

Someone Has Baited, Someone Has Switched, Let's Have A Look At The...

Moksh Gauri & Deetya Gambhir
AIS Pushp Vihar, XII D

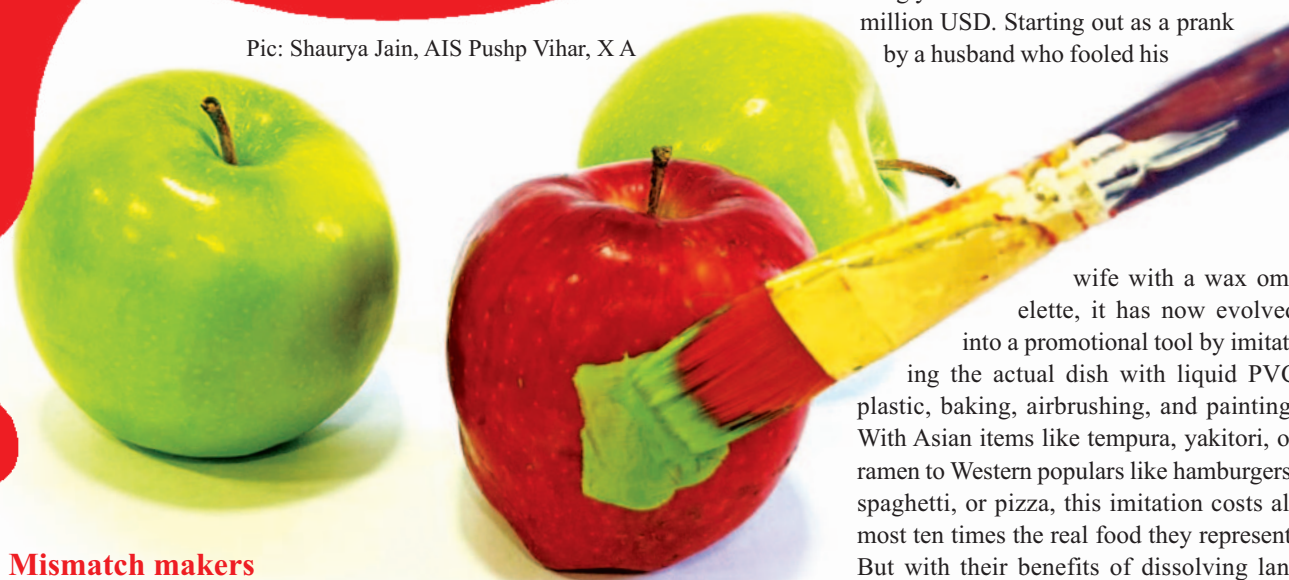
It is late in the evening and starvation trickles your belly, so you addictively scroll online for food when you are beguiled by a captivating photo of a mouth-watering food item. You wish for it to be transported to you...but wait! That's not even edible. Huh? Congratulations! Out of a pool of billions, you have become the newest prey of the food industry that shows you one thing and gives the taste of something else.

Chemical cocktails

Adulteration is the act of intentionally substituting, or adding substances to alter its proposed value, and its major motive of earning quick profits has been dilapidating the served food industry for decades. Case in point – glucose syrup being sold in the name of honey, palm oil substituting coconut oil etc. Hazardous chemicals are used for ripening fruits to keep them looking fresh, low-cost textile dyes used to draw customers' attention, fishes' body preserved with formalin to cover up internal decomposition, and many others. Not just low-level harm, this adulteration business has costed us lives as well. A prominent one is the China Gutter Oil Scandal in 2013, where a cooking oil made from restaurant sewer refuse and rotten animal fat was sold to restaurants, causing more than 294,000 deaths and 50,000 hospitalisations. In India, too, the FSSAI analysed nearly 3.7 lakh food samples, with 90,473 of them being found to be 'non-conforming'. The Spanish olive oil scandal, where industrial rapeseed oil was contaminated with aniline to form 'olive oil', and killed 10,000 people. The labels might lie, but the aftermath does not.

FOOLED @adie

Pic: Shaurya Jain, AIS Pushp Vihar, X A



Mismatch makers

The flawless pizza slice, baked to perfection as the cheese slides off its thick fluffy crust with yummy toppings...mmmm! Giving into the temptation, you order it, but when delivered, all you find is a wrecked piece of flour! Once a simple method to promote food, ads have now turned to deception to rope in customers – the cheese is actually glue, cold drinks are mixed with glycerin to give them fizz, melted chocolate is anything

but a chemical found in laundry detergent, so on and so forth. It is all a game of stylists, photographers, good lights, and food (whether it is edible or not is not of importance!). In 2023 alone, the FSSAI marked more than 490 cases of misleading ads; from Bournvita being called out for 'inadequate' claims to Nature Fresh's 'professional best fry premium frying oil' being called 'inade-

quately substantiated', from Budweiser's ad being 'misleading by implication' to Horlicks making fake claims. *Jo dikhta hai vo bikta hai*, but is it true that what we see is really what we consume?

Plastic porridge

Though food has fooled us a lot, there have been times when it wasn't so acidic to our tummy. 'Food is an art' some say, and Japan agrees, as they mould plastic to mimic the food customers, which further prompts them to order. It definitely sounds appetising as Sampuru (Japanese word for 'sample') aka the fake food industry in Japan – 45 something years old – now stands to be worth 90 million USD. Starting out as a prank by a husband who fooled his

wife with a wax omelette, it has now evolved into a promotional tool by imitating the actual dish with liquid PVC plastic, baking, airbrushing, and painting. With Asian items like tempura, yakitori, or ramen to Western populars like hamburgers, spaghetti, or pizza, this imitation costs almost ten times the real food they represent. But with their benefits of dissolving language barriers, providing visual attractions, and sneaking a peek into the culture of the place, Sampuru is an art that is not put in museums but rather in restaurant windows to tempt customers. Plastic has never ever tasted so fantastic, we reckon.

So, the next time you are looking at food, look again, and then again, before you decide to dig in. 🍴

Page editors: Deetya Gambhir, XII D & Shambhavi Sharma, X C, AIS Pushp Vihar

THE GT POLL

What do you think is the major cause of Bengaluru water crisis?

a) Unplanned urbanisation
b) Loss of green cover
c) Illegal borewell extraction

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the_global_times

Coming next
AIS Saket contest edition



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

schools across India churn out their own 'Contest Edition' which are pitted against one another at the end of the year, culminating with GT Awards. So, here's presenting the **ninth edition** of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2023-24'.

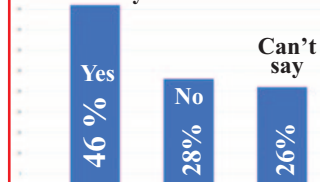
What's inside

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- The enchanted forest, P8
- The joy of giving, P10

POLL RESULT

for GT Edition March 11, 2024

Will MeitY's advisory on AI regulations in India limit the creativity of AI companies, or will it find an appropriate balance between innovation and security?



Results as on March 16, 2024

Leverage, Lead, Leap

A Look At The 17th Annual Corporate Meet - GOAL, In Action



Eminent business leaders, entrepreneurs, and executives at the 17th edition of the Annual Corporate Meet - GOAL 2024

AGBS | AUUP

With full fervour, Amity Global Business School Noida, on March 12, 2024, hosted the 17th edition of its annual corporate meet, Global Opportunity For Aspiring Leaders. Held at I2 Moot Court, the event saw in attendance prominent names. The event commenced with *saraswati vandana*, followed by an address by Prof (Dr) Girish Kathuria, director, AGBS, AUUP. Dr Aparajita Dasgupta Amist, dean & CRC Head, came forward to greet the industry captains, executives, entrepreneurs, and students in attendance. U. Ramachandran, senior vice president, Amity Education Group & head, AGBS (Pan India), delivered an impactful statement, emphasising the importance of continuous learning for success.

THE MOTIVE

The corporate meet kickstarted as Prof (Dr) Girish Kathuria introduced the theme of the programme: Leverage. Lead. Leap – Emerging India 2024. Highlighting AGBS's initiatives for the holistic development of professionals in the corporate world, the event featured two panel discussions. The first panel discussion, with the theme Bharat Moving: Transcending New Horizons, saw industry leaders engage with students. Sanjay Banga, chairman, Cement Corporation, discussed the transformation of the cement industry, which once used to be reliant on manual labour and basic machinery, and how it now utilises advanced kilns, robotics, and digital technologies for production and qual-

ity control. Next, Sabih Kidwai, director, Schneider Electric, talked of India's digital prowess and Make In India initiatives. Dibendu Das, director finance, Engineering Projects India Ltd., highlighted the role of industrial development and projected India's future as a developed nation by 2047.

THE DRIVE

Rajat Mehra, CFO, Samhi Hotels Ltd., underscored the opportunities available in India's economy while Anil Srivastava, COO, Nikhon Kohden India Pvt. Ltd., discussed the collaboration of India and Japan. Vikas Sharma, assistant VP, sales, Oberoi Hotels and Resorts, appreciated India's potential and the abundance of market opportunities. Prashant Sharma, head of talent acquisition and employee engagement, Greenlam Industries, emphasised the importance of preparedness in seizing opportunities. The panel concluded with a consensus on the vital role of attitude in professional growth.

THE EMPOWERMENT

The second panel discussion, titled Her Din-Her Role-Her Enterprise delved into the nuances of women's empowerment and their role in entrepreneurship. The panellists shared thought-provoking insights and perspectives, fostering a dialogue on gender equality in the workplace. Neeru Abrol, independent director, APL Apollo Tubes Ltd., expressed her views on women's roles in top companies. Capt. Nivedita Bhasin, international director, Ninety-Nines Inc., discussed gender diversity in the current generation. Parineeta Sethi, publisher & chief

editor at Pinnacle Connect LLP, highlighted the achievements of India's female president and finance minister. Sunita Pandey, HR head at DCM Shriram Limited, shared her experience as the only female student in her class to choose science. Tirtha Roy Choudhury, director (HR) at Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts shared moving anecdotes, inspiring all. Sharbani Mukherjee, HR head at Portronics Digital Pvt Ltd., shed light on government initiatives for women in corporate industries.

THE TAKEAWAY

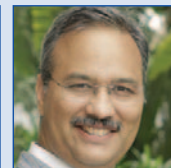
The panel discussions showcased everyone talking about overcoming obstacles, emphasising the ongoing struggles of women in various industries. The discussion was then followed by a Q&A session where the students were given a chance to interact with industry experts. The guests were felicitated as a cultural performance marked the day's closure, leaving everyone's brain heavier and hearts lighter. **GT**

Report compiled by:
Aishwarya Ashok, MBA, Sem II; Roshni Sarin & Anandita Bansal, BBA, Sem VI, AGBS, AUUP

Dignitaries



Sanjay Banga
Chairman, Cement Corporation



Sabih Kidwai
Director, Schneider Electric



Dibendu Das
Director Finance, Engineering Projects India Ltd



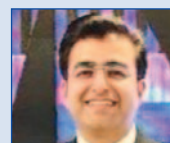
Rajat Mehra
CFO, Samhi Hotels Ltd



Anil Srivastava
COO, Nikhon Kohden India Pvt Ltd



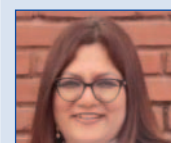
Vikas Sharma
Assistant VP - Sales, Oberoi Hotels & Resorts



Prashant Sharma
Head, Talent Acquisition & Employment, Greelam Ind.



Neeru Abrol
Independent Director, APL Apollo Tubes Ltd



Shefali Jain
Sr VP, Group Head Institutional Business, Axis Bank



Capt. Nivedita Bhasin
International Director, Ninety-Nines Inc



Parineeta Sethi
Publisher & Chief Editor, Pinnacle Connect LLP



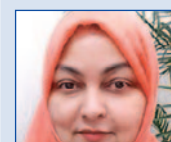
Sudeep Sharma
Head HR Learning & Administration, HCL Health Care



Sunita Pandey
HR Head, DCM Shriram Limited



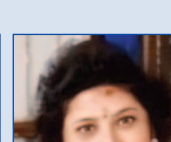
Tirtha Roy Choudhury
Director (HR), Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts



Naaz Rizvi
Director, NMNH, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change



Kundan Karna
CHRO, Alpha Tech Audio Video Pvt. Ltd



Sharbani Mukherjee
HR Head, Portronics Digital Pvt Ltd



Behind the scenes

Apoorva Bakshi, The Woman Producing Cinema That Matters

Shambhavi Sharma, X C &
Akshita Bhandari, XI B, AIS PV

Apoorva Bakshi is an international EMMY-winning producer, most notably known for Delhi Crime and many other award-winning productions. As the co-founder and managing partner

of Golden Karavan, Awedacious Originals, and Project FUEL, she has carved her niche as one of the youngest producers in South Asia. Beyond these achievements, Bakshi is also a trained Bharatanatyam dancer and a professional sharpshooter. GT reporters catch up with her in an exclusive interview.

Early influences

I grew up in an army family, so we moved from one city to another constantly. My travels instilled in me a

unique ability to connect with people. When I went to Mudra Institute of Communications for my masters, I was always at the forefront of organising the fests. It was then that I realised how much I enjoyed the world of entertainment. During campus placements, I received an offer from Sony Pictures Networks Asia, which then led me to AXN and Animax. As a young assistant manager in marketing, I put together an innovative idea to organise a magic show in Hong Kong for film distributors, which proved to be a game-changer for me.

Finding her voice

When I was exploring independent cinema, I encountered a documentary named Placebo by Abhay Deol. The profound nature of the film compelled me to connect with him and this marked my entry into the film world. When Richie Mehta's Delhi Crime came to me, it became my first venture into production. My association with filmmakers like Guneet Monga and Anurag Kashyap has also helped my career path. I have since acquired and distributed more than fifty award-winning independent films.

The right story

I'm very focused about what I do as a producer. All the stories I back must

INTERVIEW

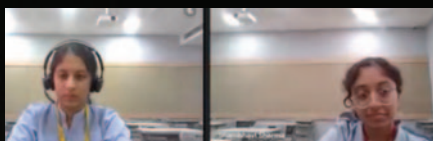
really stop you in your tracks and make you think and feel emotionally. Whether it's Delhi Crime or The Hunt for Veerappan, the common thread is that they make you feel something. I also collaborate with kind-hearted filmmakers who align with my ethical values. One of my projects, Women Of My Billion, tells the story of a woman who walks from Kanyakumari to Kashmir to raise awareness about violence against women. Challenging gender stereotypes from a young age is crucial. As a mom myself, and a responsible filmmaker, I know that fostering equality between sons and daughters is a conversation that needs to start early.

Message for Amitians

Pursuing passion requires relentless dedication but it's important to adapt when things don't go as planned. Operating from a place of fear is counter-productive; embrace the thrill of putting authentic work out into the world. Stay true to your originality as authenticity is palpable and be fearless in overcoming obstacles.



Apoorva Bakshi



GT reporters

Stepping into the future

Understanding The Mysteries Behind Immersive Media

ASCO, AUM

To facilitate a better understanding of Immersive Media, Amity School of Communication, Amity University Mumbai organised a webinar on the topic 'Introduction of Immersive Media' on February 27, 2024. The webinar, featuring Dr Jayesh Pillai, associate professor, IIT Bombay as the guest speaker, was a great success under the guidance of the chief patron of the webinar, Dr Aseem Chauhan, Chancellor, Amity University, Mumbai; Dr AW Santosh Kumar, vice chancellor,

Amity University Mumbai; and Dr Nima J John, officiating head of the institution. Dr Pillai commenced the session by introducing AR/VR media, tracing its evolution from prehistoric cave paintings to modern innovations. He highlighted rudimentary VR instruments and the first flight simulator, emphasising the progression towards newer inventions like the CAVE (Cave Automatic Virtual Environment) which used multiple projectors flashed across a room to create a virtual environment along with eye-tracking technology. He also discussed the current state of AR/VR technol-

ogy, citing real-world applications in architecture and beyond. On a concluding note, he talked about his various experimental learnings like the study of eye tracking data, remote access, and communication. He discussed the various applications of his work which involved usage in entertainment, visualisation, training, teleoperation, and therapy.

The session ended with a Q&A session where Dr Pillai answered the queries put up by the students. All the attendees appreciated the efforts initiated by ASCO to raise awareness towards immersive media.



HISTORY

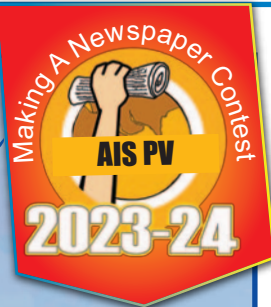
Evolution of VR

1849 - David Brewster - The Lenticular Stereoscope



Dr Jayesh Pillai talks about VR

The electric FIREWORKS



Ri(sky) Misadventures In The Cloud Kingdom

Moksh Gauri, AIS Pushp Vihar, XII D

Far up above the land of humans, there was a floating kingdom known as Fluffland. In order to keep the kingdom afloat, King Neutron and his ministers did their best to maintain equilibrium. The inhabitants of Fluffland had complete liberty to travel across the sky, but there were a few who took advantage of that; a group of troublemakers that created inexplicable havoc. Succumbing to the irresistible temptation of finding out what on Earth, or better yet, what on clouds led to the comical clownery, I, a mere Proton, enquired curiously about it from a woman across the cloud.

*Oh trespasser, watch your head
Look at those children on that sled
"Jump to the clouds" as they expressed
Electrons they called themselves
As they played around and messed
Negative imbalance they created
To watch the shimmering fireworks
Skimming from one cloud to another
Triumphant with a smirk.*

All I could grasp from it was that a group of kids, called Electrons, jumped from one cloud to another just to see the magical fireworks. Honestly, I didn't see why anyone would have any objection to the ethereal beauty of fireworks. Until I witnessed their intensity first-hand. So, I filed a petition and reached out to the king. Upon my arrival at the Fluff Palace, I saw King Neutron looking dismal. As I requested him to enlighten me about the current state of the kingdom, he also communicated it in rhyme.

The science of it

When there is an imbalance of positive and negative electric charges within or on the surface of any material, then static electricity is generated.

*Electrons with a negative charge
Created an imbalance of sorts
They pushed, pulled, climbed, fell
Creating a thunderous spell
Lightning is what that produces
Static electricity is what the cloud refuses
Electrons disrupt Sky God's slumber
Protons suffer due to this blunder
"Now I leave you in an endless loop
Loop of fire, thunder, and of light
With no compassion for your plight"
Dreadful and strong as they were
Cloud kingdom was under god's curse!
"God's curse?" I asked, dumbfounded, "but, how do we break this curse?" King Neutron sighed and floated away. As it turns out, what Electrons considered as recreation resulted in an imbalance in the floating kingdom. The Protons were cursed to be trapped at the top of the clouds while Electrons were bound to jump around for eternity, causing the thunderous fireworks. With no resolution in sight, King Neutron lost all hope, but the residents of Fluffland are still looking for a way to break this curse.*



Illustration: Rudrakshi Joshi, AIS PV, IX D

Illustration: Rubani Singh, AIS Saket, Alumna



More than WIRELESS

Diya Arora, AIS Saket, XII E

Hearing the term Bluetooth has kids, we have all often wondered if it was related to the tooth fairy. Well, whether or not this wireless communication technology, as they call it, has dental origins, let's figure out...

The blue-tinged bite

Unlike the tooth fairy, Bluetooth is a type of short-range wireless technology that makes it possible for various electronic devices to exchange data across short distances. By creating a Personal Area Network between devices, it has eliminated the need for cables or internet connection for transferring data.

From royalty to gadgets

The term Bluetooth originates from King Harald Blatand, a tenth century Danish Monarch, known by the nickname "Bluetooth" due to a dead tooth that had turned blue. One of the pioneers of the Bluetooth Special Interest Group, Jim Kardach once remarked, "Blatand was famous for uniting Scandinavia, just as we intended to unite the PC and cellular industries with a short-range wireless link."

Symbolic origins

A working title once, the name Bluetooth has stuck ever since.

Its logo is a bind rune merging the Younger Futhark runes, Hagall (ᚷ) and Bjarkan (ᚱ), King Harald's initials.

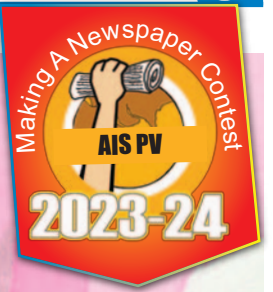
Molars on the move

Bluetooth requires different protocols to communicate; the tech helps devices communicate using low-power radio waves on a frequency band between 2.400 GHz and 2.483.5 GHz. And this frequency is set aside by the international agreement for the use of industrial, scientific, and medical devices.

Tooth police are here

Akin to the importance of maintaining oral hygiene, keeping Bluetooth networks secure is significant too. It is reasonably secure when used with precaution - encrypted connections prevent casual eavesdropping. Devices shift radio frequencies while paired, which prevents invasion. However, there are hacking risks like "bluesnarfing" and "bluebugging". For maximum security, one must disable Bluetooth while in public.

From being associated with a Viking King to finally being an ideal tech for over 25 years, Bluetooth has stayed the ground. And well, who needs a tooth fairy when we have Bluetooth to connect us, right?



The shade of humanity

From Beginning To End, Colour White Embraces Human Life

Namya Jain, XI F &
Teesta Chakraborty, XII F, AIS PV

“I don't like this white shirt, Maa. It is so dull; I wish to wear my bright yellow shirt.” Hearing this, white broke down. Orange, pained by his friend's turmoil enquired, “Why are you so sad? Is it because of Rohan?” White who had long borne the brunt of taunts about his dullness, had a lot to vent...

“It's not just Rohan but there are so many like him who stay aloof from me, without even realising that I reflect every phase of their life. Do they even realise how each one of them is wrapped in my soft embrace as they take birth. To protect them, to nurture them, to soothe them, I am used. As the journey of life continues, I am an omnipresent entity. The Greeks and Romans adorned their deities in fabrics and dyes of my colour and the walls of their mighty cities were painted with my calming presence. On the palettes of great artists, from DaVinci to Picasso, I took the form of titanium oxide. Their canvases were awash with my splendour, small highlights on cheeks and towering mountains capped with snow.

On joyous occasions such as weddings, the bride and groom tie the knot of marriage dipped in me. The reason why I stand at the forefront of the tying together of two souls

Pic: Shaurya Jain, AIS PV, X A

can be traced back to Queen Victoria of England, who chose me as the shade of her wedding gown, thus inspiring centuries

of fashion. Moreover, my divinity is the bridge connecting man to master. From Catholics to Jains, people wrap me

around their chests as they chant and pray. The subtle harmony that I offer quietly preserves the faith of fathers long lost.

There is no culture where I have not been used as a symbol of harmony and peace. My presence has been felt from the baroque ceilings of churches in France to prehistoric cave paintings in Egypt. Each person, from dawn of humanity to its inevitable dusk, has sought the comfort of my light, clean, and calming aura. As the Christians believe my purity to signify the virgin bride, many Asian cultures use me to promise their deceased loved ones a peaceful afterlife. Thus, hundreds of grief-stricken individuals stand around the body of a man who has been covered in me many times. Globally, to stop wars, the solution was to raise a white flag and to spread the message of peace, there was white dove.

In fact, there is no colour quite as ubiquitous as one that has been forged from the spectrum of all shades. As the rainbow coalesces into one, I am birthed – a shade so pure and empyrean, all the universe's colours intertwined to give me life. Jubilant beginnings and their predestined endings, all find me as the sole, eternally present constant in a cosmos of unknowns. I am alabaster, the shade of virtue. I am White, the eternal shade of human life.



Album review

Melodious meaning

Album: Aalas Ka Pedh
Artist: The Local Train
Released on: September 25, 2015
Genre: Indian indie rock

Synopsis: Aalas Ka Pedh is the debut album of the band, featuring nine tracks, that deals with the theme of the life experiences of the artist. The album is a collection of their pre-released songs which are all inspired by the band members' personal experiences over the years. Through the album, the members come together to explain why life serves as the biggest inspiration of all. With its infectious melodies, honest

lyrics, and raw energy, the album resonates deeply with young listeners, catapulting the band to national recognition and establishing them as a leading voice in the Indian indie rock scene. The album, overall, seems phenomenal and makes the listener want to put it on repeat.

Why is it worth listening: The songs in the album are successful in touching the listeners' heart and rejuvenating them, painting a vivid picture of young lives navigating love, dreams, and everyday struggle in a fast-paced world. The songs have the power to heal you when you are feeling low and are struggling to face the challenges of life

head-on. These songs would keep you company under a starry night, making you wonder about either being a care-free youth or reminiscing about it. All nine tracks pulsate with energy, driven by the band's signature brand of alternative rock with influences of blues and folk, thus becoming a must-listen for everyone.

Favourite song: My favourite song from this album is Choo Lo. It will always have a special place in my heart as it touches my soul and connects me with my memories. The lyrics and the tune of this song make me want to listen to it on loop. It has the power to cure me, to motivate me to have a



never-giving-up spirit, and makes me want to learn something new every day and step out of my comfort zone.

Rating: 4/5

Review by: Aditi Gupta
AIS Vasundhara 1, XII B

Nurturing musical minds



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

Music is the food of the soul. It is also a well-known fact that music stimulates the brain and provides the perfect outlet for creativity. This is why the Music and Dance department was established at Amity and these art forms are an integral component of every school function, whether it is the chanting of shlokas, singing the national anthem or the school song. The academic curriculum includes both vocal and instrumental music in the classical and western genres. Experts also train children in mastering classical dances like Kathak, Bharatnatyam and Odissi. What truly sets us apart from other schools is that we emphasise on regional classical and vedic music. Our emphasis on nurturing musical talent has helped many students win several competitions and awards. I must mention Gauri Mishra who was certified as the 'Youngest Pianist' at the age of nine by India Book of Records, and also adorned with the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puruskar. Music prodigy Jayas Kumar created the Aarogya Setu Anthem when he was only in Class 4. Vidhaat Raman, an amity alumnus and sound engineer, was part of the talented team behind the Oscar-winning documentary 'The Elephant Whisperers'.

It's time to say hip hip hurray!

Four projects from Amity were judged as finalists at CBSE's National Science Exhibition. The finalists in junior category were 'Project Medihelp' by Ananay Walia and Ayan Mittal of AIS Gurugram 46 and 'Project Pro-Krishi' by Bhaavya Singh and Atharv Ahuja of AIS Vasundhara 6. Besides, the senior category finalists were 'Project Injoy' by Ishi Singhal and Adya Agrawal of AIS Gurugram 46 and 'Project Solar Operated Agricultural Vehicle' by Suhani Chauhan of AIS Pushp Vihar. 🇮🇳

SMART living



Ameeta Mohan
Principal, AIS PV

"अप्राप्यं नाम नेहास्ति धीरस्य व्यवसयिनः!"

"There is nothing unattainable to the one who has courage and who works hard." This beautiful Sanskrit shloka encapsulates the vision and mission of our esteemed Chairperson, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, who has always motivated students to have indomitable will and work diligently to strive for excellence. She believes that education should not just enable us to know how to make a living but

also about how to live. She has nourished the seeds of creativity and innovation along with fostering an environment for each student where imagination and originality flourishes. The contest edition highlights the path of personal growth and acceptance through our creativity and imagination. It's very common for us to compare smartness with intellect, but is it true? Well, SMART can be understood as an acronym for Spirited, Masterful, Ambitious, Responsive, and Tactful. These traits are vital for rational thinking and making one a genuine team player. Every writer and artist who works on GT's contest edition lives by this credo. The fervent enthusiasm represented in all the pages depicts both the necessity and desire for articulation to benefit us throughout our lives. I stand in awe and adoration as I see the brilliant young minds throw ideas to further the flame of expression and creativity exhibited by our honourable Chairperson ma'am. 🇮🇳

Now streaming

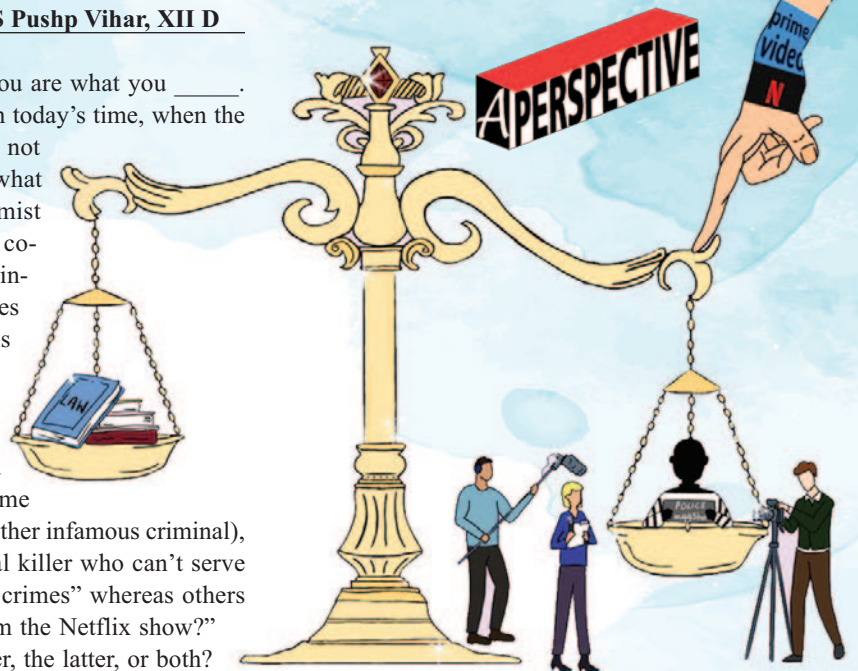
Glorification Of Infamous Criminals

Deetya Gambhir, AIS Pushp Vihar, XII D

Fill in the blank: you are what you _____. Eat? Please, no. In today's time, when the OTT bug has not spared a soul, you are what you watch. Even economist Ruben Durante and his co-authors believe so. The influential power of movies and shows on audiences is widely underrated. If you ask a random group of people the first thing that comes to mind when they hear the name Jeffery Dahmer (or any other infamous criminal), some would say "a serial killer who can't serve enough jail time for his crimes" whereas others would say "the man from the Netflix show?" Who is right? The former, the latter, or both?

Either way, it's a testament to their fame. Breaking Bad, You, Dexter, Dahmer, Casting Jon Benet, Inventing Anna, Bad Boy Billionaires, Night Stalker – these are just few famous shows about different criminals, from murderers to conmen, and some of them also happen to be on the list of highest grossing shows worldwide. Even classics like Fight Club, The Dark Knight, American Psycho etc., have portrayed criminals as near-inspiring characters. If there's ever a two-ingredient recipe to transform a malefactor into a mastermind, it would involve capturing how well they covered their tracks and an emotional scene to show that the system wronged them, not the other way around. "It's just a show; how could it possibly harm anyone!?" Well, we hope it doesn't, but it could. Through these shows, viewers may perceive a warped sense of reality and model their behaviour on the character, leading to incidents like copycat crime. Sadly, this is more than just a possibility. Eventually, what really matters is that the victims of these crimes are the ones who are remembered, because even when their stories are shared, the villain is shown as the protagonist where the victims' lives are not worth more than the eight figures made

upon the release of yet another blockbuster binge. On the other hand, as the saying goes, everyone deserves a second chance. It's no secret that convicted felons don't usually get the best terms of employment after, and if at all, they are released. Here, a documentary might be exactly what they need – an opportunity to present their side. Case in point – Anna Delvey Sorokin, the fake German heiress who swindled her way through New York's social elite, sold Netflix the rights to her story for 320,000 USD, majority of which was used to pay her victims and legal fees. Her prison diary discusses her struggles like testing COVID-19 positive in NY prison and being locked down with people more dangerous than herself. It could be a biased cry of drama for some but it has helped shed light on the unsafe environment of US prisons, especially towards people of certain ethnicities. In the end, we are left wondering: are they idols? No. Humans guarded by the law? Yes, at least until proven guilty. Till that happens, are they a character from a TV show, a convict who deserves another chance, a misunderstood mastermind, or a cold-blooded criminal? We leave this choice to you.



Graphic: Kyna Agarwal, AIS Pushp Vihar, X E

Beautiful sojourn

Good writing is supposed to evoke sensation in the reader – not the fact that it is raining but the feeling of being rained upon. Our chairperson, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, has always encouraged the exploration of novel avenues. The Global Times demonstrates this passion in each of its editions. The contest editions encapsulate a spectrum of emotions with its journey having moments

that brought new challenges each time. However, the satisfaction each writer derived from their own story was unparalleled as they saw their ideas being woven into stories for each page. This voyage shed light on the systematic yet amusing process of ideation and creation that goes into



Akansha Srivastava
GT Coordinator

making every edition. The team of AIS Pushp Vihar also got a lot of learning experience, with team spirit being a crucial part of it. These principles, which are instilled by our esteemed chairperson, have always encouraged everyone to strive for greatness and success. I am truly proud and happy with the team's integral skills being efficiently utilised and their unwavering commitment being always demonstrated.

DANCING LIGHTS



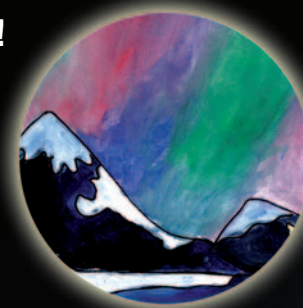
Regarded as the holy grail of skywatching, northern lights are a picturesque light show that have attracted people around the globe. Exploring its vivid colours and ethereal displays, **Yash Wadhwa**, XI F & **Harshil Bedi**, X C, AIS Pushp Vihar, discover the science and folklore around this natural occurrence. So come and join this marvellous journey!

THE DAZZLING LIGHT

To a common man, Northern lights appear to be dancing ribbons of light. However, the phenomenon is a violent one.

WHAT?

The Aurora Borealis, commonly known as the Northern Lights are opalescent waves of light that pierce the dark skies, predominantly in the high-latitude regions.

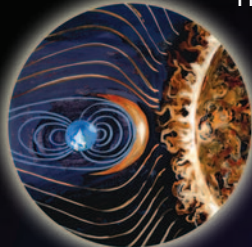


WHEN?



They occur year-round but are best seen during the dark, clear nights of winter.

WHY?



They originate from sun expending charged particles which strike the earth, that results in the electrons in earth's atmosphere to gain energy. The magnetic field deflects the charged electrons to where the magnetic field is weak - the poles. As the electrons return to their former state by losing energy, they release light. This light is what our eyes witness as northern lights.

WHERE?



They take the stage within the 'auroral oval', above geomagnetic poles. They are observed in regions close to the magnetic poles in the Northern Hemisphere such as Alaska, Canada, Norway etc. Auroras exist on all planets of the solar system besides Mercury.

HOW?

Auroras happen when charged particles from the sun interact with the Earth's magnetic field, causing the gases in the atmosphere to emit light. The electrons' interaction with oxygen and nitrogen is the reason behind the auroras' shifting shades of light.

Oxygen: Red in colour seen at an altitude of 300 miles

Nitrogen: Pink or yellow in colour seen at an altitude of 225 miles

Oxygen: Emits 50 shades of green seen at an altitude of 225 miles

Nitrogen: Blue and purple in colour seen at any altitude below 75 miles

Illustration: **Parkhi Arora**, AIS PV, IX E

THE SHAPE SHIFTERS

The spectacular show is not uniform in nature and auroras can be seen in various shapes. Here are some that occur at different locations...

Homogeneous arc | Greenland

Nature: It is a uniform band of auroras with no ray structures. They have a uniform upper and lower boundary, like a rainbow extending from east to west.
Cultural significance: In Greenland, the indigenous people believed the lights to be dancing spirits of the children who had passed away during/at birth.



Rayed arc or band | Norway

Nature: They have multiple rayed vertical structures which move upward.
Cultural significance: The Vikings believed that the auroras were the lights reflected from the Valkyries' armours and shields, as they escorted the fallen valiant warriors to their final resting place.



Striated Band | Canada

Nature: These lights comprise clumps of auroras with strips of clear sky visible through them.
Cultural significance: In Canada, the Algonquin tribe believed the auroras to be the fire lit by the creator of Earth, Nanabhozo. He lit this fire to tell his relatives that he was still thinking of them.



Aurora Rays | Iceland

Nature: These are independent in nature. Though they appear in a ray band, they are often secluded and have distinct structures.
Cultural significance: Icelandic folklore believes that these lights are birthed from elves and "hidden people" dancing in the night sky.



Pulsating | Sweden

Nature: They are vivid bursts or 'pulsations' of auroras, which disappear as rapidly as they emerge.
Cultural significance: Swedish fishermen thought the lights were reflections of giant schools of herring swimming nearby and a mark of good fortune.





The enchanted forest

Shambhavi Sharma, AIS PV, X C

The moon was like a ghostly lamp-light, with its silver beams illuminating the entire forest. She had realised by now that she was lost in the meandering alleys of these deep and dark woods. A little worried by now, she stared at the map she had in her hand and squinted hard, holding the almost-torn paper higher for better vis-

ibility. She was so focused on finding the way that she really hadn't bothered to notice that the stars were brighter than usual, and the trees were swaying when there was no wind. Stranger still, there was an eerie silence, without a single chirp or tweet of a bird, most uncommon in a forest as dense as this.



To the brave-hearted and the adventurous, all this would be just a matter of beauty and excitement. And yet, this forest was no place to be in the dead of night. It was an unsaid understanding amongst the townspeople who lived near it. All the 'stories' one had heard about the forest had been enigmatic, almost terrifying.

Ignoring all the signs of impending danger, she decided to move north and walked across the threshold, entering a completely new territory. She moved at a soundless pace, like wind gliding across the trees. The whispering woods did not seem to bother her, the rustling leaves almost falling in step with her.

She suddenly halted. She could see a smoke signal, with wisps of smoke swirling in a single spiral across the hill. Was someone else also lost? Or, was it a group of people who could help her? She headed towards it in tired melancholy, wondering how long it would be before she found the warmth of her own bed.

It was a woman around her age, maybe older, sitting around a campfire. She sighed in relief when she saw her. "Are you lost too?" she asked, her short hair falling across her face. "Sort of."

She laughed and sat

She suddenly halted. She could see a smoke signal, with wisps of smoke swirling in a single spiral across the hill. Was someone else also lost? Or, was it a group of people who could help her?

at the opposite end. "So, how'd you end up here? Know a way out?" she asked. "No, unfortunately, it's a complicated place and a long story," the older woman replied in soft, hushed tone.

She wondered if the woman had a name, knowing that she would not ask. Names make people seem more human, making it harder for the facades to fall through. Although, she would know in time. She knew she would. "Well, I've got all the time in the world for stories," she smiled, hoping her friendly demeanour would encourage the woman to offer help. The woman replied, glancing at the fire in frustration. "Well, it's not really fun. How I have been stuck in an enchanted forest since the last twelve years is really not fun."

She looked blankly at the woman. She had nothing else to do. "Welcome to the maze," the woman smiled at her, with half-pity and half-relief. In her, the woman had finally found a companion. The forest did look beautiful today. Beauty is often terror, until it may be too late to realise it.



Graphic: Akshita Bhandari, AIS PV, XI B

The greatest warrior

Mannat Suri

AIS Pushp Vihar, X C

In the land of ancient tales and lore
Where warriors fought, legends bore
There lived a spirit fierce and bold
A warrior unparalleled, to behold

With a heart ablaze, soaring on wings
Defying all odds, in battle he sings
A gaze of steel, his spirit untamed
In his wake, even fate looks tamed

On the battlefield, his sword gleams
His dance of power, a poetic theme
With each swing, he painted the skies
A harmony of might, no one despises

Through treacherous nights and days
He faced his fears, on countless frays
His valor, a beacon, guiding the way

Inspiring courage, come what may

In the heart of his foes, fear did brood
As no armor or wall could ever elude
A fate that awaited them on the field
Where the great warrior didn't yield

But his greatness lies not in the blade
Nor in the conquests a warrior made
It lies deep within the spirit's might
Bravery is born in the battles of light

Thus, his strength went beyond strife
Radiating an aura that transcends life
For in his battles, a hero was revealed
A soul of honor, forever unconcealed

The great warrior, a symbol of grace
A mark of strength, in each embrace
His legacy echoes in tales of the old
A proof of the power of valor untold.

Illustration: Parkhi Arora, AIS PV, IX E



Read Play and Win 46

Reading your favourite GT can fetch you a prize too. Complete all the boxes below. Click a picture and send it to editor@theglobaltimes.in or submit your responses by visiting The Global Times website (<http://theglobaltimes.in/readplaywin/>). Three lucky winners will win a prize every week!



Q.1 Apoorva Bakshi is an _____ producer.

Q.2 Name the kingdom in the story 'The electric fireworks' on page 4.

Q.3 Who is the author of the cover story 'Fooled Foodie'?

Q.4 On which page can you find the educational poster on northern lights?

Q.5 Which school organised the event titled 'Telematches-Aquaspark'?

Q.6 The album 'Alas Ka Pedh' was released on _____.

Q.7 In 1817, the metal _____ was discovered by Johan August Arfvedson.

Q.8 Who is the editor-in-chief of AIS Pushp Vihar?

Q.9 Who is the founder of 'Saisha India Foundation'?

Name: _____ Class: _____ School: _____

Results of Read Play & Win-45: Sarthak Biswas, AIS Saket, IV C; Anwit Sinha, AIS Gur 43, IV B; Advik Tandon, AIS Noida, III J

LITthium of issues

Understanding The Controversial Element That Apparently Rules All



Namya Jain, AIS Pushp Vihar, XI F

Elon Musk recently called lithium batteries the 'new oil', and rightly so for lithium is being considered as a crucial turning point in the energy sector. From powering electric vehicles to air conditioners, the element has been in use, and subsequently in news everywhere. The result - surging lithium stocks and a global race to secure this scarce but precious metal. Besides, due credit must be given to the metal that was one of the only three elements created during the Big Bang. However, even the ones ascending from heaven are not free from world-ly controversy especially when they are the cause of a humanitarian crisis. With lithium being a topic of discussion for its pros as well as its cons, let's have a look at all the facets and see which side we stand on.

What is lithium?

- Lithium is a silvery-white alkali metal.
- It was discovered in 1817 by Swedish chemist Johan August Arfvedson.
- It is highly reactive and flammable, which is why it is stored in vacuum or inert liquid like purified kerosene or mineral oil.
- Denoted by 'Li' and having the atomic number of three, it derives its name from the Greek word 'lithos', meaning 'stone'.
- Lithium is the least dense solid element, with an affinity for corrosion.
- It is not abundantly available in nature but is usually found in pegmatitic minerals. Due to its solubility, it can be found in ocean water as brines.
- Countries like Chile, Australia, Argentina, China, and Russia have the highest production of lithium.

Why is it used?

- The biggest use of it is in

chargeable batteries as they are characterised by higher specific energy, density, efficiency, and a longer life cycle, which is why they are found in smartphones, laptops, electric vehicles, and various other chargeable items.

- Lithium oxide is used to produce silica (used in ovenware) where it helps in reducing the melting point and viscosity of the material, creating glazes with improved physical properties and heat resistance.

- Metallic lithium and its complex hydrides are used as high-energy additives in military sector to rocket propellants. Lithium aluminium hydride is used as a rocket fuel and various other hydrides of lithium are further used in thermonuclear weapons.

- Lithium fluoride, a transparent material, is often used in optics for infrared and ultraviolet applications.

- To improve fluidity, lithium, as lithium carbonate, is added to continuous casting mould flux slags and to foundry sand in iron casting to decrease veining.

- Accounting for three percent of the global lithium production, the metal is used as an additive to aluminium smelters, to reduce melting temperatures, and to increase electrical resistance.

- Red flares and fireworks utilise lithium compounds as oxidisers

and pyrotechnic colouring agents.

- Organolithium compounds are used in the production of polymers as catalysts or initiators, and also for the production of fine chemicals as they are strong bases and reagents to facilitate the formation of carbon-carbon bonds.

- Lithium hydroxide and lithium peroxide are used for carbon dioxide removal and air purification in confined areas like spacecrafts and submarines.

- Used to treat depression, schizoaffective disorder, and bipolar disorder, lithium is being experimented with as a potential cure for various serious issues.

How is it evil then?

- Though lithium seems to have multiple uses, the main question on its integrity is raised because of how it is mined and extracted, which has raised several concerns regarding the ethics of the practices.

- Lithium mining operations divert tremendous quantities of fresh water in the arid regions of the so-called Lithium Triangle of South America (comprising Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia), leaving wildlife and human

population nearby parched.

- The sulfuric acid and sodium hydroxide, employed in the extraction of lithium, contaminate the soil and water of the area, causing water contamination, respiratory problems, ecosystem degradation, and landscape damage. It takes centuries for the delicate natural equilibrium to recover.

- Its extraction also leads to large amounts of magnesium and lime waste, uranium byproduct, and sulfuric acid discharge.

- The mining, extraction, and its overall production emits more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than the manufacturing of automobiles that run on fossil fuels.

- The extraction of lithium has created modern-day slavery in nations like Congo and Zimbabwe, where hundreds of thousands of parents have been forced to send their children to hazardous mines for lithium extraction.

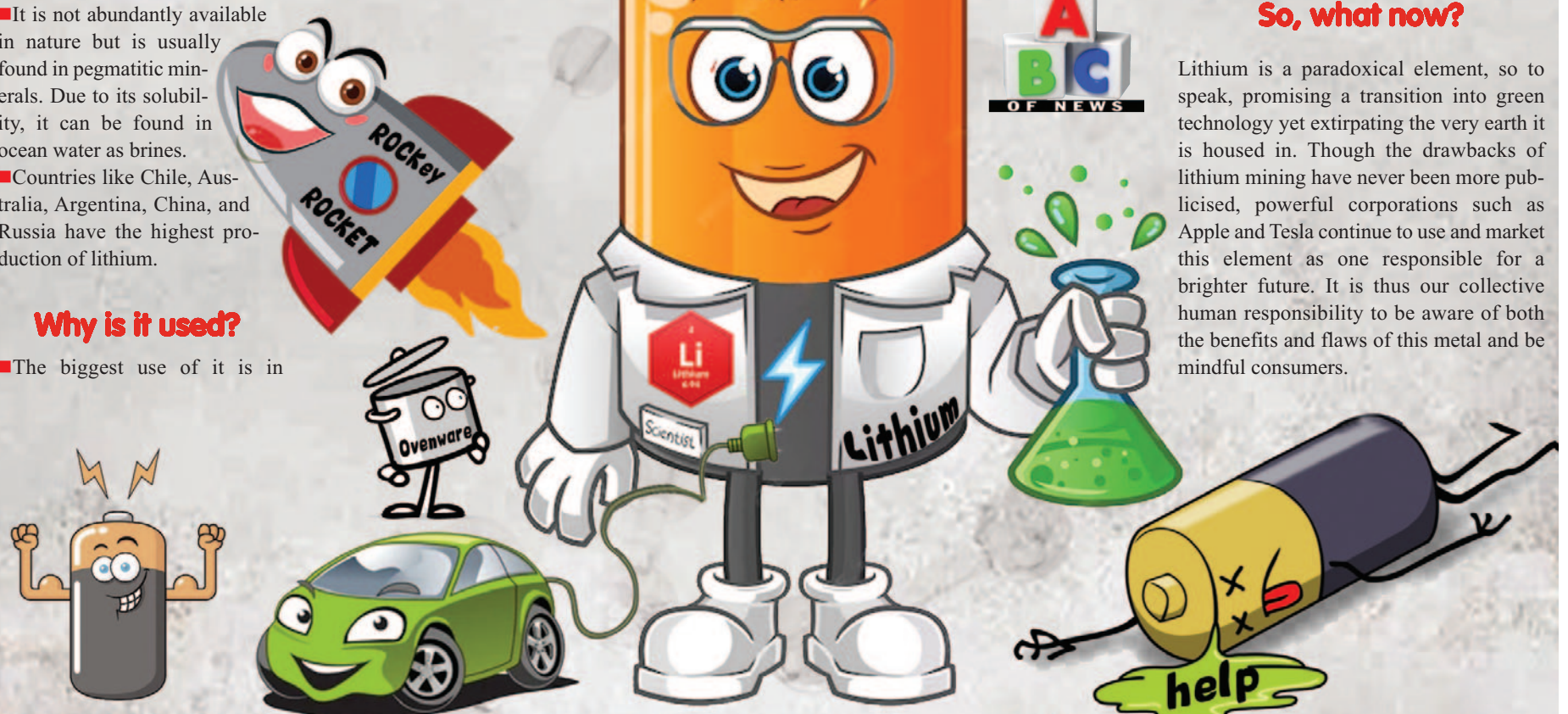
- Therefore, child labour in Congo's mining industry has more than tripled since 2012, with over 120,000 boys and girls being forced into life-threatening work.

- Mining giants in South America have displaced innumerable indigenous communities for the profitable job of lithium mining, driving hundreds off the land.

- In USA, lithium extraction has been linked with the killings of Native Americans. The Thacker Pass lithium mine has been facing protests due to this since January 2021.

So, what now?

Lithium is a paradoxical element, so to speak, promising a transition into green technology yet extirpating the very earth it is housed in. Though the drawbacks of lithium mining have never been more publicised, powerful corporations such as Apple and Tesla continue to use and market this element as one responsible for a brighter future. It is thus our collective human responsibility to be aware of both the benefits and flaws of this metal and be mindful consumers.





Naavya Lodh & Nurina Amin

AIS Pushp Vihar, X C

The joy of giving

Saaisha's Support To Cancer Survivors



Losing an organ is indubitably life-altering; losing a breast or both, in the case of women, is an unfortunate occurrence. For mastectomy, has the potential to not only alter one's sense of femininity and beauty, but also take away from one's self-confidence. Howbeit, 'alone we can do so little, together we can do so much' is what Saaisha India Foundation, an altruistic organisation working towards providing free crocheted breast prosthesis to cancer survivors, counts on when it comes to empowering the suffering lot. Here's what its founder, Jayashree Ratan, and director of outreach, Srividya Gopinath, have to say about this community built on love.



Volunteers crocheting the prosthesis; Jayashree Ratan (inset)



ished product to the collection point, where another set of volunteers fill them with fibre, sew them up, tag them, sort them into various sizes, and then post them to the end users. Anyone who wants to do the same, can contact Saaisha at the numbers/email address given on their website." To build communal relationships, events like Crocheting Public Day and Knitting Public Day, are also being organised by the foundation.

The fire

In the beginning, their products were known through word-of mouth only, and so their kind efforts couldn't reach to all those suffering "During the pandemic, we went online to further this cause," added Gopinath. It increased the demand, but certainly not the foundation's ability to keep up to it. "We do tell the volunteers to give us 40 knockers every year, they certainly cannot be forced. Besides, sourcing the right type of cotton yarn is tough. We use 100% mercerised cotton and procuring it in India gets hard at times. Acquiring virgin poly fibre that the knockers are filled with is an onerous task, too. Not to mention the funding bit; Reliance is kind enough to give us the virgin fibre free of cost, we are still looking for sources for the funding of yarn," Ratan tacked on. 🇮🇳

Pics: Abeer Batra, AIS PV, XI D

The inspiration

The seeds for Saaisha were sown when Jayashree Ratan met a relative who had undergone mastectomy. "When I found out that the lady was using cloth to create a prosthesis, I suddenly got reminded of reading about crocheted/knitted breast prosthesis, dubbed Knockers, somewhere. Though successful, these were only distributed by an organisation in USA then. Being adept at crochet, I decided to give the lady one made by me. Her grateful response is what led to the formation of Saaisha India Foundation,

The journey

Having already distributed around 15,392 knockers since then, Saaisha has truly come a long way. "We started off as a small group of five or six women and today we have a volunteer base of more than 375 women. We further plan to take our volunteer count to 1000 at least," stated Ratan about their knitting journey thus far. Saaisha India has two centres of collection, one in Chennai and the other one in Mumbai, where the volunteers can submit their crocheted knockers whenever they want for further quality check

and processing. The foundation also introduced making of beanies (cotton caps) about four years back, which are given to children affected with chemotherapy. Those in need can claim their products free of cost through the foundation's social media handles, their website, email, or even WhatsApp.

The fuel

At Saaisha, there are women who are beneficiaries turned volunteers, and many who did not even know how to crochet at the onset. Suruchi, a volunteer, shares her experience, "As volunteers, we buy the yarn, weave the product, and then courier the fin-



Cryptic mastermind, the editors



The editorial team of AIS PV knows all too well how to shake it off, are you ready for it?



Spreading lavender haze, the illustrators



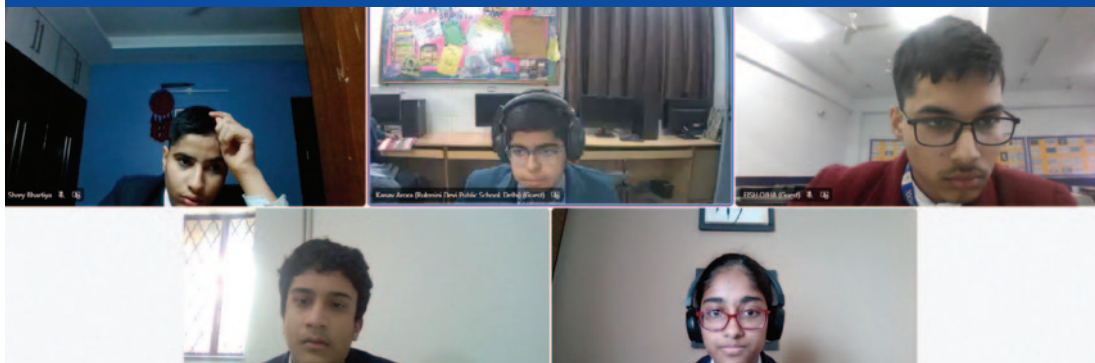
Best believe, team that makes the whole place shimmer



Dear reader, AIS PV edition is enchanted to meet you

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

Buzzing Bazinga



Participants of Bazinga engage in the battle of wits and numbers

Amitians Dazzle In The Epic Trivia Of Science

R&D Department

The 11th edition of Bazinga was held virtually for the students of Class IX and XI from January 11-12, 2024. The annual inter-school science quiz, conducted by Amity Research and Development wing, is an initiative of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, that aims to provide an insight into the curriculum and inculcates the habit to explore new skills and extensive research at an early age. On day 1, AIS Mayur Vihar hosted

quiz for the students of Class IX where 31 schools across Delhi/NCR participated in it. Ashita Bansal of AIS Saket and Aditya Sood of AIS Noida won first and second position respectively in Class IX. For Class XI, AIS Gurugram 46 hosted the event and 30 schools from Delhi/NCR took part in the same. Akshat Verma of AIS Noida and Shivansh Pande of AIS Mayur Vihar clinched second and third position respectively.

For both the classes, the quiz was held virtually and in two stages namely preliminary and final. In

preliminary round, all the participating teams were given same set of questions and their responses were recorded on MS Forms. Based on this, a merit list was prepared and top 5 teams were selected for the finals. During final round, students under the guidance of science teachers prepared challenging questions and also played the role of quizmasters.

The participants were tested for their computational and mathematical abilities. The competition concluded with felicitation of winners with pen drives and e certificates to all the participants. [Gf](#)

Life below water

AIS Vasundhara 1

Inspired by the Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life below water, the school organised its annual sports event titled 'Telematches-Aquaspark' for the students of Class Nursery-II. The event began with lamp lighting ceremony amidst chanting of *shlokas* by the school choir. School principal Raina Krishnatray, accorded a warm welcome to the guests and highlighted the

sports achievements of the school. The young ones emphasised on water conservation and raised awareness about SDG 14 through their creative presentations and enthusiastic participation in aquatic-themed activities like smart walk, drills, dolphin race, frog race, and sea-horse race. Aquaspark concluded with students taking a pledge to save water followed by felicitation of proud winners by sports advisor, Amity Group of Schools. [Gf](#)



Little ones take pledge to save water



School principal with winners

The olympians

AIS Vasundhara 6

Five students clinched top ten positions at International Hindi Olympiad organised by The Hindi Olympiad Foundation on January 27, 2024. Priyanshu Singh (VIII) won first position, Kritika Pandey (VIII) bagged fourth position, Ayush Aggarwal (VIII), and Maira Shadab (IX) got fifth position while Priyanshi (IX) secured ninth position. They were felicitated at a glittering award ceremony held at India International Centre, New Delhi.



Hon'ble President Droupadi Murmu interacts with Kainaat

Presidential talk

AIS VYC Lucknow

Kainaat Arif, a student of Class XII, had a unique opportunity to meet and interact with President Droupadi Murmu during the inaugural edition of Sahitya, Kala Evam Rachna Shivir, organised by National Book Trust at Rashtrapati Bhavan on February 11, 2024. She, along with 55 other young writers from the PM YUVA Men-

torship Scheme, engaged in a fruitful discussion with the president wherein Kainaat shared insights into her debut novel, 'December 1912- A Story of Awakening,' based on an overlooked event in the Indian freedom movement-an unsuccessful assassination attempt of the Viceroy of India. The discussion also encompassed the incorporation of Indian languages and the experiences of writers.

Ace innovators



One of the finalists, Suhani Chauhan at the exhibition

ACSF

Four projects from Amity Group of Schools finished as finalists at National Science Exhibition, organised by CBSE from February 1-3, 2024. Participation in the exhibition was facilitated by Amity Children's Science Foundation (ACSF) under the leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF. A total of 4000 teams from CBSE schools across India pitched their innovative projects for the regional round, out of which 313 projects were selected for the final round.

The finalists in junior category were 'Project Medihelp' by Ananay Walia and Ayan Mittal (VII) of AIS Gur 46 and 'Project Pro Krishi' by Bhaavya Singh and Atharv Ahuja (VII) of AIS Vas 6. The senior category finalists were 'Project Injoy' by Ishi Singhal and Adya Agrawal (X) of AIS Gur 46 and 'Project Solar Operated Agricultural Vehicle (SO-APT)' by Suhani Chauhan (XI) of AIS PV. The exhibition was organised to tap innovative projects with social and environmental impact on the themes such as lifestyle for environment, communication and transport, computational thinking, agriculture, and health. [Gf](#)

The ultimate con

Azrael At The Advent Of The End Of The World With A Comical Twist

Nurina Amin, AIS Pushp Vihar, X C

It was a bright sunny day down on Earth. Right on schedule, Azrael, the angel of death, on his very own deadly Harley Davidson, descended to ring in the apocalypse. He was all prepared to cross things off his elaborate to-do list; ready to hear the panic and the screams, the apologies and the unfulfilled dreams, the confessions and the cries! But, oh, did Azrael underestimate just what God created when humans came into existence!

Looking for the most crowded place to begin the apocalypse, he zapped in at a place that seemed like a market to him. No sooner than he could even finish relishing the thought of chaos he would cause when suddenly a group angels, demons, and devils walked up to him. "Oh, man, you fit in just right with our group. Let's take a picture!" said the demon. Taken aback by the words that were said to him, he looked around to see one of them dressed up exactly like him. Astounded, he demanded, "How dare you imitate me? The boy responded, "Just like you, I saw the outfit online as well, man. Chill!"

Azrael, stupefied by the unexpected nonchalance, shouted at them, "I am the original one! This isn't a costume, puny human." An awkward silence followed by sudden great laughter infuriated him further. In a tone laced with sarcasm, one of them said, "Okay, chill, of course you are the real one," as they left with chuckles and whispers. "What a lunatic!" "Exactly! All this for a costume he probably got on that great Amazon sale."

It had been barely 20 minutes on Earth and



Illustration: Akshita Bhandari, XI B & Rudrakshi Joshi, IX D, AIS Pushp Vihar

he was utterly confused. Right then, he heard someone say, "Tall, grumpy, and so dreamy! He's just my type." The last straw

was pulled, and he had had enough. He gathered his force and released the energy on a loud group of youngsters. And thud!

Suddenly, their faces turned pale as they stood there soulless. Ready to see the fear, he turned around only to see the crowd around clapping with astonishment. "That was such a well-executed act! How about we create our very own version of Avengers?" Loki proposed. Bewildered about what in the multiverse was happening, Azrael looked around and saw a banner that read Welcome To Comic Con! That's when he realised that he had stepped into his worst nightmare.

Azrael was done with the façade. In a tone as deep as the connections humans wish to have but always fail, he announced, "I am here to take your souls and one by one they will be mine." Just as he thought he had accomplished scaring them, the Ghost Rider asked, "What about me? I already sold my soul." Then bellowed Thor, at the top of his lungs, "Funny how you all are trying to prove your might when I, the God of Thunder, have graced this gathering." "Pfft, always an attention seeker," scoffed Loki impersonator as he rolled his eyes.

No one realised when did the debate become a brawl and the brawl became a deadly battleground. In a weird twist of events, the humans just made the job easier for Azrael. All he had to do next was grab a bucket of popcorn and coke as he watched them argue and beat each other up, thus initiating the beginning of the end of the world.

Ticking things off his extensive to-do list, he thought, "God has always had peculiar ways to get the work done." Maybe he did pay heed to that young man's suggestion who asked him to have a little fun.

Pics: Ani Gandhi, AIS Pushp Vihar, X B

In spotlight



The leaders of the team: Moksh Gauri & Deetya Gambhir



A small group that packs a powerful punch, meet the editorial board of AIS Pushp Vihar