver to you as well? They have

## WORDS VERSE

# Cliché not!

Prithish Bhattacharya, AIS VKC Lucknow, XII

If life ever gives you lemons, make lemonade  
This cliché makes me angry enough to shout  
The next one who says this will be flayed

There might be times when I’m hurt or afraid  
But whatever I feel, know that it is not about  
“If life gives you lemons, make lemonade”

I have been swindled, lied to, and played  
I’m in no mood to be jollied, without doubt  
The next one who says this will be flayed

Yes, I appreciate the ones who have prayed  
As long as they don’t condescend or even say  
“If life gives you lemons, make lemonade”



It’s a stance that just doesn’t make the grade  
It definitely makes me fold my arms and pout  
The next one who says this will be flayed

I hope that my point has been clearly made  
Let me feel my emotions and process the pain  
No, if life gives lemon, I don’t want lemonade!

## Classic COOKIES

Aagastya Manoj  
AIS Saket, XI

Aagastya Manoj

### Ingredients

- Butter (unsalted).....1 cup
- Brown sugar .....1¼ cup
- Caster sugar .....¾ cup
- All-purpose flour .....2½ cups
- Salt .....1½ tsp
- Baking soda .....1 tsp
- Egg .....1
- Vanilla extract .....2 tsp
- Chocolate chips.....2 cups

### Procedure

- In a large bowl, add flour, salt, and baking soda. Mix them well and set aside.
- In a separate bowl, add melted butter, brown sugar, caster sugar, egg, and vanilla essence. Beat the ingredients to combine well.
- Now add the dry ingredients mix into the above bowl and fold them together to form a dough-like consistency.
- Next, add chocolate chips into the dough and beat well until choco chips are distributed evenly throughout the dough.
- Scoop cookie dough into balls and lay them on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
- For 10 minutes, preheat the oven at 190°C.
- Put the baking tray in the oven for 12-15 minutes, or until the cookies turn golden brown.
- Once done, allow them to cool on a wire rack for a few minutes.
- Voila! Your choco-chip cookies are ready to be served with a hot cup of coffee.

## 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 Which school organised the event titled ‘Millets for the Millions?’	Q.2 Which country has announced three years ship voyage?	Q.3 Enlist five life lessons taught by Mahatma Gandhi.
Q.4 What all things one must carry while visiting McLeodganj?	Q.5 Name the historical event covered on page 7.	Q.6 What is the headline of the article written by Mahi Modgil, AIS Gur 46, XII?
Q.7 How many films were showcased at AMISHORTS 2023?	Q.8 On which page the recipe ‘Classic Cookies’ has been featured?	Q.9 Who has reviewed the album ‘Fine Line’?

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

Results of Read Play & Win-15: **Amaira**, AIS Gur 43, V A; **Aarna Sarada**, AIS Vas 1, V B; **Sounav Banerjee**, AIS Vas 6, III C

[Click here to participate](http://theglobaltimes.in/readplaywin/)

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# The betrayal

## Short story



Saanvi Sharma

AIS Vasundhara 6, VII A

Once upon a time, there was an Albanian horse named Frank. He was laborious, amiable, and gentle. He used to burn the midnight oil to impress his master, the farmer. As he grew older and too weak to work, the farmer took him to the nearest forest and left him there. While Frank was wandering about aimlessly, angry and hurt at his master, he heard the rustling of leaves and said, "who is there?" Thinking it was a predator, he ran for his life. Suddenly a voice cried out, "I am not going to hurt you!" "Who are you?" Frank asked. "I

am Frosty, the fox," replied the animal, emerging from the bushes and showing her face. Soon they started spending time with each other and became good friends. One day Frosty told Frank about Lilly, the lioness. "She is the most terrifying animal you will see in the forest. Nobody knows why but she is always ready to kill any animal she finds, even if it's of no use to her." "I know how to get rid of her once and for all," said Frank, "I'll annoy her so much that she will come after me to kill me. While she'll chase me around, you can make a net made up of strong and thick vines and roots. Then we can trap her in the net, and she'll get stuck and finally die."

She knew being friends with the powerful lioness would be the more prudent thing to do, so she reached out to Lilly in no time.

Frosty considered this as a perfect idea, but being shrewd as she was, she changed her mind at the eleventh hour. She knew being friends with the powerful lioness would be the more prudent thing to do, so she reached out to Lilly in no time. They both paired up and formulated a plan to kill Frank instead. The next day, Lilly and Frosty hid in the bush for hours near the river where Frank used to come to drink water. They soon realised that Frank wouldn't be showing up. Well, Frank was not the simpleton they had thought him to be. He had followed Frosty after their conversation and found out about the vicious plan to kill him. His master had once told him that the only person one could trust was oneself. He finally forgave his master for abandoning him. After all, this one lesson had helped save his life. **GT**

So what did you learn today?

A new word: Simpleton

Meaning: Someone without much common sense

## POEM



# Spring season

Ashee Srivastava, AIS Mayur Vihar, IX C

A tiny blossom  
A lovely breeze  
A stellar bloom  
A grove of trees

Melts all the snow  
Brightening the husk

The lively chatter  
Of twigs and leaves  
The twitter of birds  
In the nest weaved

Hedgehogs come out  
In the morning sun  
After lengthy slumber  
To cherish some fun

The sky quite aglow  
From dawn to dusk

The lichens and ferns  
The vines that swing  
They bring out glory  
Of wondrous spring!

## Riddle Fiddle

Samanyu Nandi

AIS Gur 43, VIII

1. I am a table but you cannot sit on me. What am I?
2. I am a large room, but you cannot enter inside me. What am I?

3. I am a plate from which you cannot eat. What am I?
4. I am a cup, but you cannot drink tea using me. What am I?

Answers: 1. Comfortable  
2. Mushroom  
3. Template  
4. Cupboard

## It's Me



### KNOW ME

**My name:** Shattoki Mitra

**My class:** III B

**My school:** AIS VKC Lucknow

**My birthday:** May 15

### MY FAVOURITES

**Teacher:** Nibha Gupta ma'am

**Subject:** Mathematics

**Friends:** Ayan and Atharva

**Game:** Cricket

**Cartoon:** Row Blocks

**Book:** Any book with short stories

### MY DREAMS AND GOALS

**Hobby:** Drawing and colouring

**I like:** To help my mother

**I dislike:** Talking loudly

**My role model:** My father

**I want to become:** An army officer

**I want to feature in GT because:** It is best platform for Amitians to express themselves.

## PAINTING CORNER

Diya Arora  
AIS Vas 1, VII C





# Rethink. Reform. Revive

ACM GOAL, A Platform For The Holistic Development Of Aspiring Leaders



Eminent business leaders, entrepreneurs, executives at the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Annual Corporate Meet GOAL

## Dignitaries

 <b>Ayush Gupta</b> Director HR Gail (India) Limited	 <b>Deb Sengupta</b> , Global President & Chief Revenue Officer Cloud 4C Services
 <b>Anku Jain</b> Managing Director MediaTek India	 <b>Anita Nayyar</b> , COO- Media, Branding & Communication Patanjali Ayurved Ltd
 <b>Seema Kapoor</b> , Director (Logistics) Jubilant Ingrevia Ltd	 <b>Neelam Mishra</b> , Group Head-Finance & Accounts, Tata Power Co. Ltd
 <b>Atul Shukla</b> Chief HR Officer Baidyanath Group	 <b>Pankaj Rana</b> , Business Head & Department Leader, LG Electronics
 <b>Niranjan Mishra</b> , Busi- ness Head (White Cem- ent), JK Cement Ltd	 <b>Devarajan Jaganna- than</b> , Exec VP & Head (Indirect Taxation) Jubilant Ingrevia Ltd
 <b>Kall Ramanathan</b> , Chief Strategy Officer ValueStrat Consulting	 <b>Manish Kumar</b> Director, NXP Semiconductors
 <b>Harsh Jain</b> , Head of Tal- ent APAC (Human Capital Management), Ebix Inc	 <b>Shailendra Kumar</b> Founder Editor & CEO TIOL Pvt. Ltd
	 <b>Dhiraj Tripathi</b> Co-Founder & CEO Electric One Mobility

### AGBS|AUUP

Vartika Tewari & Jatin Mamgai  
Sem IV, MBA, AGBS

In a bid to bridge the gap between the corporate world and aspiring business leaders, Amity Global Business School (AGBS) organised the 16th edition of Annual Corporate Meet GOAL (Global Opportunity for Aspiring Leaders) on March 1, 2023. The event began by seeking blessings of the almighty, following which Prof (Dr) Girish Kathuria, director, AGBS, AUUP, welcomed prominent business leaders, executives, entrepreneurs, and students present in the audience. He introduced the theme of the programme 'Rethink, Reform, Revive - Emerging India 2023' and highlighted various initiatives of AGBS aimed at the holistic development of

young aspirants in the corporate world. Further, the event saw two panel discussions where eminent industry professionals connected with students and expressed their opinions on the fundamentals of 'Digital Transformation and Sustainability'. In the first round of panel discussion, Shailendra Kumar, founder editor & CEO, Tax India Online Pvt Ltd, discussed the evolution of the digital world, robotics, brain nets etc. Adding on to the same, Anita Nayyar, COO (media, branding & communication), Patanjali Ayurved Ltd, highlighted the transformation that digital era would bring in the business industries. Pankaj Rana, business head & department leader, LG Electronics, promoted 'start thinking the digital way' and emphasised on how digital repositories can be profitable, while Ayush Gupta, director HR, Gail (India) Limited, shared how technological advancements are constantly

changing, and one must be able to learn and unlearn things quickly. Taking the session forward, Seema Kapur, director (Logistics), Jubilant Ingrevia Limited, highlighted the re-vamp of logistics sector in an organised way with the coming of digitalisation. Touching upon the theme of 'Sustainability in the Era of Disruptions', the second leg of panel discussion saw Kall Ramanathan, chief strategy officer, ValueStrat Consulting, express his opinions on the term 'disruption' and the correlation between disruption and thinking outside the box, while Harsh Raj Jain, head of Talent APAC (Human Capital Management), Ebix Inc., reaffirmed the benefit and necessity of disruption in the world of business. Dhiraj Tripathi, co-founder & CEO, Electric One Mobility, shed light on how disruption is occurring in the automotive business. On the other hand, Manish Sharma, director, NXP Semiconductors, shared that disruption can be handled by being a smart executor and a learner. Devranjan Jagannathan, executive vice president and head (indirect taxation), Jubilant Ingrevia Ltd, gave insight into how cash is the primary king of company.

The panel discussions were followed by a Q&A session where the undergraduate and post graduate students interacted with the industry experts. Dr Aparajita Dasgupta Amist, & Dr Ruchi Sinha, dean, AGBS and Prof Sudhir Pasricha, assistant dean, AGBS, felicitated the esteemed panelists and guests. A cultural performance by the students of AGBS marked the closure of the event, attended by over 250 corporate guests.



Industry experts express their views during the panel discussion



# Amitians at the Parliament

## Heartfelt Tributes To Netaji And A Hearty Interaction With PM

### Amity Group of Schools

Five Amitians, namely Hridyansh Yadav (XII) and Bhavya Goel (XI) of AIS Pushp Vihar, Sarthak Giri (XI) of AIS Vasundhara 1, Yug Bansal (VI) and Vanya Bansal (VII) of AIS Gurugram 43, and AIS Vasundhara 1 alumna Anika Joshi, under 'Know Your Leader' program, got the sterling opportunity to participate in the honouring ceremony of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose held in the Central Hall of Parliament on January 23, 2023. They were among the 80 students selected from across the country to pay floral tributes to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on his birth anniversary. The selection was done through quizzes based on 'Know your constitution' program and other competitions on DIKSHA and MyGov portal. The event held to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji also included an inspiring candid interaction of the students with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence. This unique learning experience was made possible by the consistent guidance and motivation of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF.



Honourable Prime Minister with Amitians and other participants at his residence

As part of the event, Hridyansh Yadav, Bhavya Goel, and Anika Joshi were also selected, along with 28 other students, to speak on the contributions of Netaji in the Parliament House in the presence of several eminent Members of Parli-

ment. In his interaction with the children, PM Modi discussed the life and times of Netaji and advised all to read biographies of historic personalities to learn more about the challenges they faced and how they won over them. 🇮🇳



The run for safety of women

## Half marathon

### AIS VKC Lucknow

The school organised a half marathon from 1090 Chauraha to Ekana Stadium on February 19, 2023, in order to raise awareness on women safety. The event witnessed wholehearted participation from over 90 students with their parents, teachers and school principal Rachna Mishra. The participants were provided with t-shirts, refreshments and medical aid throughout, and were also given certificates and medals upon completion of the run. 🇮🇳

# Mother Language Day'23

### AIS Vasundhara 6

Students of Class II put up a Smini presentation to mark International Mother Language Day, observed globally on February 21, 2023, every year. The programme commenced with a prayer in German, followed by a simulation of the UNESCO General Conference, wherein children role played representatives of various countries, and spoke to educate the audience about various languages spoken around the world like French, Japanese, Mandarin, Koro, and Majhi. Fun facts about

these languages were also shared by the young minds. 🇮🇳

### AIS Noida

Students of Class Nursery-IV celebrated International Mother Language Day on February 21, 2023, through a host of activities. Class Nursery recited the poem "Bharat ki Bhasha" and said *namaskaar* in three languages, viz., Bengali, Punjabi, and Hindi. They also sang the song "Mile sur mera tumhara". Class KG wrote various greetings in their mother language on a colour-

ful hand cutout that was decorated on a tree. Class I showcased their diverse linguistic culture through songs like "Laaljhooti Kakatua" and "Indi Bindi Shindi" in Bengali, and shloka "Roop Yauvan Sampanna" in Sanskrit. Class II celebrated Diwali in six languages, namely Ghadwali, Bengali, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Tamil, and Punjabi. Class III made vibrant posters on the love between a mother and child to showcase the significance of mother language. Lastly, Class IV wrote about the emotions they feel when they communicate in their mother language. 🇮🇳



Young Amitians emphasise the importance of millets

## The magic of millets

### AIS Vasundhara 1

School organised an extravaganza titled 'Millets for The Millions' on February 20, 2023, to mark the International Year of Millets 2023. The event commenced with a live musical orchestra, followed by a semi-classical dance to invoke the blessings of Goddess Annapurna. Post this, students highlighted the nutritional, cultural and economic significance of millets through various class

presentations. Contributions of Dr Khadar Vali, the Millet Man of India, and Indian farmers were shared, too. A *nukkad natak*, foot tapping dance and quiz also delighted the spectators. In the cookery show that followed immediately after, food blogger Savita Nagpal illustrated some healthy millet-based recipes. An expert talk by chef Ankur Kishor was also held, wherein he laid due emphasis on the need to adopt healthy eating habits in our life.



The polyglots of AIS Vas 6 with school principal



AIS Noida students participate in the activities



# The legend of the quotidian

Recurring War Of Proving The Elder's Innocence Against The Annoying Youngster

Prisha Dubey, AIS Saket, Alumna

History holds several wars, but there is only one that comes back to haunt you every day. Do you not remember the daily war saga? Allow me the pleasure (not!) of reminding you...

I had barely soaked in the rays of the dawn when I saw that the monster was heading back to my room yet again. The Hellish Sibling is how they are recognised. Residing in the same castle, this creature was coming to cause me trouble once more. Don't be deceived by their small size, for the evil that rests within is alarmingly huge. The item of her affection today was my painting, over which she dangerously loomed. "I want to draw too!" she screamed, and before I could jump between her and the painting, the deed was done. My artwork of countless hours of hard work was covered with unrecognisable cursed scribbles.

I dropped to my knees, realising that this was irreparable. What had I done to deserve such fate? The monster was still lurking nearby, and in anger, I threw a cushion at her, not to harm seriously, but to throw her off her feet slightly. That was my biggest mistake. A loud crying ensued. In my overflowing emotions, I had completely overlooked how dramatic this monster was infamously known to be. The crying attracted one of the court members, and a court meeting was immediately called.

The Court of Parents was set; the body consisted of just two members, but I knew I was



doomed since the court had high authority in the castle and regrettably a soft spot for the monster that had ruined my painting. They were the reason the Hellish Sibling resided in this place. The Queen looked at me with rage-filled eyes and asked in a dangerously low voice, "Are you the reason this child is sobbing?" I told them what she had done, but the only answer I got was from the King himself. "She is a little one; she did not know what she was doing! You should have known better than to get back at her." The

King and Queen, ignoring my pleadings, assigned me to ten days of 'no sweets' reprimand. Dejected, I was retiring the court when I heard the clacking of hooves.

Sitting on grey horses, the White Knight Grandparents arrived at the scene! They were the omniscient ones, and also the only ones in the castle who had higher authority than the Court.

"Halt everyone! On this day we shall speak up for our Prince! He is undeserving of this cruel treatment as the gravity of his error

was not of such magnitude! The poor child has suffered too at the hands of the Hellish Sibling. To punish him, you will have to get the punishment passed through us first!" These words came as a ray of hope for me as I looked up to the Court of Parents who were sighing for they knew they were losing their power.

With a joy of triumph I returned to my chambers. The yelling of "he should be reprimanded!" echoing down the corridor was like music to my ears, as I walked away. **GT**

## A rock ode to freedom

**Album:** Fine Line  
**Artist:** Harry Styles  
**Release date:** December 13, 2019  
**Genre:** Pop, Rock

**Synopsis:** Primarily, a rock music record released by Columbia Records and Erskine, Fine Line is almost like the story of how a 25-year-old Harry Styles immerses himself in the process of figuring out not just what kind of musician he wants to be, but also what kind of a person he desires to be. Even though one can argue that this is not a concept album, the overall theme, however, appears to evoke the sentiment of freedom of oneself. The

album encapsulates themes like romantic ambivalence, breakups, intimacy, happiness, and self-discovery. In an interview with the Rolling Stones, Harry Styles had once commented on how much freer he had felt during the making of this album. He had also shared that he had finally reached a place where he felt happy and content, even if the songs were about the time when he wasn't that happy.

**Why is it worth listening:** Known to be Styles' second album, Fine Line is as soulful and joyous as his remarkable debut with One Direction nearly ten years ago. In every song of this album, Harry exhibits his

most open and honest side. From beats that make you want to dance instantly to ones that can make you cry, this album includes songs for every emotion. Also, it's different from most of the music that is around today. With a wide array of genres, this album pushes several boundaries and includes some chart-topping hits like Watermelon Sugar and Adore You.

**Favourite song:** Although it is very hard to choose just one song as a favourite, but if I still have to, I'll say Cherry and Treat People with Kindness.

**Rating:** 5/5

**Review by:** Adite Sharma, AIS Vasundhara 6, X D

