

## Of books in bowdlerland

### Is Freedom Of Expression A Casualty In The Web Of Political Correctness?

Harshita Anand, Alumna  
& Nausheen Haque, A2, AGS Noida

What if your favourite childhood books were altered to fit the paradigms of modern society? Sounds weird, right? This is not just a rhetorical question, but rather the new reality. Puffin Books, a division of Penguin Random House, has recently altered several words and phrases and re-printed some of Roald Dahl's classics such as Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Matilda, despite public disapproval. In today's publishing world, books are undergoing major changes, hampering the novel's authenticity. This begs the question: is this something new or does it have its roots far back in time? Let's find out.

#### Quite a classic, this!

Altering of original text is not a new story. The idea that something is offensive and that it should be erased goes as far back as 1807 when Thomas Bowdler decided that readers needed a new version of Shakespeare's complete works which would not be too sensitive for women and children. He even edited the spelling of the playwright's name, giving us The Family Shakspeare! With this, connoisseurs of language also found a new word - bowdlerisation - which has come to be understood as a form of censorship that purges anything deemed obnoxious. Since then, we can find numerous examples of bowdlerisation. For instance, certain references to ethnic

minorities have been removed from Hugh Lofting's The Story of Doctor Dolittle. Mark Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, another classic, has faced the same outcome when it was censored for the racial connotations in it.

#### The tale continues

In the modern world, censorship has taken on a completely new dimension. The definition of 'obnoxious' or 'repulsive' is no longer limited to ethnic, political, or racial elements. Texts are now being cleansed of even the most mundane

things like mention of foods that are deemed to be unhealthy. This makes one wonder as to how much censorship is too much censorship. Some perspectives argue that Dahl's edited copies are completely unnecessary, and then there are those who believe that upholding the purity of society is more important than sanctity of literature.

#### One story, many meanings

Whether it is with good intentions or bad, censorship creates limitations of what one can read and understand. For example, Brontë's Jane Eyre

was lauded for the resilience of the female protagonist trapped indoors due to a cholera outbreak. However, according to a survey by an online media outlet, during the COVID-19 outbreak, the readers found the book to be 'unsettling' and 'creepy' due to the similarity with their own circumstances. Virgil's poem Aeneid couldn't escape this phenomenon either. Initially it was read as praise to Roman emperor Augustus but in contemporary world, it is interpreted as a manifesto against imperialism.

#### Telling tales is pure art

Finding the right balance between what is and what isn't essential is crucial. Sometimes, to conform to the modern trend of sensitivity, inappropriate jargon can be altered. An apt example can be seen in Agatha Christie's novel And Then There Were None, whose original title was changed due to a derogatory racial word. The change had no effect on the main storyline and kept her legacy untainted. But when you lower the quality, it damages the art of writing and reading a story.

Even if we do remove these 'negative' references from books, can one ensure the real world will not expose us to them?



Illustration: Rishit Agrawalla, AGS Noida, A2

Page editor: Harshita Anand, AGS Noida, Alumna

### THE GT POLL

Do you think Delhi Police will be successful in rolling out the Safe City Project by August as ordered by Delhi LG?

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

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the\_global\_times

#### Coming next

Foodie kismet

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This special edition has been brought to you by Amity Global School, Noida, to mark their debut in 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 twelfth and final edition of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2022-23'.

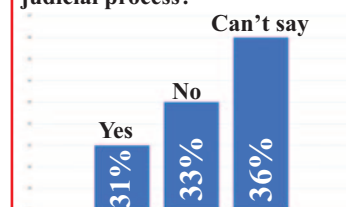
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### POLL RESULT

for GT Edition April 24, 2023

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Results as on April 29, 2023





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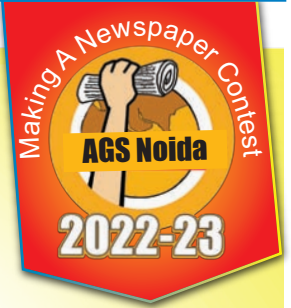


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# On air with flair



## Rubika Liyaquat On Becoming The Country's Top Journalist

### INTERVIEW

Kabir Anand & Maryam Shakeel  
AGS Noida, Alumni

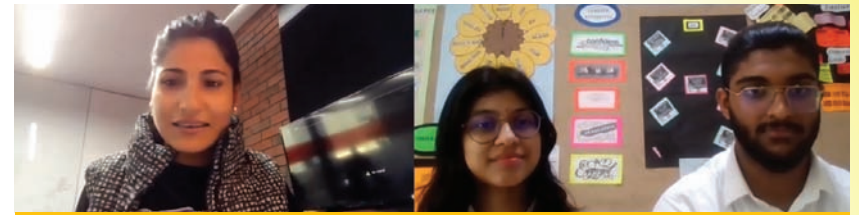
Rubika Liyaquat is a television anchor and journalist whose oratory skills have made her a household name. She started her career in 2007 and has worked with media giants like News 24, Aaj Tak, Zee News, and Live India TV. Known for her popular shows, Taal Thok Ke on Zee News and Master Stroke on ABP News, Liyaquat gives us an insight into the roller-coaster world of broadcast journalism.

#### The beginning

When I was a child, Salma Sultan used to read the news on television. She was my family's favourite anchor, and all of us were spellbound by her. Watching this, I was inspired to follow in the footsteps of this iconic woman. I was sure that I wanted to be a journalist and nothing else. Even though I had to face many hurdles, I never really thought of a backup plan. I knew I had to make it in journalism, come what may.

#### Be strong, be real

One has to be resilient to face all the



GT journalists interact with Rubika Liyaquat

struggles that come your way when you start out in journalism. Yes, my journey, too, was full of struggles, but I embraced them and thought of them to be as natural as my pulse rate. The important thing is that one must always be authentic when reporting news. When you are real and sincere, your viewers respect you and it gives you credibility.

#### A diamond under pressure

Fighting off lobby pressure in journalism is not easy, but the big sharks that pressure you with their vested interests will always be exposed one day. If not by me, then by someone else, especially in this digital era. And they even know that journalists like me will not succumb to their pressures, and will continue to work hard to put both sides of the coin on the table. Also, life as a journalist is not easy, because you have to find a balance between your personal and professional life, especially when you are in the public eye. But all this is worth it because there are so many people who love me and pray for me like I am their own.

I always ignore the haters and just focus on my work.

#### All work is worship

Each project is special, which proves that I am still very much in love with what I do. In fact, I cannot pick one favourite story I have been involved with. The funny thing is that I still get nervous every time I am on air. However, I must admit that TV debates can sometimes be very tricky. My formula is that the onus of proving my point wrong lies with the participants, and this gives them the opportunity to explain themselves. I never claim that I am right, and as always, the rule of law and democratic processes are the ultimate deciding factor.

#### Advice for all

Becoming a journalist will feel hard only if you think it is. Just be strong about your convictions and do your work with sincerity. If you are an aspiring journalist, you must always be truthful. You have to be straightforward and have passion for your work.



Rubika Liyaquat, TV anchor & journalist

## A mystery to solve

**Synopsis:** One night, while staying in Paris, Robert Langdon, a Harvard professor of symbology, is called by the Louvre to help a murder investigation, where the victim is found in a peculiar pose with cryptic messages scribbled on the floor. Langdon accepts the proposal, but little to his knowledge, he is being investigated as one of the criminals. To clear his name, he must solve the mystery himself

using his knowledge of symbols. The granddaughter of the curator at the Louvre, Sophie Neveu, a gifted French cryptologist, helps him do the same. Together, they go on a bizarre code hunt from France to England to find the secret location of the greatly significant religious relic hidden for centuries. Read the book to know what the future has in store for them.

**Why it is worth reading:** The Da Vinci Code is a marvellous

thriller and a must read for anyone who loves mysteries. The author has so beautifully woven symbology in the novel that one gets to learn new things on every page. Overall, this action-packed novel is sure to keep you engaged with its characters, and you will often find yourself sitting on the edge of your seat.

**Iconic quote:** "Like the murmurs of spirits in the darkness, forgotten words echoed. The

**Book:** The Da Vinci Code  
**Author:** Dan Brown  
**Published on:** March 18, 2003  
**Genre:** Mystery thriller, conspiracy fiction



quest for the Holy Grail is the quest to kneel before the bones of Mary Magdalene. A journey to pray at the feet of the outcast one. With a sudden upwelling of reverence, Robert Langdon fell to his knees. For a moment, he thought he heard a woman's voice...the wisdom of the ages...whispering up from the

chasms of the earth."

**Rating:** 5/5

**Review by:** Kirtida Agrawal  
AIS Gurugram 43, XI B



# Electrifying journey

A Voyage Through The Invisible World Of Atoms And Electricity

Khushi Kadecha &  
Shashwat Narayan Purohit  
AGS Noida, Alumni

The moment Rohan flipped the switch on, the light bulb flickered and then turned off with a buzzing sound. He now dreaded the time when his parents would show up and see the damaged light bulb. For he had been warned not to behave badly while they were away. So, when they got back home, he broke down in tears because of the broken light bulb. But his father assured him that a simple remedy was possible, and immediately called an electrician. When Akshat, the electrician, arrived and examined the circuit board, he claimed it was a simple fix, as the wiring for the outdated light bulb had burned along with the switch. Rohan, who was only a 10-year-old boy, was intrigued by this and began to interrogate the electrician. Akshat explained to him that electrical circuits are used for every household appliance and gadget, including light bulbs, fans, mobile phones, and televisions, etc. A power switch or battery must be turned on for these things to work. He used words like 'current' and 'voltage', which Rohan was little familiar with, but then came the word 'electron'!

When Rohan gave him a blank expression,

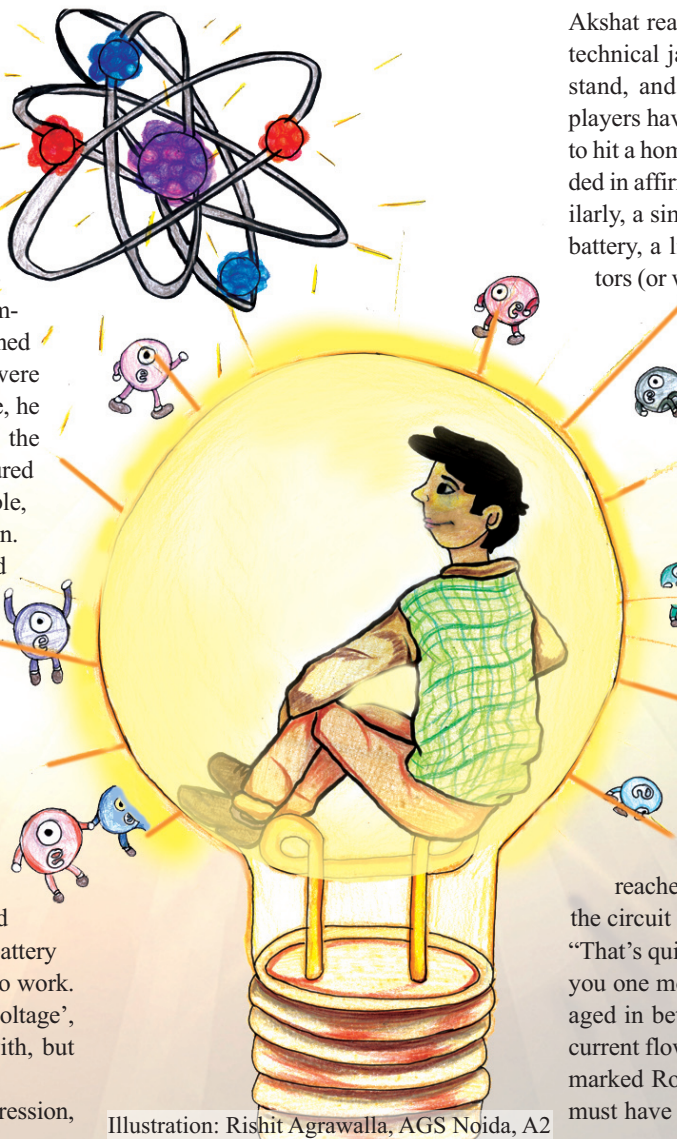


Illustration: Rishit Agrawalla, AGS Noida, A2

Akshat realised that Rohan would find the technical jargon too challenging to understand, and said, "Consider baseball. The players have to run the entire track in order to hit a home run, right?" When Rohan nodded in affirmation, Akshat continued, "Similarly, a simple electric circuit consists of a battery, a light bulb, a switch and conductors (or wires) that link the two terminals (positive and negative) of the battery to the ends of the light bulb. "But that's about the electric circuit, what about the current that flows inside it?" asked Rohan scratching his head. After listening to his query, Akshat said, "When we flip the switch on, electrons (negatively charged particles) flow through the circuit with the help of wires. They start moving from the negative terminal to the positive terminal of the battery generating a flow of current in the wires which reaches the filament of the light bulb in the circuit and makes it glow."

"That's quite a revelation. But I wish to ask you one more thing - if the wire gets damaged in between then in that case will the current flow through the circuit or not?" remarked Rohan. "Any electrical equipment must have a steady supply of electricity to



## The science of it

**Electricity is a form of energy. It is the flow of electrons inside an electric circuit which consists of a battery, an electrical equipment (tube light/ light bulb), a conductor (wire) and a switch. When the switch is on, the electrons travel from the negative terminal of the battery and generate a flow of current (electricity) which reaches the electrical equipment and causes it to function effectively.**

function, and no electricity would flow in case the wire is damaged. Therefore, for a strong electric circuit, the presence of a good conductor is a must. That, however, is a tale for another time; your light bulb is now fixed, after all," answered Akshat with a warm smile. Rohan was astonished to see the fixed bulb and quickly turned to his father to tell him about his discovery.

# A particulate discovery

Fabiola Gianotti's Knowledge Of Atomic And Subatomic Particles

Ruchita Nair, AIS Mayur Vihar, XII

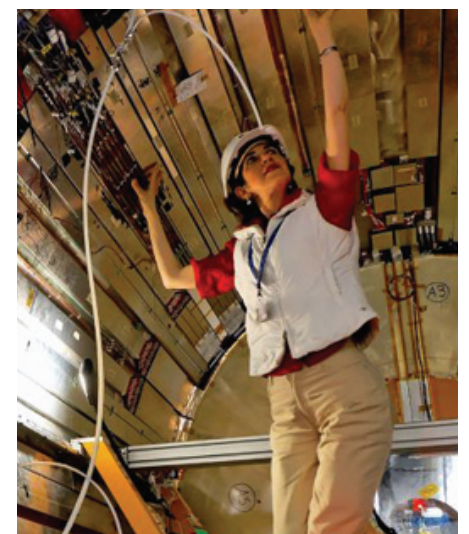
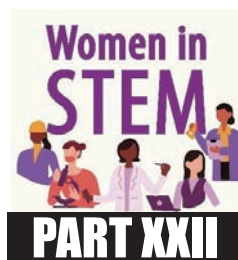
From an early age, Fabiola Gianotti was interested in nature and the world around her. Her father, an acclaimed geologist himself, encouraged her scientific temper, and she, in turn, inspired by a biography on Marie Curie, chose science as her calling. She went on to receive a PhD in experimental particle physics from the University of Milan in 1989.

Gianotti has been working at CERN since 1996, where she has been involved in detector development, software development, and data analysis. In 2016, she was elected as the

first female Director-General of CERN. She has since been reappointed for a second term, which will end in 2025. She is a corresponding member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei - the most prestigious scientific society in her country, Italy - which traces its roots back to the time of Galileo as well as a foreign associate member of the US National Academy of Sciences and the French Academy of Science. It was during her time as a project leader and spokesperson of the ATLAS collaboration that she

discovered the Higgs boson particle along with another colleague. When her discovery was published, it was credited to her deep understanding of the ATLAS experiment and her leadership talent. Gianotti is also the author/co-author of more than 500 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

No wonder then, she has been bestowed with multiple awards, including the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic by the Italian president, Giorgio Napolitano; The Enrico Fermi Prize of the Italian Phys-



ical Society, etc. Gianotti has always exhibited a strong will and faith in her own calibre - two important traits that helped her shine in a male-dominated field. [G I](#)





Pic courtesy: Bhuvika Anand, AIS Vas 6, III D



## A land full of wonders!

**Bhuvika Anand, AIS Vasundhara 6, III D**

**Place:** Khajjiar, Himachal Pradesh  
**Top sights:** Khajjiar Lake, Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary, Khajji Nag Temple, Dainkund Peak, Dhauladar Range, Khajjiar Trek, Kailash Village, Lord Shiva Statue, Panch Pandav Tree  
**Best time to visit:** May-October  
**Delicacies to try:** Chana Madra, Tukdiya Bhat, Guchhi Matta, Kaddu ka Khatta, Sepu Vadi  
**Things to carry:** Warm clothes and thermals, trekking shoes, first-aid kit, raincoat, sunscreen  
**Souvenirs to buy:** Wall hangings, carpets, handloom clothes, Tibetan souvenirs and antiques  
**Languages to know before you visit:** Hindi, English and Chambeali

**My experience:** Visiting what we call as the 'mini-Switzerland of India' was a phenomenal experience. Every corner of this small town in the Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh was breathtaking. We began exploring the place by first visiting the very famous temple of the serpent God 'Khajji Naga' and then continued with other places. The whole place was full of dense pine and deodar trees. We visited all the nearby shrines, and viewpoints to enjoy the picturesque scenarios and clicked a lot of pictures. My trip to Khajjiar was indeed a memorable one.

**My favourite memory from the trip:** Staying in an old wooden apartment at the H20 house near river Ravi, was the best part of the trip. We got a chance to experience the culture of Khajjiar by singing with a Chambeali folk singer. I also played with rabbits, cows and dogs in the grassland. We even indulged in some adventure sports such as horse riding, Zorb ball and paragliding. We also visited a traditional water grinding mill 'Gharat' and went for a heritage walk to explore the rich history of the town. All in all, this trip was full of adventures.

# The world is laughing

## Scrolling Through The Saga Of Memes

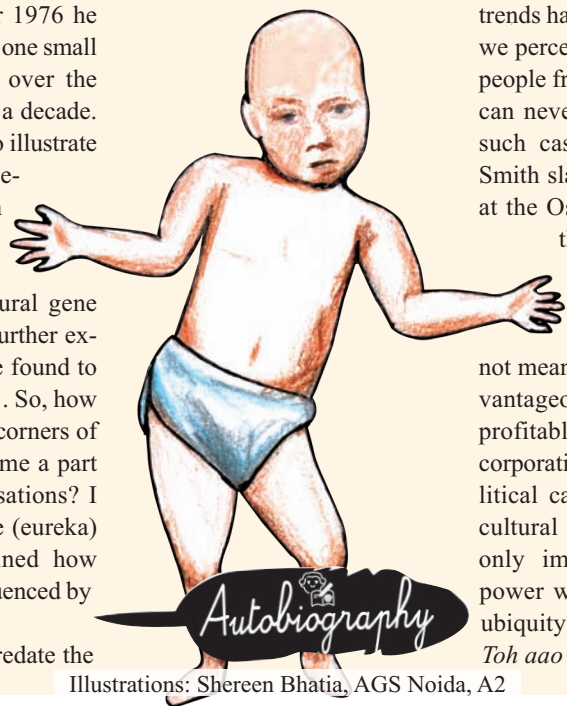
**Nausheen Haque**  
**AGS Noida, A2**

When was the last time you picked up your phone to scroll social media before bed? However, when you raised your neck, the sun was already up! You've been sucked down the rabbit hole, an endless spiral of fiddling your thumb on your phone screen, is now your reality. Welcome to my world, you're now a slave here. As social creatures, persistently looking for meaningful connections; humans devised my kind, as humorous mechanisms.

But, who am I? A 'meme'. Humans have coexisted alongside animals for millions of years, but what distinguishes us from them is our reliance on emotions, particularly humour. When Richard Dawkins coined the term 'meme' in his book 'The Selfish Gene', in the year 1976 he had no idea that this one small word would take over the world in less than a decade. Initially intended to illustrate a 'replicator', it became a slang term in popular culture. Richard Dawkins described us as 'a cultural gene that can replicate to further express ideas if they are found to be culturally relevant'. So, how did I leave the weird corners of biosciences and become a part of the online conversations? I guess it was a 'meme (eureka) moment' which defined how humans are so influenced by popular culture. My ancestors predate the

digital age. A 3D animated diaper-clad baby was the first ever viral meme created in 1996. It was ingrained in popular media to the extent that it was a regular feature on a TV show. The relatability factor of a meme is the most detrimental aspect. My companions and I are inside jokes that are supposed to have the perfect balance of relatability and quirkiness. The more obscure and random the reference, the more value we will have. The first of the many digital memes originate from '4 Chan' (an anonymous Image Board website) from where the popular 'advice animals, rage comics, pedobear, xzibit's yo dawg, rickrolling', etc. emerged. But when the 'doge' meme was introduced in 2013, it exploded on the internet, depicting absurd monologues that are delib-

erately written in broken English with intentional grammatical errors. The doge meme started a cultural storm of 'top text, bottom text' memes and comics that were coated with a level of ambiguity in their humour. These slowly evolved into video formats with short binge-able funny laughs which made the internet even more accessible and entertaining for all. The culture of creating video vines matured into TikTok videos, Instagram reels, and YouTube shorts. The bite-sized 30-60 second format engaged the audiences further and maintained the re-watchability factor making it profitable for advertisers and brands. A decade ago, a single meme was used for years without being overused but in the current scenario, they barely manage to stay relevant for a week. The petrifying fast pace of trends has affected the way we perceive humour which people from the past generation can never even relate to. One such case is that of 'Will Smith slapping Chris Rock at the Oscars', which took the internet by a storm, but soon lost its momentum. This, however, does not mean that we cannot be advantageous, to those seeking profitable attraction; like big corporations and even some political campaigns due to their cultural significance. You can only imagine the immense power we hold due to our ubiquity and appositeness. *Toh aao kabhi haveli pe!*



Illustrations: Shereen Bhatia, AGS Noida, A2



# Nurturing eco-warriors



Dr Amity Chauhan  
Chairperson

The most perfect things around us namely rivers, mountains, forests and oceans – are made up of just a few elements and they are still breathtaking. In fact, there is no wastage in nature, the by-product of one system is feedstock for another. Humans, on the other hand, are the most imperfect of all creation, especially when it comes to over-consumption and irresponsible wastage.

At Amity, therefore, our vision is to inculcate environmental consciousness in children,

so that they become climate warriors and save the planet. For the same, Amity has established eco-clubs along with several plantation drives, awareness campaigns, water conservation campaigns etc. With programme like 'Best out of Waste', students learn the zero-waste rule of nature. Further, Youth Power, a social initiative programme, is a platform for the students to take up causes like waste management, water conservation, curbing pollution et al. Here, apart from creating awareness, they also find viable solutions to bring a change in the environment. Also, Vasudha, an inter-Amity science competition, gives the young minds a chance to come up with projects like 'Smart bin', 'Ecolution', 'Agro - waste to disposable tableware' and others. Recently, AIS Gur 46 was awarded 'Certificate of Merit' at National Energy Conservation Award 2022. While AIS Noida, bagged first position in Uttar Pradesh and stood third at the national level in National Water Award 2020.

## Time to say Hip Hip Hurray!

Samaya Chauhan (X), AIS PV, and Sanjana Chauhan (X), AIS Noida, won Silver Award in The Climate Champion Profiles Challenge for sharing stories of excellent visionaries who have made a substantial contribution to save the environment. [GT](#)

# What a debut!



Jayshree Kad  
Principal, AGS Noida

It is with great pride that I introduce to you the debut edition of Amity Global School, Noida, in the 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest'. Our school is indebted to Chairperson ma'am for providing us with this incredible platform to showcase our talent. Through diligence, our students have been able to display their creativity. They have learned to manage time efficiently, while working collaboratively with their peers and mentors to create this newspaper.

During this process, our students have utilised their skills to identify issues and conducted extensive research before expressing their opinions. As a school that offers IB and Cambridge programmes, we believe in providing the students with the agency to express their perspective, and The Global Times is a testament to that philosophy. I would like to express my gratitude to our Chairperson, the GT team, and our school's team of mentors for their unwavering guidance throughout this project.

I hope that this edition of The Global Times will inspire our students to continue to pursue their passions and present their talents to the world. Let us continue to provide them with numerous possibilities to explore and make a difference in the world. Congratulations to the students for this remarkable feat, and I look forward to seeing their accomplishments in the future. [GT](#)



Pic: Nausheen Haque, A2 | Models: Viraj Solanki, IG2 & Agrim Aman Gupta, A1; AGS Noida

## The Thin Line Between Giving Sound Advice And Following It

Vania Sodhbans  
AGS Noida, Alumna

“You should begin your day with some exercise and not by scrolling through social media.” “You should eat a healthy diet and stay fit.” “You shouldn't let anyone's bad behaviour affect your peace of mind.” Oh, how we love to shell out such nuggets of wisdom to anyone who listens, but when it comes to following these ourselves, we often fall short. It has always been easier for us humans to preach than to practice, and even though we believe that we are empaths when we offer our astute insights, the truth is that we are just being hypocrites who fail to abide by the same principles ourselves.

This behavioural trait, that is common between most of us, is not a character flaw that one should worry about. Actually, there is a reason why we are unable to follow our own advice. To find a solution to any prob-

lem, it is necessary to look at it objectively and without prior judgement. But it's not easy to be one's own advisor because we are too close to the problem and our emotions cloud our judgement. Caught in the midst of a distressing situation, we begin to huff and puff, and lose track of what is rational. On the other hand, as a friend or a well-wisher, we can see the situation more clearly because we are not personally affected by the outcome of the decision. Psychologists believe that this difference in behaviour is caused by what is known as 'a fundamental attribution error'. When we decide to do something, we believe our actions have been guided by our circumstances, but we judge other people's behaviour as a result of the quirks in their nature. For example, if we overeat during a party, we excuse this as being gracious to the host, while we might think of someone else doing the same as being obnoxious or lacking self-control. Or when we are late

for an appointment, we blame the delay on traffic, but someone else is just plain undisciplined. And what is the advice we give then? “Next time, you must set an alarm to be on time!” Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

We are also often in denial of what we know works best for us because we are afraid of changing the pattern in which we live. It is not easy to step out of our comfort zone, so we conform to our surroundings instead of finding new solutions through self-reflection. Thus, even if a college outside our hometown is better for us, we avoid leaving the familiarity of home. For a friend, however, we might have searched all the best reasons of why one must take up this challenge without any self-doubt.

All this can be changed though. It only requires a lot of self-introspection and mindfulness. It begins with keeping promises to yourself and never giving up on them. Your voice matters, so next time use it to do some good for yourself first. [GT](#)

## Get set, go!

So, here we are, ready to take off with our contest edition – our first journey from being apprehensive to being confident, from being confused to having clarity and more. What a jubilant journey it has been! Our sincere gratitude to honourable Chairperson ma'am for exposing us to the world of journalism and letting us dive into it to hone creativity. I am also extremely grateful to our respected principal,

Jayshree Kad; our coordinators, Dr Dipanwita Bhat-tacharya and Dr Puneeta Sarin, for their constant guidance and support; and all the colleagues, especially Ruchita Singh, who helped us throughout.

Being a part of this expedition as a GT coordinator and seeing this team work so hard was truly a delightful view. The editorial board was arduous throughout to put forth their best and created the most interesting yet informative edition. Their en-



Dr Kanchan Jain  
GT Coordinator

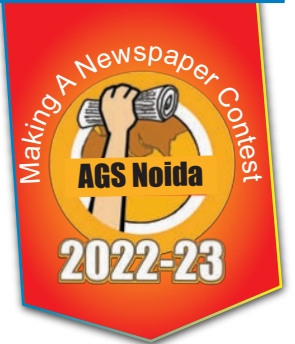
thusiasm was sky-high during the brainstorming sessions; every piece has been designed magnificently with the purpose of making this edition win.

Working on this edition was a journey full of challenges; from time constraints to last minute editing, from brainstorming to illustration sessions, yet with all our efforts and enthusiasm, we managed to push through. And now I hope our artistic benefaction is enjoyed by each one of you!



# On the banking grind!

From a help desk executive, an asset manager to a relationship manager or even a branch manager, the seemingly small yet vastly varying world of the banking sector holds various opportunities in it that are bound to give you a fascinating career. Interested? Keep reading on as *Suyog Goel, Alumnus & Nausheen Haque, A2, AGS Noida*, provide you with info you can definitely bank on.



Deepak Jaiswal

**Journey:** Starting my career with HDFC Bank, I gained knowledge in different areas – operations, sales, audit, customer service and portfolio management. After five+ years, I moved to ICICI Bank in wealth management and alternate investment fund, and two and a half years later, I moved to Axis Bank, where I now serve customers under the high-net-worth individual category.

**Qualifications:** In order to get the exposure to mutual funds, you need to qualify the National Institute of Securities Markets examination, which needs to be renewed after three years. For life insurance advising, one must clear the IRDA exam; this certificate is valid for two years. For the post, I would personally recommend pur-

## Meet the expert

Deepak Jaiswal is a senior mutual funds relationship manager at Axis Bank. Having managed over 300 client portfolios, he is a passionate banker with a strong vision for customer relations.

suing MBA in finance as well as keeping the required technical skills handy to gain a higher chance of becoming a senior manager.

**Responsibilities:** Advising our customers on good funds based on keeping recent

knowledge on interest rates, GDP, the global economy, and more is the primary task. We have the custody of the client's money, and between the stock market timings, we must convey to our client the necessary information for better prospects in the Indian as well as the global markets.

**Challenges:** Keeping up with every customer's needs can be tiring and saturating. Moreover, to gain leverage against our competitors, we need to constantly update them with profitable opportunities and accurate predictions.

**Rewards:** As a senior mutual funds relationship manager, I'm making about 1,00,000 INR per month, with increments on a quarterly basis. Personally, I love to make new clients and meet new people every day.



Anubha Prakash

## Meet the expert

Working as deputy manager in Axis Bank, Anubha Prakash is well-versed in taking care of branch operations section and attending walk-in customers.

nance, sales, accounts, and ledgers is also highly encouraged.

**Responsibilities:** As a help desk executive, you are the first point of contact for the customers, so you will probably have to manage services such as money transfers, fixed deposits, updating mobile numbers, address change, resolving customer problems, etc.

**Challenges:** Tasks like sales, taking customer calls, and pitching products are quite difficult to manage in the beginning, until you give it time and practice. For there would definitely come a day when you will excel in it all if you don't give up and take things one day at a time.

**Rewards:** Initially, your salary can start off with 18,000 INR per month, but every year a rating criterion is followed depending upon the business you have produced and other factors which can allow for you to receive bonuses and increments. So, remember to be patient.

**Journey:** I started off as an assistant manager with the task of being a customer relationship officer at the bank. Since then, I've managed to progress towards becoming a deputy manager at Axis Bank.

**Qualifications:** There are no prerequisites; you can join directly after completing your graduation. However, Axis Bank has a programme called ABYB where I went through a nine-month classroom training, so that's a must. Knowledge regarding fi-

**Journey:** I started my career with HDFC Insurance, then worked with a manufacturing company, and later shifted to the banking sector in 2012. Then I worked with HDFC Bank again and later shifted to Axis Bank.

**Qualifications:** You should be equipped with the required marketing knowledge. Also, there are two certificates that you need – NISM and SP. It is also important for you to possess good networking and communication skills and appropriate responsive behaviour.

**Responsibilities:** Your main responsibility is to interact with customers and resolve their complaints. A company relies on you to outperform its competitors and maintain the company's positive image.

**Challenges:** It can be frustrating and mentally demanding to maintain a posi-



Mohit Jain

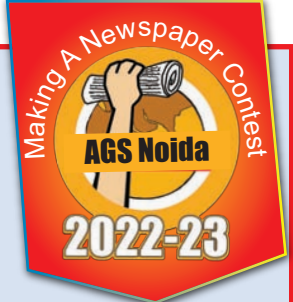
## Meet the expert

Working currently as a priority relationship manager at Axis Bank, Mohit Jain has around ten years of experience in the field, with his work ethic and ambition being as omnipresent and excellent as ever.

tive relationship with customers when they get aggressive with their demands, which is why a short-tempered person might not be a good fit for the job.

**Rewards:** Because the main priority of the job has more to do with the customer base, the working hours are as flexible as it gets. You can also earn up to 22,00,000 INR per annum, so there is a high-paying factor that can be achieved regardless of your experience.





# The price of peace

Rohan Ramkumar  
AGS Noida, A2

The sight of my home being disassembled like tumbling blocks flashed in front of my eyes, yet I couldn't bring myself to action. I was unable to feel anything at all, so all I could do was watch as the debris build up gradually. Even the towering trees that once stood adjacent to my house had now fallen, and the glass from the window had definitely seen better days. Before the earthquake had struck, I remembered sitting next to the same window, playing UNO with my sister. I held her hand as we laughed together, but I couldn't find the same hand now, no matter how hard I looked. We used to spend so much time together that even a single moment without her seemed like eternity. They told me that my entire family was probably dead. "No, it can't be!" I cried. But my heart already knew that this was my new reality. Many years have passed since that day. I was now living with a kind family in a town where everything was serene, and everyone was kind and gentle with each other.

**They told me that my entire family was probably dead. "No, it can't be!" I cried. But my heart already knew that this was my new reality.**

People didn't do any such work here, but there was always plenty of things to eat and drink and there were people around to be with. White clouds always floated by, and pretty birds would sing melodious tunes. Everyone tried to push me to play with the other kids, but I was too gloomy for them. I had no one by my side; I lived with the memories I had left behind. Every time I would enjoy a warm meal, my mind would flash back to that terrible day, and I would feel guilty. I didn't know which town it was, but I sure had a good life. My little sister, too, deserved to live and enjoy the wonders of life. She deserved to go to school, make friends, and be happy. Too lost in such thoughts, I did not notice that someone had entered the room, not until they loudly cleared their throat. I looked up to see the elderly lady I had been living with.

"I have some good news for you," she said with a genuine smile. "You don't know this, but we have been in touch with the authorities ever since the accident. It was hard for them to determine how many people were still alive, but they were finally able to trace your sister." "Wh-What? What did you say?" I stood up in an instant. "Your sister is still alive." She gave way to the little girl standing behind

her. Her smile was just like mine, and I knew in an instant that she was my sister. As I was moving towards her, I was scared to think it was a dream that would pass me by in a second's mistake. I could see my sister right in front of me standing with a smile. But I still couldn't touch her, hold her, or talk with her. She seemed

quiet yet happy as she played with the toys on her little bed. I smiled down at her from heaven, now realising that my sister had lived, even if I hadn't. And I was finally at peace.

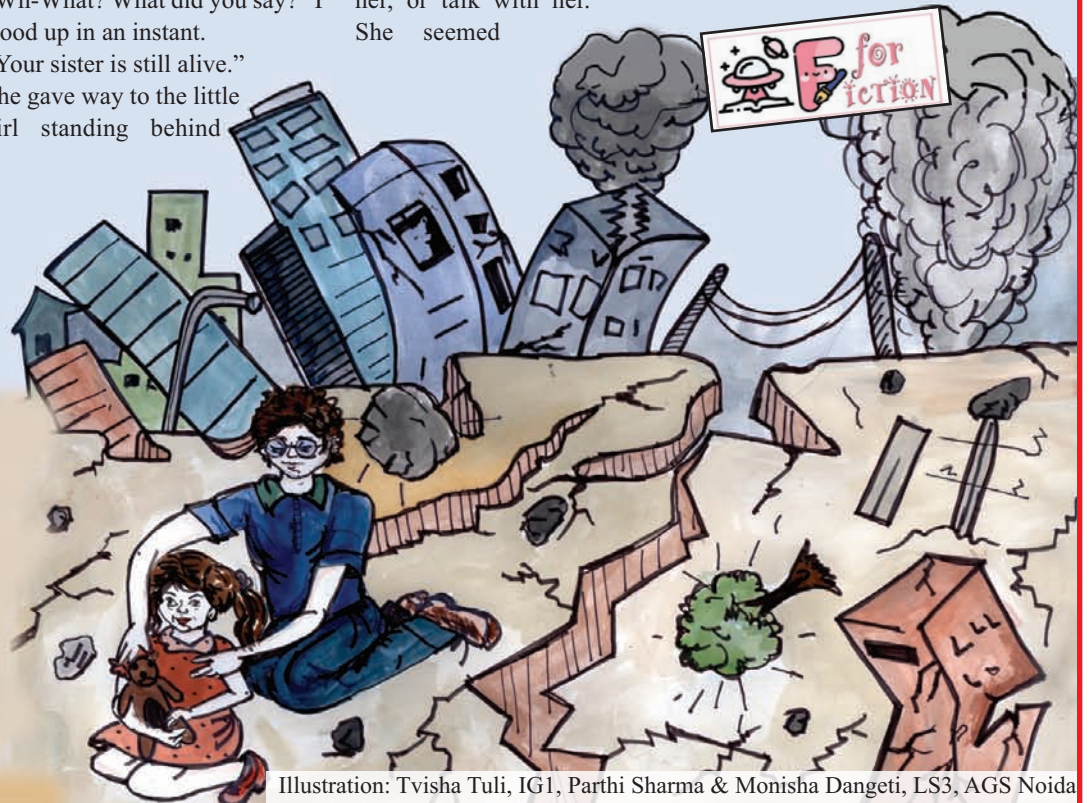


Illustration: Tvisha Tuli, IG1, Parthi Sharma & Monisha Dangeti, LS3, AGS Noida

## I MISS YOU

Ipsita Limi, AGS Noida, Alumna

My agile fingers deftly slither  
Through the silk of the paper  
Staring over the wood I rest  
As I mistakenly stain it with ink

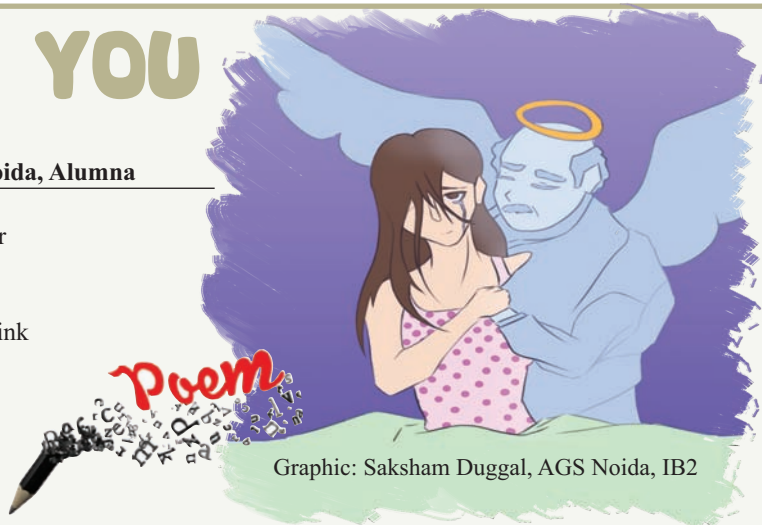
Your fragile laugh escapes  
And pervades like vapour  
It has me wrapped around  
As though a ring to a limb

I recall how you used to state  
"My girl, sit as expected of you"  
Sitting at our favourite restaurant  
In colony number twenty two

From a plastic fork to your hands  
And all other stains on your vest  
To finding fault with your hair  
Always looking like a huge nest

From dancing to our special song  
In the hallway with two left feet  
To singing your special song now  
As I am alone on the dark streets

From drawing you back then  
To dolefully drawing you now  
This vacant house is reminiscent of  
When you were always around!



Graphic: Saksham Duggal, AGS Noida, IB2

## Read Play and Win 23

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 "_____ whose oratory skills have made her a household name."	Q.2 Which school prepared this Contest Edition?	Q.3 The best time to visit Khajjiar is _____.
Q.4 Name the three personalities interviewed for Career Watch.	Q.5 'A particulate discovery' talks about which scientist?	Q.6 Which page consists of the article 'Empath or hypocrite'?
Q.7 Who is the founder of the Beejom Farms, a home for abandoned animals?	Q.8 How much revenue loss is Blinkit set to register for the first quarter of FY24?	Q.9 Who wrote the article 'Catching coffee'?

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

Results of Read Play & Win-22 : Aahana Singhal, AIS Noida, VIII A; Jigisha Goyal, AIS Gur 46, VIII D; Aaradhya Chauhan, AIS VYC, IX A



## Decoding The Gig Workers' Battle To Deliver Change In The Blink Of An Eye

Adhiraj Chaudhary, IG1  
& Viraj Solanki, IG2, AGS Noida

Do you prefer ordering groceries online and having them delivered at your doorstep within minutes instead of going to a nearby grocery store? If the answer is yes, and if you happen to live in Delhi-NCR, we have some news for you!

### The drama

"Temporarily unavailable" - that's how Blinkit has responded in the past few days to those in and around Delhi trying to place an order through this app. If not that, the amount of time to deliver the goods was longer than usual. Well, the drama had everything to do with a strike led by Blinkit's delivery executives against the company's new payout structure. Delivery partners would now get 15 INR per delivery instead of the previous 25 INR that included both delivery and fuel incentives. In fact, the latter amount was also a reduction from the original 50 INR per delivery of last year. To further exacerbate the issue, Blinkit pulled the shutters down on nearly 100 dark stores (retail distribution outlets catering exclusively to online shopping, owned by Blinkit in this case) in Delhi-NCR.

### The leading cast

As a consequence, delivery workers are witnessing a significant drop in their earnings - from 1,200 INR per day earlier to 600-700 INR now. This shows that e-commerce companies view them as mere cogs in a wheel and not as an integral part of the ecosystem. Though the majority of these

companies claim that their delivery partners earn around 15,000-20,000 INR per month, the figures are almost always based on a rough calculation that they work for nearly 14-16 hours a day every month. Yet to claim that Blinkit hasn't suffered in the process would be erroneous too. The e-commerce brand is set to register a consolidated revenue loss of around 0.15% for the first quarter of FY24, which may seem like a small number, but actually isn't.

### The thought

Such agitations are not new to the Indian terrain. Food delivery giant Swiggy's delivery partners had staged a similar protest in 2020 to ask for better wages and more transparent incentive policies. Zomato, too, faced a similar strike in 2019, all over slashed payouts. Overseas, Amazon had faced

warehouse workers' strike against low pay and poor working conditions in 2008.

### The plot

Life of a delivery agent is filled with dangers. Long working hours that may extend up to 20 hours, road accidents owing to the need to make superfast deliveries and avoid penalties for late delivery, no minimum guarantee pay for hours logged in, a nonstop chase for incentives, minimal to no fuel allowance...they face it all! Anuj, a Delhi-based delivery boy with Zomato, had met with an accident due to rash driving in 2012 when he was on his way to deliver a pizza on time. We, as customers, often react aggressively when a delivery is late, but it's time we, too, do some soul-searching about our treatment of gig workers.

### The melody

It would also be unfair to pin this on a company's lack of

compassion alone for its workers. Business means making profits and that's fair! There was an economic rationale behind the Blinkit's recent payout structure as well; as per The Indian Express, Blinkit claimed to have suffered a loss of 288 crore INR in its first quarterly report (Q3FY23) after being acquired by Zomato. The new payout structure would help Zomato control costs, reason being that with the expansion of the delivery area of Blinkit's remaining dark stores, the company would be able to improve its service coverage with almost negligible capital spending. They won't have to bear the cost of building new stores, since the existent ones would already cover most of the terrains. Also, since the new pay came with a significant reduction in the delivery radius of the riders because of set time slots, they would be able to make more deliveries in the same amount of time.

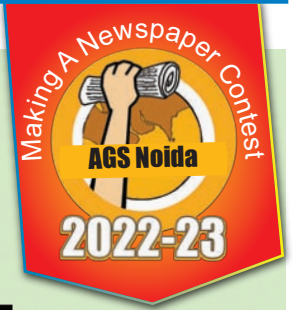
### The spectacle

One person's loss is another's gain. The strike has acted as a boon for rival e-commerce companies. BigBasket has witnessed a 46% rise in its daily orders in Delhi and 61% in both Gurugram and Noida. Nexus Venture Partners backed Zepto and Swiggy's Instamart made the most of the situation as daily orders for both surged by a whopping 25% to 50%, with the former having to hire over 500 delivery personnel in Delhi-NCR to tackle the increase in demand. Over 1,000 riders at Blinkit have quit the job, only to join hands with the delivery giant's adversaries in the market.

At the end of the day, customers care about their needs being met and quickly, no matter who is at their service!



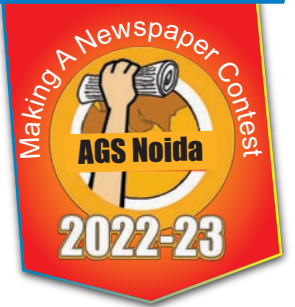
# Temporarily UNAVAILABLE





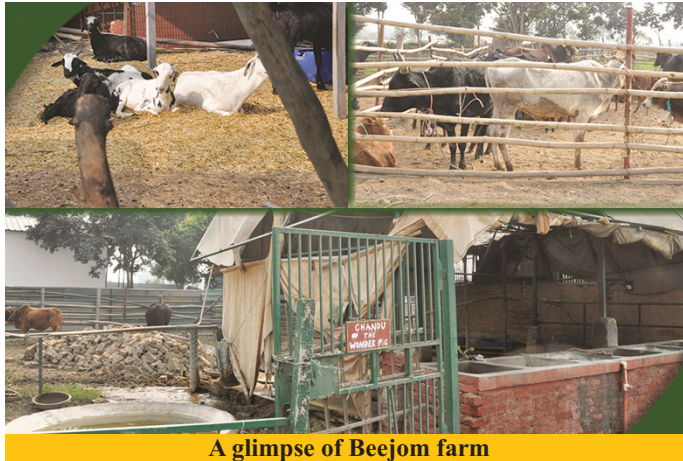
# Living the organic way

## Beejom Farm, Where Extensive Animal Care Meets Natural Cultivation



**Harshita Anand, Ishanya Jain & Siddhesh Abhijit Kotnis**  
AGS Noida, Alumni

The animal lover in you will be truly pleased when you visit Beejom farm, an animal sanctuary and agricultural farm positioned in Noida. Since last eight years, Beejom has been home to numerous animals who have been abandoned or left to their fate. Its founder, Aparna Rajagopal, as such serves as a huge inspiration for all of us. Here's what inspired her...



A glimpse of Beejom farm

Pics: Harshita Anand, AGS Noida, Alumna



GT reporters at the farm

us organise the Beejom *Jaivik Krishi Upaj Mandi*, the Beejom Sunday Brunch, Farmers Market, and other educational tours."

### Branch growth

With proper care, branches shoot outwards, providing support to the tree. Beejom, in like manner, has brought many associated causes into their fold. "Beejom *Strijan* is a collective of women farmers we have helped become entrepreneurs; Beejom *Shiksha* is an initiative to educate underprivileged kids; and Beejom *Aarogya* is a bi-weekly clinic for farmer families."

### Fruits of labour

"We produce 1000 kgs of dung which is used to make pots and *diyās* under our programme 'Dung Ho'. We also make dung logs, *gobar khaad*, and *ghan jivamrit*. We grow most of the fruits and veggies organically under our initiative *Khet Se Pet Tak*. All that now remains is raising a seed farm to take our wins to the next level," she added before signing off.

### Germination

"The idea came to us by accident," says Rajagopal, "we had rescued a horse and needed some land to raise it. Upon renting 15 acres of land from a farmer, we decided to build a farm of our own from scratch. It was tough at first; many warned us of the difficulties we might face. But we didn't give up

### Sprouting

Each and every seed faces a lot of pressure during germination. Likewise, "raising funds for the farm was a big challenge for us. People from nearby villages would often laugh at our failure to do so. But that's when I realised we needed a finer financial planning. Building a relationship with people who

### Seedling

Once a seed has germinated, the root grows down into the soil and begins to anchor the plant. As such, "the whole operation requires a lot of organisation and planning. We have different groups of people who perform their own set of duties. Apart from this, we also work on the growth of indi-

### Plant growth

A good yield can only be achieved if the plant is strong, and for that, a good support system is required. Rajagopal has fostered this farm "passionately with help from friends and family. The farmers, our employees, and the locals at the farm help us take care of the animals. Their contribution helps



Don't just dream, bring it to life on a canvas



Don't chase perfection, strive for progress



Don't just win, dominate like the EB of AGS Noida



Don't stress, learn more to be the best



Don't hold back, make it work

For more pictures, log on to [www.facebook.com/theglobaltimesnewspaper](http://www.facebook.com/theglobaltimesnewspaper) or [www.instagram.com/the\\_global\\_times](http://www.instagram.com/the_global_times)



# Climate champs

## Amity Wins Big At The Climate Champion Challenge

The Global Times

Samaya Chauhan from AIS Pushp Vihar and Sanjana Chauhan from AIS Noida won the Silver Award globally, along with six other teenage reporters, in the Climate Champion Profiles Challenge, a global story telling competition, held in March 2023. A story submitted by Sparsh Sahni from AIS Gur 46 also made it to the top 11 stories that got shortlisted from entries sent in by six countries. The opportunity to participate in the prestigious global challenge was extended by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, to nurture environmentally aware journalists under the aegis of The Global Times.

The Climate Champion Profiles Challenge is part of The Writing's on the Wall project (WoW) in co-operation with News Decoder and The Climate Academy. The project aims to help student journalists in their climate change reporting. Teenagers from across the world were invited to profile a 'Climate Champion', someone who had created an impact through 'moving the needle' with one or more projects to save the planet. As part of the competition, 40 entries got shortlisted from 14 countries, namely Belgium, Bulgaria, Ethio-



Samaya Chauhan (L) and Sanjana Chauhan (R)

pia, Georgia, Hungary, India, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Korea, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Slovenia, and the United States. These were assessed by a twelve-member international jury of environmental experts. All entries were written and submitted by authors aged 14-19, and the challenge was supported by the European Commission, as part of its Erasmus+ program, and also, by The New Earth Foundation. Samaya Chauhan won the award for profiling Ved Krishna, founder of YashPakka, who has created a worldwide business in biodegradable cutlery and packaging made out of sugarcane harvesting waste. Sanjana Chauhan was awarded for highlighting the efforts of Sushil

Vaishnav, founder of Ecoil, in transforming used cooking oil into biodiesel. The story written by Sparsh Sahni showcased the environmental conservation efforts and initiatives led by Avani Mohan Singh, executive director, Haritika, and a pioneer in water management and restoration in Madhya Pradesh.

"Our judges saw extensive merit in all these top stories, each with a different emphasis," said Dr Aralynn McMane, executive director, Global Youth & News Media. "The entries were both inspiring and impressive," said Marcy Burstiner, director, News Decoder Education News, who also served as one of the judges for the competition. [G T](#)



Ms Pooja Chauhan presents medals to the winners

## Sporting spirit

AGS Noida

School organised its Sports Day on February 24, 2023, wherein students got the chance to showcase their sporting talent through numerous events. The programme, graced by Ms Pooja Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Humanity Foundation, and other dignitaries of Amity Universe, began with an opening address by school principal Jayashree Kad, wherein she motivated the young athletes to develop good sportsmanship in life. This was followed by a march past by the learners and an

oath-taking ceremony led by head girl Harshita Anand.

Learners of Grades LS1-IBDP1 performed yoga asanas and exercises on rhythm, while the pre-primary and primary learners presented a fitness drill. Learners of middle and senior wing also presented karate stances. Various other events like hockey race, run-balance-run race, 100-metre dash for boys and girls, long jump, shot put, discus throw, etc., were conducted for all the learners. The 100-metre race, in fact, saw participation from parents as well. All the winners were given medals towards the end.



Karate performance by middle and senior wing students

## New-age parenting workshop

ACERT

Moksh Gauri & Deetya Gambhir, AIS PV, XII D

For enhancement and wellbeing of children, it is imperative that parents attend workshops and programmes to understand modern-day parenting techniques. Hence, a workshop on 'New-age parenting', facilitated by Amity Centre For Educational Research and Training (ACERT), under the exemplary guidance of Sapna Chauhan Batra, Chairperson, ACERT, Amiown, ADAC, was con-

ducted on April 15, 2023, in AIS Pushp Vihar. The enlightening workshop was conducted by Dr Anupam Sibal, a renowned paediatrician, and best-selling author of the book, 'Is Your Child Ready to Face the World?' The aim of the workshop was to familiarise and educate parents about the dynamic parenting styles they should adopt to cope with the changing environment of children. Dr Sibal began by shedding light on the importance of being there for your child. He said, "No matter how professionally or financially sound the parents are, at the end of the day, what children really

need is that their parents should be by their side". During the session, he explained the importance of endowing a child with the virtues of humility, gratitude, and optimism. "The P-bug, or the perfection bug, has taken over our lives. And in our pursuit of perfection, we push our children to their limits. We make so many changes in our lives that we forget that a perfect life doesn't really exist. Therefore, we should adopt the Japanese philosophy of 'wabi-sabi' i.e. finding perfection in the imperfect, where life is supposed to be perfectly imperfect," he said, allud-

ing to the importance of flexible and spontaneous parental communication to understand the interests of the children. The workshop also included a Q&A round, wherein he answered questions regarding the myriad ways of 'healthy parenting', all raised by the parents and the GT Press. The questions ranged from conflicting parenting styles and sibling relationships to disciplined parenting and the power of saying no. The session ended with each participant receiving a signed copy of his book. Overall, the workshop turned out to be very fruitful for the parents. [G T](#)



Dr Anupam Sibal at the workshop

Pic: Yashika Gehlaut, XII C & Dhruv Gupta, XII B, AIS PV



# Catching coffee

## When The Greatest Beverage Of All Time Goes Missing In Action

Ida Pant, AGS Noida, IG2

With the tension at the police station being palpable, everyone sat with stern faces, yet not knowing a single way of soothing the pain. A man took his seat at the corner bench, his phone marking another fine line on his forehead with every notification. Knowing it was the investors driving him crazy, he switched the device off, and got up from his seat as soon as he saw an inspector waddle in. “Officer, you have to help me! He’s nowhere to be found!” The man cried. “And I cannot do without him. My company, Starsucks, cannot work without Coffee.”

“Calm down. Have a seat and tell me what happened,” said the officer who was now all ears for it. “I cannot find my business partner Coffee. We...we discussed the launch of our new latte series yesterday, but... he didn’t show up at the office today and wasn’t even at home. I know something bad happened to him and I blame that Coffee hater.” The man turned angrily and pointed towards a woman sitting on a nearby bench. The woman rolled her eyes and approached them. “Cut the theatrics. Your company, Coffee, and your acting are all the same – they suck.”

“You see, officer? This Chaiyoz

hates Coffee and she had him kidnapped. Every time Coffee and I release something new, she tries to steal my ideas, and now she has stolen Coffee. That’s just treacherous, officer.”

Chaiyoz rolled her eyes again. “You think I would kidnap your terrible Coffee? Oh please!”

“Terrible Coffee?” Starsucks sounded offended. “Do you know that over one billion people in the world drink coffee every single day, and an

average of 2.25 billion coffee cups are consumed worldwide on a daily basis?”

“That is true,” another police officer standing nearby jumped into the conversation. “I love Coffee. Did you say he is missing? Lord, what will I drink in the morning now to wake myself up?”

“You see,” Starsucks cheered triumphantly. “Coffee is the very foundation of this world, and we cannot live without it. You felt jealous of my piling customers and had Coffee kidnapped.”

“Your customers? Oh, you mean those pretentious teenagers who drag their parents to your café just

to click Instagram worthy photos of their misspelled names on your ugly cups? And why am I the only one called here? There are plenty of people who hate Coffee. In fact, why don’t you go and ask the parents of these teenagers?”

“Silence, please. This isn’t Peppublic TV, so let’s maintain the decorum,” called the police officer.

“Officer,” Chaiyoz started, “I am sure the family members of Coffee addicts are the ones behind this ‘kidnapping’. And let’s not forget why Coffee is so hated. It can cause headache, insomnia, nervousness, anxiety, muscle tremors, etc. Who wouldn’t want to do away with it?”

“Enough!” came a voice from the gate. The door swung open, and light beamed from the doors, forcing everyone to squint their eyes. As the dazzle departed, everyone gasped. “Co-Coffee?” uttered Starsucks.

“I have had enough. The one time I take a break after centuries, and the whole world comes crashing down. Love me or hate me, but you cannot stop talking about me. Ugh, I can’t even catch a break!” Coffee called. “But it is all sorted now; I am back. So sorry to have bothered you with all this, officer. Come on, Starsucks and Chaiyoz, let’s go home and I’ll treat you both with caffeine.”

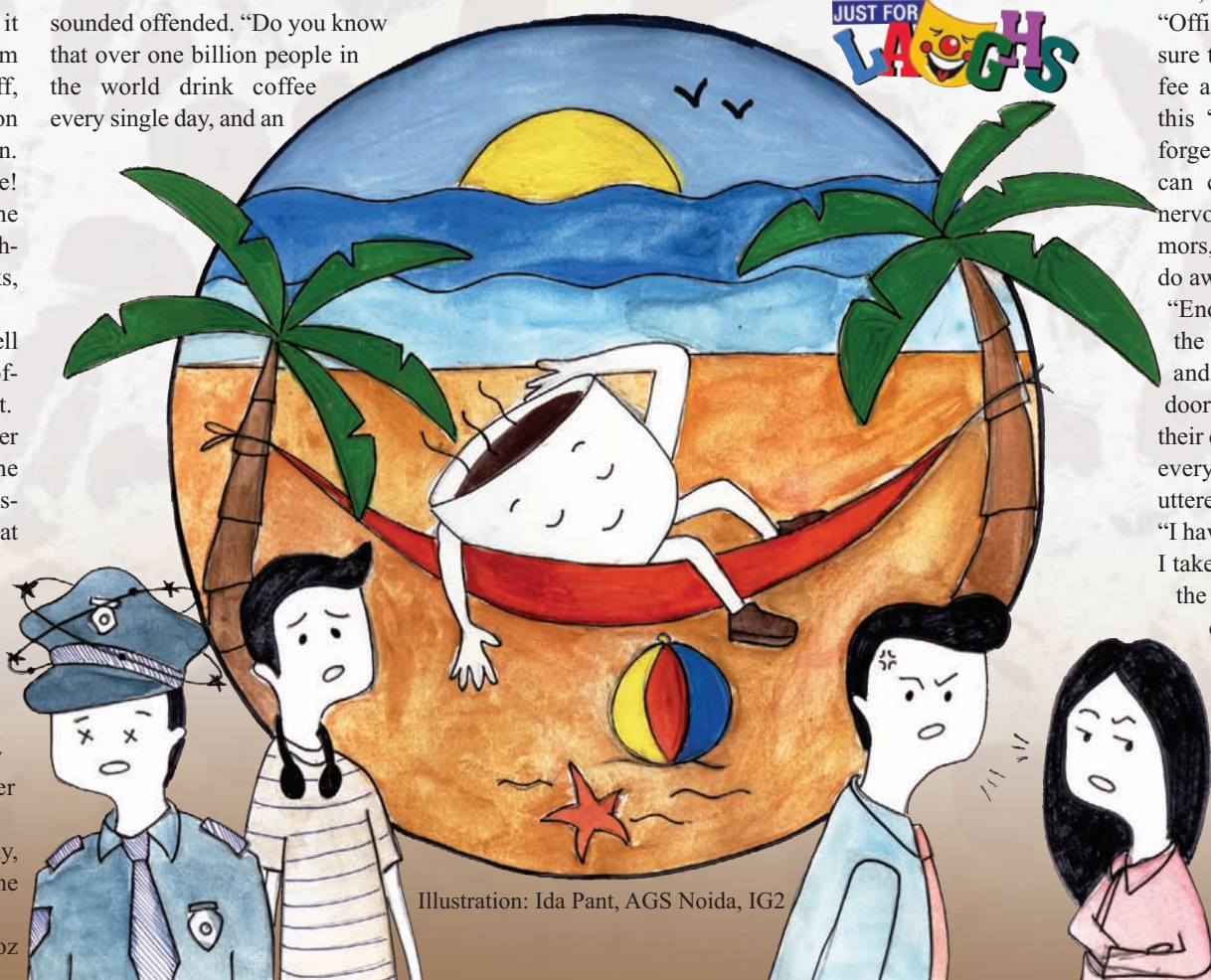


Illustration: Ida Pant, AGS Noida, IG2

In spotlight



Editor-in-chief: Harshita Anand



The team of AGS Noida testifies how teamwork can truly make the dream work