

### Warriors of India, P7



### **POLL RESULT** for GT issue May 2, 2022

**Do you think government** should direct their attention towards promoting agri-startups in order to help implement climate-smart agricultural practices in rural India?



Arpita Chakraborty, GT Network

eported: President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo announced a ban on export of palm oil. Proposed L as a ban initially on both crude and refined oil, the move was later revised to a blanket ban on crude, refined, as well as its derivatives. The news sent the entire world in a tizzy, including ten-year-old Arsh who had a slew of questions. Thankfully, GT had answers.

### Why did the government ban palm oil export? Was it unprofitable?

Of course not! In fact, palm oil export amounts to 8-10% of total export earnings for Indonesia and has strengthened the forex reserves of the country. The price of Indonesian crude palm oil has gone from 545 USD in April 2020 to 1700 USD in April 2022. Now that's a lot of money and a lot of profit.

And yet the government chose to ban its export? Why? For the welfare of its own people. If you can sell your pencil for 5 INR in your school and 20 INR outside your school, where will you sell it? Outside, obviously. Palm oil producers in Indonesia were doing the same thing. They were selling palm oil in the global market at the highest price possible, resulting in local shortage and inuse of palm oil or its derivatives. Since this oil is resistant to oxidation, it can remain stable at even higher temperatures, making it an ideal ingredient for various products.

But why is the entire world worried? Isn't this a prob*lem of a few countries?* 

Indonesia is the world's largest supplier of palm oil, so the entire global market will face a shortage of the commodity. The ban will remove palm oil supply amounting to 2 million tonnes from the global market every month, ie, 50% of global monthly trade volume. This will lead to a rise in substitution demand of other oils, consecutively resulting in an overall price rise of edible oils, which have already gone up by 25% in the past year.

The pricing situation prior to the ban was bad anyway, courtesy – Ukraine Russia war. Both the countries were prime exporters of sunflower oil. Now, the war has halted exports, leaving countries to look for other alternatives. Add to it, soybean production is estimated to be lower this year at 350.72 mt against 367.76 mt last year. Dry weather in South American nations such as Brazil and Argentina has resulted in poor yield. This will impact the supply of soybean oil. So, with supply of sunflower oil and soybean oil already in a flux, the export ban of palm oil is a reason enough for the world to be worried.

And how will it affect India?



the country importing 8.5 million tonnes of palm oil every year. 45% of this import (four million tonnes approx) comes from Indonesia. Palm oil prices in India have already been on an upswing by 20% as compared to other edible oils. The spike has been particularly higher for premium oils as sesame, groundnut and sunflower oil. Given the existing surge in prices of edible oils, this is likely to make matters worse. India's import bill for vegetable oil jumped by 63% in 2020-21, and is expected to go up further this year, owing to spike in prices globally. Other than the price of edible oils, this will also push the prices of various essential commodities. So, it barely comes as a surprise that the announcement of the ban has sent shockwaves across the country, resulting in a 6%drop in the shares of FMCG products.



**Coming Next** 

See you after summer break.

Happy vacations!

flation. This hike created a black market, pushing the price as high as 14,000 rupiahs per litre. The government introduced various measures to control the situation but they didn't help. So, perhaps a blanket ban on exports was their last choice.

Ok. But what's the fuss about palm oil when there are so many other edible oils out there? Palm oil isn't just a cooking oil. Its derivatives are used in detergents,



### So, should I be worried?

Well, not as of now. Experts say that the ban is a shortterm measure and is likely to be lifted soon. Indonesia produces close to 45 million tonnes of palm oil and consumes only 40% of it, ie, somewhat close to 17 million tonnes. Extending the ban for a longer period will overwhelm the storage systems of the country. Besides, the Indonesian government too has said that it will revoke the ban once the prices of domestic cooking oil in the country come down by 30%. G

# **Changing conversations**

### Jefferson Awardee Pete In Conversation With GT



surface level 66 change always Let starts with a programme. To convert it into a moderate change, progressive implementation and evaluation of a policy is necessary. And to finally have a narrative or discursive change, we need to start a conversation; there has to be people sharing stories," says Pete Freeman, an innovation fellow at enFocus Inc., recipient of Jefferson Health Ghana. In a virtual tête-à-tête with GT, he talks about the importance of change for global health and sustainability.

We

The conversation on public health The public health movement after the pandemic is over will be led by two principles. The first of which will be epistemic equity. This global system will help us understand the different kinds of health, since every place looks at 'health' really differently, which will drive its future endeavours. The second principle at play will be holistic health and well-being. We will move beyond physical health and ailments. There will be incorporation of mental, emotional and psychological health. This will be of particular importance as with the pandemic, people are spending a lot of time inside their homes, which will Award and the president of Youth have different yet related health ramifications that need to be addressed.



**GT reporters in conversation with Pete Freeman** 

community back from there to the US because there is an understanding of ethical, locally-sourced food from local economies in their experience, and we can learn from it. Likewise, I bring with me to Ghana certain statistical tools or ideas about projects, management and public health evidence-based interventions. For this learning process to continue, we must not, however, have a uniform vision, because then we will all lose the unique differences we have. We should instead have different understandings of health and still show up as a global community.

talk but communicate. For when I talk, I am talking from my own perspective of you, but if I'm communicating, I'm thinking first about your beliefs and where you are coming from. Plus, I am not just hearing but also listening. This is a crucial tenant of the listen-first approach and is needed in the social services sector.

### The conversation on learning

Today, a lot of healthcare systems are submerged into the economy, which is why collaborations must be done bring with a listen-first approach. For inyou the bits stance, whenever I visit Ghana, I listhat cannot ten and learn. I bring the ideas of be missed!

The conversation on social services If you want to pursue social services, you must have a willingness to get in good trouble and a willingness to ask questions people don't like to think about. Secondly, you must not just

The conversation on today's youth I'm having a blast watching the youth deconstruct the myth of experience the idea that you don't have a say if you don't have the experience. The energy, enthusiasm and neuroplasticity, all render the youth an advantage to learn not only faster but so much more efficiently. This is allowing leaders of tomorrow to say that we can contribute just as fully as adults, and, it's great to see that our future is in capable hands.

Pete Freeman, president, Youth Health Ghana

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Diamonds are formed naturally with the use of extreme temperatures and pressure that lies beneath the Earth's crust.



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

Around I he

### SWITZERLAND

### More COVID-19 deaths: WHO

According to a new World Health Organization report, almost three times as many people have died in the world due to COVID-19 than what the official data showcases. Around 14.9 million excess deaths were associated with the virus by the end of 2021. As per WHO, these numbers also reflect people who died as an indirect result of the outbreak, including people who could not access healthcare due to financial constraints or when systems were too overwhelmed to provide the basic necessities to the public.

### AFGHANISTAN

No driving license for ladies The Taliban regime has stopped issuing driving licenses to women in Kabul and various other provinces in the country. The ban comes as another blow to women after taking away the right of girl children to study as well as various other civil rights. The country is also struggling with a greater crisis as it now has the highest number of people in emergency food insecurity in the world with more than 23 million in need of assistance and 95% having insufficient food consumption.

# UNITED KINGDOM

### More than one billion EUR for wind farms

According to a report recently released by WindEurope, UK has topped the list of 11 countries in Europe that have invested more than one billion EUR in new wind farms. Europe, overall, spent a cumulative total of around 41 billion EUR on the new wind energy projects in 2021, a number which was still 11% lesser than their investment in 2020. All of UK's investments are aimed to support offshore wind.











### New Guinness world records

Rumeysa Gelgi, the holder of world's tallest woman title and former world's tallest living teenager by Guinness World Records, has now added three new Guinness records to her name – largest finger on a living female (11.2cm), largest hands on a living female (24.93cm), and longest back on a living female (59.90cm). Born in 1997, Gelgi is a lawyer, researcher, and a developer, and her world-record-holding height is a result of a rare genetic condition called Weaver syndrome.



### **VPN to store user data**

As per new orders by the Indian IT Ministry, VPN companies are now required to collect and store users' data for a period of at least five years. Data centres and crypto exchanges are asked to collect and store data for the same duration so that the Computer Emergency Response Team can coordinate response activities and emergency measures related to cyber security. According to the same law, if these demands are not met, the repercussion would be imprisonment of up to a year.



### **New BTS album announced**

The biggest musical act in the world, BTS, has announced a new anthology album titled 'Proof' to be released on June 10. The official tracklist of the album will be released between May 9-11, and a teaser of the lead single 'Yet to Come' will go live on June 8. The album will aim to celebrate the nine years of the group's journey as well as open up a new chapter for their 10th year. The two-time Grammy nominee will include old tracks, remixes, remasters, as well as three new songs in the album.



### **Policy push on quantum tech** The Biden administration in the

country has announced a new policy framework to maintain its 'competitive advantage in quantum information sciences' and to mitigate 'the risks of quantum computers to the nation's cyber, economic and national security' by initiating the process of migrating vulnerable computer systems to quantum-resistant cryptography. The plan also talked of a new structure for the National Quantum Initiative Advisory Committee, placing it directly under the White House to advise the president on emergency technology.





### CHINA

### **Highest weather station built**

The world's highest meteorological station has been erected by a Chinese expedition team on Mount Everest at an altitude of 8,830 metres above the sea level. The set station is said to be powered by solar panels and has a satellite communication system which is used to transfer data. According to CGTN, it has an immense capability to endure two years of adverse weather conditions, and its radio station has been programmed to broadcast every 12 minutes to keep a close check.

News Iraq: 1 person dead and 5000 injured due to severe dust storms in one month Pakistan: Schools urge govt to ban toy guns in schools citing increased violence Belgium: 4 time Grand Slam champion Kim Clijsters all set to close her tennis academy Flash



The majority of natural diamonds come from South Africa, Russia and Canada.



**Education & Enhancement** 

### Pen Or Pencil, Which One's Your Favourite?

#### Angad Gautam, AIS Gur 46, X H

re have all time and again come across the saying that "pen is mightier than the sword", and while it may be the case, the real question is if the inked tool really as strapping as its stationery counterpart, the peerless pencil. Though, having managed to stir the geometry box for eons, the two with their own set of sharp and blunt points have made it just about impossible for the papyrophiliacs out there to reach a conclusion, we would still give the discussion a go and try and settle the centuries old debate once and for all. Who do you think would competently wield the spectre at long last? Read on and know for yourself.

solid at my core. Graphite, anyone? Yes, that solid carbon is what my insides are made of, so back off. Pen: Well, even with my plastic body, I am 100% more attractive than you. And if strength's the criterion, let's talk about my writing tip that has the distinction of being made of brass, an alloy of zinc and copper, known for its strength, appeal, and resistance to corrosion. Talk about being stylish and long lasting, unlike your 'solid core' that keeps breaking at every chance it gets. If anything, you should be sued for making such false claims. **Pencil:** Sued? Well, I am here since the 1790s. Nicholas-Jacques Conte, a and prefer me over you. These scientist serving in the army of so called luxury brands don't Napoleon Bonaparte, is the man behind my invention. Put some respect on my name. Pen (booing): I can only laugh because my forefather, the reed pen, was invented by the Egyptians way back in 3000 BC. So, check for facts before you make such statements and save yourself the embarrassment. Pencil: But that won't change the fact that you don't give people the chance to erase or correct their mistakes. Guess who's winning at life! Pen: Umm... you, for one, deserve to be erased out of existence \*laughs\* **Pencil:** And is that what you call a

facts to trump you, my fame alone is enough. Remember how NASA created a space pen, not pencil, because your weak tips have this weird habit of floating in air without much substance within. Besides, you think you can compete with the countless varieties I come in? Lamy, Montblanc International, Parker, Sheaffer, Waterman - ever heard of these luxury brands that produce me? Well, you wish! **Pencil:** Say what you want but just know that the kids love me matter then! Pen: I am sorry to break it to you but the kids are forced to use you. Geometry box: Oh, stop fighting for God's sake! Chhotte bachhe ho kya? You are both important to me and to the kids, and what is this contest? You think I'll let a stupid contest decide who's the best

when you are both equally im-

portant for me? Stop with this

stupidity and focus on working

together for the greater good of

everyone.

The 2022-23 Stationery Awards in progress...

**Pencil:** I am beyond grateful to be able to receive this huge honour of being the best stationery. For the same, I would like to thank-**Pen (cutting it off):** I don't think you need to thank anyone for an award

that you are clearly robbing me of. What do you have that I don't? **Pencil:** Not the proprietorial pen again, God! Though I am in no way answerable to you, but, for starters, I, unlike you, am a slender tube of



Rake in that review

l am important

wood. Slender is the keyword here! clap back? And that's how the said awards **Pen:** No, that just shows I don't need got scrapped for ever! Plus, in case you don't know, I am

# Exam stress pe charcha Book Review Some Suggestions To Beat The Board Exam Stress Part III

Ashmita Karmakar AIS Noida, IX F

you ask me, "Ashmita, feel burdened by. The stress susinstead. At this rate, I should put when do you feel stressed tains itself in a cycle, it may it as a subject in my schedule just grow and ebb, but it never dies. Lout?" I am most likely to like Math or Hindi. Since stress reply cheekily, "All the time!". Here is how it goes: First, I get wins a larger chunk of my time compared to my main subjects, it stressed about things such as im-You will then say, "Granted, but surely deserves this respect, pending tests, assignments, projwhen are you the 'most' stressed?" I would now reply in ects, etc. Then comes the doesn't it now? interesting part where I divide an Frankly, taking stress is much an honest, serious tone, "The easier than doing the actual times when I feel absolutely zero entire month into stress periods work. While tensing ourselves stress are the times that I am the for each stress task. Finally, I start taking the real stress, which most stressed". There I said it! out, we give ourselves excuses as As a student, I practically drive is about the time that got wasted stressed, the only elixir, the only to why we cannot start the work, myself to take stress. I either feel in stressing out. The month is or why we cannot complete it, 'amrut' is to work hard. GT

like I am not doing enough or that I am taking the task lightly, especially if it is a task I don't

over but the stress cycle is not. I can simply do the work and study, but I decide to take stress

but doing the actual work leaves us with no such choice. It's human nature to choose easy over hard. So, is there a lesson in this? Well, the answer is quite simple. Do not take stress and do the work. If you are 'pariksha'stressed, the solution is to study. If you are ballet-stressed, the remedy is to brisé. If you are basketball-stressed, the cure is to dribble. If you are 'Ctrl-V'stressed, the key is to command 'Ctrl-X'. And if you are work-

**Book:** Hamnet Author: Maggie O'Farrell Published in: 2020 **Genre:** Historical fiction

Synopsis: Set in the late 16th century, the novel follows the life (and death) of Hamnet, the son of William Shakespeare and his wife Agnes, who passed away in 1596 as a victim of the bubonic plague. The writer takes us through the events that took place prior to, during, and after Hamnet's death, and brings to life his story with a non-linear narration where chapters alternate between the past and present. The novel as such is divided into two parts-Part I which is subdivided into chapters and ends with Hamnet's death, and Part II which is written entirely in one flow and begins with the events that take place immediately after Ham- and emotion has been perfected net's death. It can be interpreted that this choice was made by the author to provide a parallel to the unending nature of Agnes's grief. Why is it worth reading: The descriptions are evocative and lyrical which allow the story to

flow as smoothly. Plus, despite

being the father of the novel's

protagonist, Shakespeare is

never referred to by his name,



so as to not draw attention away



from the overwhelming emotion laced throughout. The author has paid utmost attention to detail in an astonishing way. Be it Agnes's childhood, Hamnet's worry about his twin sister Judith who has taken ill, the Bard's job as a Latin tutor before he went on to become a famous playwright, every event to a tee. Go give it a read and see for yourself.

Iconic quote: "What is given may be taken away, at any time. Cruelty and devastation wait for you around corners, inside coffers, behind doors: they can leap out at you at any moment, like a thief or brigand." **Rating: \* \* \* \* \*** 

**Review by: Ishanya Sharma** AIS Gur 43, XII A



Diamond is so strong that the only other mineral that can scratch its surface is another diamond.



Burly bluefin tund

ivers, lakes, and wetlands are indubitably amongst the most biodiverse places on earth, but the diversity that dwells in them is often overlooked. As such, despite being vital for communities, economies, and ecosystems alike, scores of fish species today are heading towards extinction; fisheries that trade in Lethem and provide employment opportunities to millions across the globe are increasingly shuttering down withal. Being mindful of the same, the United Nations has designated 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in order to make us au courant with the catastrophe that awaits these marine miracles and ensure their continuity for the foreseeable future. Aiming to make this vision a reality, GT presents a brand-new series, wherein each segment will either cover an endangered fish species on the verge of extinction or a renowned fishing village in any part of the world in need of immediate human attention.

Aiza Moin, AIS VKC Lko, VIII

Meet me, I am: Bluefin tuna



Why I am in danger

All my three variants are on the red list of the International

My taxonomic name: Thunnus Thynnus I am native to: Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea My life expectancy: Almost 40 years

### About me

■ I am the largest tuna and can grow up to 10 feet long and weigh as much as 1200 pounds. ■ I come in three varieties (species) - Atlantic (the largest and most endangered), Pacific and Southern. ■ I reproduce by the process of broadcast spawning; this increases the chances of my eggs being fertilised and further minimises the risk of being eaten by prey. ■ I am an excellent swimmer. With retractable fins and streamlined bodies, I can swim at a fast pace of up to 50 miles per hour and dive deeper than 3,000 feet. In fact, such is my speed that my kind can cross the ocean within the span of a few weeks. All thanks to my high speed and ability to regulate body temperature, I am capable of making long migrations every year, thus, making epic journeys across the Atlantic.

Other than my speed, I am also known for hunting. Those belonging to my kind are born predators, preying on schools of fish like herring, mackerel, and even eels. The fact that we have the sharpest vision of any bony fish further aids our hunting ability a great deal.

• You can find me in great quantities in the Mediterranean Sea, which makes it the most significant bluefin tuna fishery in the INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE 2022

Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This means I am in grave danger. Many say that this is primarily due to overfishing and illegal fishing. The fact that the Atlantic Bluefin is a highly sought-after delicacy, with a single fish fetching as much as 1.75 million USD, only makes matters worse. All thanks to these high prices, fishermen use refined techniques for fishing, resulting in overfishing. Things became worse for me in 2010, when BP's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico ruined my spawning ground. Scientists say that it killed almost 20% of juvenile tuna in the area. In the western Atlantic, my population dropped by 80% since 1970, whereas the eastern Atlantic saw a dip by 74% between 1957 and 2007. If this continues, I doubt if I will be able to survive.

### How I am being saved

Sure, I make for great seafood, but I am a lot more than that. I am a top predator in the ocean and killing me would disturb the entire marine eco balance. And so, I badly need some kind of legal protection. The Center for Biological Diversity has already filed a petition under the Endangered Species Act to save me. However, it is the consumers who can protect me by choosing to not eat me. International regulators have refused to stick to any kind of quota vis-à-vis my fishing, so my only hope lies with the consumer. So, please stop eating me, else I will soon be making

# **Rising like the phoenix** Phoenix Mind - An Application That Can Help You Deal With Mental Health Issues



IEXANN

### **Pro**(*a*)**Project**

**Innovation:** An app to help with mental health issues Innovator: Harshita Prasad, AIS Noida, X In the spotlight: 1st Prize Winner, Young Scientist India Competition 2021-22

### Stuti Kalra, GT Network

ave you ever felt the need for someone empathetic Land non-judgemental to whom you could just pour your heart out? Or have you ever been in a situation where, even amidst the presence of family and friends, you have felt alone? If the answer to all or even one of the above questions is yes, then GT has some good news for you. Taking cognisance of the mental peers, Harshita Prasad, a Class X student of International Amity School, Noida, developed a technology-based solution for mental health issues - Phoenix Mind, an app to help adolescents maintain a healthy psychological state through non-invasive process utilising AI and computer vision. The app won her the

PERMIT





### The Problem /

Many adolescents, all over the world, face depression, anxiety, and suicidal signs.

### Causes

What are the causes of this problem?

- Age and Hormones
- No one to confide to for problems
- Overburdens by school or family
- Loneliness
- Undetected Onset
- Social Stigma



A slide presentation

computer vision, and machine learning, while also coping with the strain caused by mandatory isolation. The final push came when she read about the suicide of a student, who was forced to take such a devastating step due to bullying in school. She realised that she could use her research to design a solution for mental health problems in adolescents and help them maintain a healthy and happy state of mind. heath issues faced by her Aayog. Competing with more than With the help of online resources integrate CBT (Cognitive Behavand her school mentors thus, Harshita started designing the app in July 2021 and in about nine months, she was ready with a prototype. Her app is designed specifically for adolescents and consists of a virtual buddy who helps them overcome mental issues. This virtual buddy scans and recognises the emotions of the person it is interacting with and gives workable solutions to improve the same. This is, perhaps, the

greatest USP of the app as there are no other products available in the market that do the same in such a non-invasive, personalised manner. Harshita's virtual buddy reads and understands facial expressions with empathy, analyses them without bias, and finally, based on the data collected, engages the teenager in creative and stress-busting activities aimed at instilling a positive mindset. In the future, Harshita plans to ioural Therapy) and DBT (Dialectical Behavioural Therapy) into the app to make it more user-friendly. Well, all success stories are scripted with the help of staunch allies and Harshita, too, gives the full credit of her achievement to her parents, teachers, and Chairperson ma'am for motivating her and giving her unconditional support at all times. She hopes that her innovation will prove to be a game-changer for all her fellow teenagers. GT

The app's user interface

first prize at the 'Young Scientist India Competition 2021-22' (8th Edition), organised by Space Kidz India in collaboration with Niti participants, shortlisted 750 Harshita went through four elimination rounds while presenting her project in front of a jury consisting of thirteen eminent national and international personalities. For this avid reader of sci-fi, metaverse enthusiast, and digital artist, the process of building this pathbreaking app started during the COVID-19 lockdown. Harshita was

researching about futuristic technologies like Artificial Intelligence,



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No two diamonds are ever the same; every diamond has its own unique internal inclusions and colours.



# All about love

# Peace of Mind



One of the most satisfying aspects of my birthday is that get to share personal stories, of inspiration and introspection both, with dear Amitians. This year's celebrations were no different. When I was asked how I have managed to maintain a

work-life balance, given that Amity has grown by leaps and bounds since its inception to become a global institution, the answer came easily to me. I have always believed that it is only the feeling of love that has helped me achieve all my goals. I have lived every moment in a way that, despite any hardship or challenge that life has thrown at me, the love for my family or my work has never diminished one bit. At the same time, I have been fortunate that this love has been returned to me in equal measure. It is this bond - with my family, my surroundings, and my Amitians - that has proved to be my biggest strength and has helped me realise the dream of nurturing responsible global citizens imbued with good human values. This love has also been the foundation for my trying to bring about transformation in the lives of children of Amitasha and Atulasha. This is, perhaps, the time to share an inspiring story that not only validates my belief in the power of love but also strengthens it. Our first president Dr Rajendra Prasad was a well-read intellectual who also had a spiritual bent of mind. During an interaction with a spiritual leader, he enquired why people fail in achieving their life goals despite having all the qualities needed for success, like patience, perseverance and hard work. The priest is said to have replied that perhaps it was love which was missing in their effort. Love, according to this spiritual master, was the greatest virtue of all. We must all surrender to love as it can teach us humility in success and wisdom in failure. So, love yourself and everyone and everything around you, for love has no substitute. It is the very basis of a happy and successful life.

# The Silent Pandemic And Its Not So Silent Health Effects





but also the mental well-being of numerous individuals. As per a report released by WHO (March 2022), the global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by a whopping 25% in the first year of the pandemic alone. This figure includes people of all age groups - active kids, teenagers, working adults, and senior citizens. For being confined inside the four walls for years was definitely not something most people had ever experienced. Though many initially claimed that they would be able to survive through the lockdown, the conviction, however, died with time, making us all realise how important and rejuvenating it is to spend time outside the four walls of the house.

At a point, when people were receiving nothing but depressing news from whoever they conversed to, things became especially hard. For to avoid distressing others, many decided to keep the news to themselves and bottled up their emotions. As a result, the home that's supposed to be one's safe place turned into an overwhelmingly upset-

grew detached. Being lonesome in a time of crisis is the last thing anyone needs, yet this situation was prevalent amongst people, instigating poor mental health. Several reports as such suggested that numerous adults developed sleep disorders, unhealthy dietary habits, higher alcohol consumption or substance use, and aggravating chronic conditions owing to the same.

This isolation also severely harmed the development, social growth, and preexisting mental health conditions (if any) of adolescents and kids. One such

Though irrespective of their ages, children everywhere were faced with disturbed sleep, nightmares, crankiness, agitation, and inattentive behavior. Their inability to attend school and meet their friends for such a long period of time brought them uncertainty and anxiety. This social disruption prompted boredom and lack of creativity as well. Inevitably thus, the panconfinement demic-induced and isolation had a significant psychological impact.

So, the only way this can be resolved

rely on. In this transitional phase thus, we need to give others a shoulder to cry on as well as have one for ourselves. The capability to express grief together aids considerably in overcoming hurdles in life. Furthermore, it deepens the trust in a relationship. For children especially, it is awfully important to be close to at least one person, be it a parent or a sibling. Besides, the atmosphere of the house itself should be blissful and joyous to encourage healthy and sound mental development for all. In matters of utmost grief,

# In vacation mode



When we selected the prompt for this week's edition which asked students to share their happiest summer vacation memory, I took a trip down the memory lane as well. In my childhood, vacation summer every meant a mandatory visit to

our ancestral village. I remember how, as a small kid, I would resist this trip as our village had harsh summers and most of the day had to be spent without electricity. There were no other luxuries such as television or cinema either. As I grew older, I began to look at village life with a better understanding. I soaked in all the new experiences these visits would offer me, like climbing mango trees, playing by the river, and listening to the Ramayana *path* every evening. Now, when I reminisce about those days, I realise how integral these have been in shaping my personality. It is the heat and dust of my village that taught me how to survive in difficult times, and the knowledge of the Ramayana that helped me grow into a better person. I have by now travelled across the world, meet- that became the fastest band since The *itself as a 'soft power' through cultural* the charts as the best-selling manga ing new people and collecting great memories, but the life lessons I have learnt during my summer vacations in the village are still deeply embedded in my mind. This is exactly why this issue's prompt box is so special for me as I got to read so many similar responses. Some have written about the foreign destinations that enchanted them while some have wondered at the marvels of India. For those who have said that they haven't taken a vacation in a while, I urge them to do so this summer. Vacations are a time for rest and renewal, for they give us moments and memories that make us who we are. **G** 

ting one. This increased the communibetween the family cation gap members and soon each one of them

report found out that younger kids displayed more clinginess and fear of being infected than the older ones.

is by strengthening the bonds of the household. For it is of paramount importance for people to have others to

the right thing to do thus is to mourn together instead in isolation, to remain united throughout the crisis!

# **Transcending barriers** The Democratisation Of The World Of Art & Music

**Shayori Dey AIS Pushp Vihar, XII** 

s the promulgator of pluralism and cross-cultural consumption artistic practices and products, globalisation predominantly embodies constant exchanges that establish interconnectivity on a global scale. However, until a few years ago, this exchange of art and music was a oneway street, by and large hegemonised by the Western behemoths, with Asians acting the part of consumers. The 90s happened to have subverted this order, enabling cultural flows in both directions. What retooled you ask? All things Asian scaled the walls! From waltzing in the world with Seo Taiji and Boys in 1992, or bedazzling it with Psy's Gangnam Style in 2012 (which, make no mistake, ruled the music charts of over 30 countries and was YouTube's most viewed video for over five years), to reaching staggering heights of global domination with BTS Beatles in 50 years to have four US numero uno albums, smashing every record that there is; K-pop made South Korea the world's sixth largest music market worldwide. The upturn's such that the budget for a single K-pop video today amounts to about 1 million USD, while that for western pop promos is plummeting even as we speak. Things have been mushrooming on the movie front, too, as Swiri (1999), The Man from Nowhere (2010), or the more recent Palme d'Or winner Parasite (2019)



GT Mail **Issue: Page 5, May 2, 2022** 

### Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'The cursed beauty' published on page 5 of the GT edition dated May 2, 2022. This article has been presented in a very captivating way, wherein the diamond 'Koh-i-Noor' speaks about its story all by itself. The story of its notso-happy journey makes the article absorbing and fascinating. Koh-i-Noor's bloodshed history, as a beautiful thing that met a fate as gruesome as it gets, somewhere portrays the sad truth of the world. However, even if the diamond resides in the crown of the Queen of England now, the anticipated day may not be far when it returns to its homeland, India. Thank you Global Times for helping us remember what is ours, no matter where it resides. Mishel Agrawal AIS Vasundhara 6, IXA

enthrall audiences worldwide. Thus, having gathered enough heft over the years, Hallyu or Korean wave has the world swooning (89 million fans and counting) and contributing 12.3 billion USD to the South Korean economy. Fun fact - Korea has a Ministry of

Culture, with a budget of over 5.5 billion USD, to boost its economy and establish export of K-pop, mass entertainment, fashion, etc., amongst other things.

Likewise, Japan's manga (comic books), and anime (animation) that have been around since the first half of 20th century, have held up tremendously progressive models, with their popularity gaining a larger audience abroad year after year. Presently, with its intricate and stunning details, Japanese anime accounts for over 60% of the world's animated shows and is said to generate an annual revenue of 100 billion USD.

Astro Boy, Princess Mononoke, and the Oscar-winning animated feature film Spirited Away (also the highest-grossing anime film) are some of the most renowned and internationally acclaimed anime works ever. Japanese manga market, concomitantly, amounts to around four billion USD, with One Piece (1977-present) by Eiichiro Oda topping series of all time, having sold 454 million copies worldwide thus far; a few million copies away from beating DC comics' Batman, having already surpassed Xmen and Spiderman awhile back. Fun fact - Comiket (Comic Market), Tokyo's biannual fair for manga and other Japanese artwork, is the world's largest fan convention that sees over half a million people in attendance, leaving the San Diego Comic con far behind. Lo and behold, as the world of art and music democratises. G T



Diamonds form around 100 miles below the ground and are brought to Earth's surface because of volcanic eruptions.



# The brave heart Prinviral

he human heart has always been stirred by tales of valour and adventure, and whenever we hear such stories, we cannot help but look up to those heroes who have chiseled their names onto the stone of history with the weight of their accomplishments. Such legends deserve to be celebrated and remembered for their bravery and all that they have done in the past to make the present better. Here's presenting the saga of one such warrior, **Prithviraj Chauhan**, who changed the course of history for the better.



achandra's daughter, Sanyogita. The love of Prithviraj and Sanyogita and the princess's eventual abduction have been immortalised in Chand Bardai's epic Prithviraj Raso (or Chand Raisa). That event is popularly believed to have occurred after the first battle of Tarain or Taraori in 1191 and shortly before the second battle of Tarain (Taraori) in 1192, but the historicity of the Sanyogita episode remains a matter of debate. However, if Prithviraj is to be renowned for just one war, it would be the battle of Tarain (Taraori), which was fought against Muhammad Ghori, emperor of the Muslim Ghurid dynasty. Ghori was trying to assert his authority in northern India by consolidating his empire there. That included acquiring Sindh, Multan, and the Punjab to supplement his dominions of Ghazna and Ghor (in present-day Afghanistan). Ghori invaded India in 1191, commanding a force of 1,20,000 troops over the Khyber Pass. To oppose Ghori's army, Prithviraj led two regiments. He won the first battle of Tarain which left Ghori captive in his hands. Prithviraj then, against his courtiers' counsel, pardoned the aggressor and politely freed the defeated Ghori. In 1192, Ghori once again reassembled a force of 1,20,000 armoured horsemen and fought Prithviraj at the second battle of Tarain. He dispatched his envoy to Lahore to demand surrender, but Prithviraj refused. Although he had no allies, Prithviraj amassed a large army, which is believed to have included elephants, horsemen, and a significant amount of infantry. However, fighting and enmity within the Rajput camp had weakened Prithviraj's position. The Rajput army broke ranks and fled when Ghori marched with his force to the heart of the Rajput line. Prithviraj attempted to flee but was captured and imprisoned in Ghor. According to stories, Prithviraj's eyes were burned out, rendering him blind. Even in the face of death, he refused to acknowledge Ghori's power. However, the reason behind Prithviraj Chauhan's death is a mystery till today. Different medieval sources sugdifferent gest reasons. According to many historical texts, Prithviraj was brought to Ajmer by Muhammad Ghori and maintained as a treason. According to Hasan Nizami, a Muslim historian, Prithviraj was caught plotting against Muhammad Ghori, allowing the king to behead him. According to Hammira Mahakavya, after his loss in the second battle of Tarain, Prithviraj refused to eat, which resulted in his death. Prithviraj Raso claims that he was kidnapped and taken to Ghazna, where he was blinded and later killed in prison. Finally, another source, the Viruddha-Vidhi Vidhvansa, claims that Prithviraj was killed immediately after the war.



Name: Prithviraj Chauhan (also known as Prithviraj III) **Born in:** 1166 BCE **Died in:** 1192 BCE **Position held:** The ruler of Hindu Chauhan (Chauhamana) dynasty as well as the emperor of Sapadalaksha **Noteworthy achievements:** Battles of Tarain fought in 1191 and 1192 against Ghurid force led by Muhammad Ghori **Biography to watch:** Prithviraj (to be released on June 3, 2022) **Biography to read:** Prithviraj Raso, by Chand Bardai; Prithviraj Chauhan: The Emperor of Hearts, by Anuja Chandramouli

### The roots of the warrior

Prithviraj Chauhan was born to the Rajput Chauhan dynasty's Chahamana king, Someshvara and queen Karpuradevi in Gujarat. He belonged to a clan of Agnivanshi Rajputs, who, according to the legend, emerged from a sacrificial fire-pit. Prithviraj received a holistic and in-depth education in scriptures, languages, and battlecraft where he proved to be quite a proficient learner. Some medieval texts state that he mastered about six to 14 languages and became well-versed in various subjects. He also became skilled in the art of archery. When Prithviraj was about eleven years old, his father, Someshvara died in 1177 CE. Even though he was still a minor, he ascended to the throne, with his mother serving as a reagent to rule the realm. During his early years as a young ruler, Prithviraj was supported in administering the kingdom by a team of devoted officials, and he assumed the actual control over the empire in 1180 CE according to ancient scriptures.

### The sword of the warrior

The young Prithviraj inherited a kingdom that stretched from Sthanvishvara (Thanesar which was once the capital of the seventh century ruler Harsha) in the north to Mewar in the south. Within a few years, Prithviraj personally assumed control of the administration, but shortly after acquiring power, he was confronted by a revolt led by his cousin Nagarjuna, son of Vigraharaja IV, who Ghurid vassal. After a brief rebellion claimed the crown for himself. This endeavour for against Ghori, Prithviraj was executed for the Chahamana throne led to rivalry between the two branches of the family. The suppression of the rebellion and the recapture of Gudapura was the first military achievement for Prithviraj. After crushing the uprising, Prithviraj shifted his attention to the Bhadanakas, a nearby country. The Bhadanakas had been a continual menace to the Chauhan-controlled region around Delhi, but he defeated and crushed the Bhandanaka tribes in 1182 and expanded the borders of the Chauhan kingdom till Mahoba. Prithviraj also gained military victories against several neighbouring Hindu kingdoms early in his reign, most prominently against Chandela king Paramardi. In the Battle of Tumul in 1182, he fought Parmardi Dev Chandel of Mahoba and seized the kingdom of Mahoba by defeating and ples came to an end. Though he was officially the killing his famous generals Alha and Udal. In the course of his aggressive campaigns, he came into conflict with Jayachandra, the Gahadavala ruler of Kannauj. Jayachandra was eager to curb Prithviraj's growing ambitions and quest for territorial expansion. Tradition, however, ascribes the immediate cause of their intense and bitter rivalry to a romance between Prithviraj and Jay-

### The legacy of the warrior

Prithviraj Chauhan died in 1192 and with his death, a period of bravery, patriotism and princiking of Ajmer, medieval folk stories portray him as the king of Delhi and as a symbol of pre-Islamic Indian power. He is considered one of the last sovereign Hindu kings in northern India. Known as a courageous warrior king, Prithviraj is credited with putting up a valiant fight against Muslim invaders.

Text: Yashvi Goyal, AIS Gurugram 43, IX



### The word 'diamond' is taken from the Greek word 'adamas', which means 'invincible' or 'indestructible'.



# The walking laptop



She wasn't crying for the laptop, but for the fact that she had lost her only way to connect to her students.

for the kids to be left alone even inside the house," said the mother-in-law out of concern. At that, everyone nodded in approval. "Wait, where's Daksh though?" asked Riya, having suddenly realised that her six-yearold wasn't with them in the hall this entire time. This realisation unleashed chaos as all of them started looking for him in a frenzy of fear. "Daksh, Daksh?" shouted all in unison, trying as best they could to locate . "I'll look for him on the terhim. ' race; he loves being there. Ayana, you go and search the first floor," said Riya trying to make sense of the situation. And just when she was about to climb the stairs, she saw the laptop walking towards her, wearing a green capri pant. "Hi, mom, do you know how to shut this thing down. I am done playing cake palace and was trying to switch it off," asked Daksh as he popped his head out from behind the screen that hid his tiny body, barring his legs and arms, and made it look as if the laptop



### **Akanksha Narayan AIS Mayur Vihar, VII**

t was just another day when Riya, having given her students the scheduled online lecture, was indulged in the household chores. She was a school teacher in the city of Jaipur where she lived with her husband, two kids Daksh and Ayana, and her extended family in a twostorey building.

This being a working day, Riya was engaged in making PPTs and quizzes for the online classes the next day. At five in the evening,

### came back to her room, only to find her laptop gone.

Scared witless, she tried looking for it everywhere in the house and asked everybody about it. But to her utter dismay, nobody knew where the laptop was. "How is this possible?" she yelled, almost on the verge of tears.

Watching her panic thus, everybody in the family started looking for the laptop. "If it's a prank, you all better stop now," she said in a stern tone, for she was tired of looking for it by then. "Why would anyone try to prank you, Riya?" retorted her husband, tired

its own!" said her father-in-law all worried and genuinely concerned about Riya.

"But it is also entirely impossible for some stranger to barge into a house filled with people," responded her sister-in-law. "One can never be sure though," said Riya with tears in her eyes. She wasn't crying for the laptop, but for the fact that she had lost her only way to connect to her students. "Let it be. We will buy a new one for you first thing tomorrow," said her husband in order to pacify the situation.

"Yes, let's do that. Also, let us all

was walking on its own. Though furious, Riya could not





### Lavish Kaur, AIS Vasundhara 1, X

### INGREDIENTS

Maggi	1 packet
Onion (finely chopped)	1/2
Tomato (finely chopped)	
Red chili powder	
Salt	to taste
Maggi masala	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> tsp
Lemon	$\frac{1}{2}$
Sev	optional

### PROCEDURE

- Take a Maggi cake and crush it with your hands.
- Now, place a pan on the stove and dry roast the crushed Maggi until it turns golden brown.
- Transfer the roasted Maggi in a bowl, and add chopped tomato, onion, chili powder, salt, and Maggi masala seasoning in it. Mix all the ingredients together.
- Now add lemon juice to the bowl and give it all a good mix.

she decided to take a break and prepare some tea and snacks for everyone. Having done so, she of all the commotion. "But thenbewhere did the laptop go; it's notlapas if it walked out of the house onlos

be extra careful, for if at all thehelp butlaptop was really stolen and notSo, she tolost or misplaced, it's dangerousand hugg

help but be amused at the sight. So, she took the laptop from him and hugged him tight. GT Garnish the dish with sev if you like.Your scrumptious Maggi bhel is ready!

### WORDS VERSE

# Benevolent nature

**Ayden Sharma AIS Gurugram 46, XII** 

Have you ever heard the nature's sound As it bears the swindle of it being abound Of course, it's feeble than our own chatter When we slash down the trees that matter

Effluvium of the chimneys pollutes the air And our silly vehicles disturb the polar bear Our Mother Earth cries to leave her aside But we humans perturb every single life

Gone are the days when jungles used to thrive For lush green landscapes are no longer alive The nightingale's melody has turned all around Now we only listen to the horns blaring out

The creator of mankind is seen to be in jeopardy For his own children are now ruining his beauty He stands alone in fear while being barbecued By the hot and massive bonfire of our overuse

It is now time to stand up and stop this trickery Or else we will see an immense pyrrhic victory Where our selfishness will take the ultimate crown And the world we live in will one day drown

Let us rejuvenate the forest and plant more trees Let us transform it into what it has always been With our tiny steps we will aim for a giant leap Let us now make earth a happy place to live! GT

### My pride my tiranga

**Raghav Sharma AIS Saket, IX** 

Orange, white, and green stripes Remind us of our painful past How the shackles were broken How the tyranny couldn't last

Tricolour symbolises our pride Utter greatness and self-sacrifice Reminding the valour of millions Martyrdom we always recognise

Ashok Chakra for constant change Tiranga for the cultural exchange The flag unites all states anew



Binds together with its vibrant hue

Waving our flag with utmost pride Taking an oath to never let it fall Taking a pledge that we will have Justice, liberty and equality for all.



# **CAMERA CAPERS**

Aryan Vashisht, AIS Pushp Vihar, Alumnus











The walls of dedication and hard work

The city of lights and memories



The largest diamond ever discovered was the Cullinan diamond that weighed 3106 carats.

# Lesson of nature



In one such instance, they even fought with a crow and chased it away as it tried to eat one of the chicks.

He was elated beyond measure. As time thus passed, he watched them grow, learn how to fly, and perch. Soon, the chicks started to





### **Ridit Mishra AIS Noida, VII**

nce upon a time in a town called Parentine, there lived a boy named Henry. He was dearly loved by his parents who would always fulfil his demands no matter what. But to their utter dismay, Henry did not obey and respect

### them much in return.

One morning, after waking up, when Henry opened his window to have some fresh air, he noticed a nest on a potted plant. The nest was home to three little chicks whose eyes had not yet opened. As he looked a little longer, he noticed the parents of the chicks feeding them with worms and other stuff.

With schools closed for summer break and nothing much to do, watching the chicks soon became a habit. He noticed their every move and saw their parents making tireless efforts to ensure that their hatchlings were well fed and safe. This went on for a few days, until one day Henry observed that the chicks were starting to open their eyes. fly out and wander off their nests to play. Their parents, in the meantime, made sure that they were safe from vultures and other creatures that might act as a threat to their offsprings. In one such instance, they even fought with a crow and chased it away as it tried to eat one of the chicks. This made Henry realise how important parents are in everybody's life, and how they take pains in order to look after their kids and fulfil their needs. As the realisation thus dawned on him, he vowed to respect and obey his parents henceforth. GT

So, what did you learn today? Always respect your parents, for they know what's best for you. Vaibhavi Saxena, AIS Vasundhara 6, V

### Material required

- A4 sized red coloured paper-2
- A4 sized green coloured paper-1
- A4 sized white coloured paper-1
- Fevicol
- Black sketch pen/marker
- Scissors
- Paint colours and brush
- Ice cream sticks



Vaibhavi Saxena

Place two red-coloured A4 sheets one over the other and fold them in half so that the two breadths overlap. Cut these two pieces.
Now you will have four red rectangles, but we only need three for the DIY, so you can save the fourth for another activity.



# **Back to school**



### Kaavya Chauhan, AIS Noida, VI N

Going back to school is a treat indeed After the pandemic, anxious we'd been The school gates have finally reopened And the gloomy days have shortened

Sports, music, open fields, science labs Canteen to run and to get a quick grab And excited, I go look for my teachers Who are the best actual preachers

It is our new class and a brand-new start With tricky doubts, it's time to be smart Thrilled I'm for an exciting year at school Hoping that the situation remains cool! **Rakshit Goyal, AIS Pushp Vihar, III** 

Riddle Fiddle

1. Which thing has to be broken before you can use it?

2. What question can you never answer yes to?3. A man dies of old age on his 25th birthday.How is this possible?

4. Which word has been spelt wrong in all the dictionaries of this world?

5. You see a boat filled with people, yet there isn't a single person on board. Tell us, how is that possible?

Answers: J. An egg 2. Are you asleep? 3. He was born on Feb 29 4. Wrong 5. They are all married Next take a green-coloured sheet and from it, cut out three 2 cm wide strips along the breadth.

Repeat the same with a white-coloured sheet.

Paste the white strip at the bottom of one red rectangle along its longer side. Paste a green strip exactly above this white strip.

Using a black marker, draw the seeds of a watermelon.

Repeat the same with the other two rectangles.

Paste the three rectangles along the shorter side, but ensure that the final ends of the pasted rectangles are free, as can be seen in the photo.

Starting from the shorter side, make concertina fold strips that are 1 cm wide.

Take two ice cream sticks and paint them green. Paste the ice cream sticks on both the ends of the fan.

• Your watermelon fan is ready to blow you away!

# t's Me



### KNOW ME

My name: Kshitija Shukla My Class: II My school: AIS VYC Lko My birthday: April 22



#### **MY FAVOURITE**

Teacher: Mary ma'am Subject: Mathematics Game: Football Cartoon: Peppa Pig Food: Chole bhature and dosa Mall: Best Price Book: Fairy tales and Ramayana

MY DREAMS AND GOALS My hobbies: Dancing, reading and singing I like: To help people I dislike: Fighting and people who hurt others My role model: PM Modi I want to become: An IAS officer I want to feature in GT because: I want to share my views with my friends and teachers. I want to become famous as a good and smart Amitian

# THE GLOBAL TIMES | MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022

Diamond was used for the first time ever in an engagement ring in the year 1477.



Diamonds

"My happiest summer vacation memory is from a few years ago. I remember waking up at five in the morning and hearing the pitter-patter of rain bleeding into the ominous silence inside my grandparents' house. My cousin and I stepped outside with low footsteps, to not wake anyone up. "Don't bathe in the first rain of the summer," they would have said, but in that moment, as the first drops of water brushed my fingertips, everything else was forgotten. The downpour began a few minutes after that. I don't remember how long it lasted, or how much time it took our parents to drag us back inside the house, because, when I close my eyes and replay that memory, I can only hear our laughter, and only remember looking at the sky, collecting water in the palm of our hands to throw at each other."

Writing is an art and there's no better platform to exercise it than your own beloved GT! To unleash the writer in you, GT brings you a new topic every time and asks for your views on the same. Here are some intriguing responses from young writers at Amity for the prompt...

"With summer vacations around

"Though I have taken many trips during my summer vacations and have, as a result, made a lot of happy memories, my most favourite one would definitely be our 15 days long family trip to the mountains some three years back. As part of our trip, in an effort to cover as many places as possible, we first made a pit stop at Amritsar's Wagah border. Dalhousie was our next destination, and owing to its beauty and quietude, it was definitely my favourite place throughout the trip. After that, we went to Dharamshala and then finally Manali where I got to see snow for the first time. I loved the trip so much that if given a chance to take it again, I won't hesitate a bit." **Aarnavi Singh, AIS VYC Lko, IX B** 

"My family and I went to

Pondicherry where we had enrolled in

an open water scuba diving course. We

were taught theory on the first day that

Asmi Aggarwal, AIS Noida, XII C

"My favourite summer vacation was in the year of 2018 when I was 11, and I, along with my entire family, including my cousins, uncle and aunt, went to Nainital. What made our trip special was a series of near disasters that happened. The train tickets were booked for my birthday's evening, and we all nearly missed the train, but as soon as I got in, I was surprised to see my favourite uncles and aunts there. We covered half of the way via train and half via tempo traveller. We spent our entire journey singing, laughing, and enjoying our time as a family. I will cherish that summer vacation forever."

**Rajbir Singh, AIS Gurugram 43, X D** 

"Summer vacations bring loads of happiness and opportunities for us children to create new experiences. And fortunately for me, last year, I got the chance to spend that time with my grandparents during the pandemic. Those days not only brought me closer to my grandparents, but also made me realise how with the support of elders one can sail through the toughest of times. For all the sweet moments that we crafted together were the ones that gave me the strength I needed and helped me weather the storm that loomed large over and around the world." the corner, what's your happiest summer vacation memory and why?"

The prompt

included learning how to handle the equipment. On the following day, we moved to a bigger pool to test our stamina in the depths. We proceeded with our written and fitness exams on the third day and passed! Finally, on the fourth day, we ventured into the ocean, and the entire experience was so enthralling! My first dive was 8.3m deep, and I spent 32 minutes underwater amongst the corals. On the fifth day, I took my second and third dives with depths of 6m and 18m. After that, I returned home to find an email with my diver's license in it. It was an inexplicable feeling, and that truly is my most memorable summer vacation memory!"

Sucheer Menon, AGS Gurugram, X

"Summer vacations give children immense pleasure and loads of happy memories to cherish forever. Personally for me, my favourite memory was my trip to Goa four years back. The beaches, the everlasting waters, the churches, the historic monuments, the spice vegetations - everything that adds to the beauty of the town is still fresh in my memory. And since it was the first time I visited Goa, playing barefoot on the beach with my sister, collecting sea shells, and making sand castles felt amazing too. It was a soul touching trip and I enjoyed every single moment of it." **Gavisha Gupta, AIS MV, VII D** 

#### "The summer

of 2017 when I got the chance to visit my father, an army officer on a UN mission to Lebanon, is easily my favourite summer vacation ever. I still remember how excited I was to go since it was my first ever international trip. For the same, my mother and I boarded a flight from Delhi to Kuwait and then to Beirut, Lebanon. It was a long flight but I was very happy to see my dad at the airport, who then took us to the United Nations Interim Force headquarters in Naquora. We also visited the National Beirut Museum, Old Souk, and Mohammad-Al-Amin Mosque and did a lot of shopping at the malls and bought a variety dry fruits and hand-made perfumes. I even got the chance to meet my dad's colleagues and their family members who all belonged to countries like Indonesia, China, France and Pakistan. It was an amazing experience to meet people from all across the globe and I am never going to forget it."

Mohammad Mubeen Khan, AIS Gwalior, VIII A

#### Deval Mishra, AIS VKC Lko, X B

"One of my favourite

memories of summer vacation is the summer theatre workshop organised by the school when I was in Class V. While joining, I didn't know this workshop would end up giving me lifelong lessons. It taught me so much about stage presence and confidence. It helped me a lot to improve my oratory skills. When we were supposed to put up the final performance, I was nervous, but because of my training, the end result was much better than what I was expecting. I am grateful to the school for organising this camp and giving me such great memories!"

Jayati Jain, AIS Gurugram 46, X H

"Every moment spent with my family during the summer vacation is a beautiful memory, but the one close to my heart is when we all sat together after dinner to eat mangoes. Right from the first to the last one, every mango was eaten devoutly. The light banter over the biggest piece was the one that I waited for the most. Mangoes were not only our sweet dish but also our daily dose of laughter. Unlike others, my summer vacation was an 'Aam' vacation." **Yuvika Mahajan, AIS PV, XII B**  "One of my most memorable summer vacation memories is from the Ladakh expedition that I undertook with my family. It was when we, along with some of our Ladakhi friends, took off from Leh by road to reach our destination Pangong Tso, the pristine turquoise 160-km lake that holds the record for the highest saltwater lake in the world. As I rode along the lake with my father, the enchanting shades of blue and green looked sublime and stunning in contrast to the arid desert around. At night too, the star-filled sky blanketing the lake was a sight to behold. Even though I suffered blackouts due to exertion as I couldn't fully acclimatise to the harsh weather, I still consider it as a life-changing experience." **Rubani Singh Tyagi, AIS Saket, VIII A** 

"My memories of summer are all meshed into yellow vagueness, but there is a recurring theme- my grandmother's house. My cousins and I always met there for our holidays. We would often dirty ourselves making sculptures out of soil in the garden until we were forcibly dragged to lunch. After the agonising ordeal, we would run away to leap through terraces and delight in the thrill of doing something you really know you shouldn't. When the night would fall, we would lay there smothering our laughter at lame jokes, all afraid to fall asleep because we had to make midnight trips to the kitchen and watch the sunrise. They were days of childhood refuge. When I think of them, lost somewhere in the heat of summer, I cannot help but smile and that is why I love them."

Jia Rajput, AIS Vas 1, IX A

"My best vacation was staying with my grandparents in Lucknow, which seemed more of a punishment at first but became the happiest vacation ever. From badminton, *chorpolice* to even UNO cards, there was no dearth of games we played. I got pampered with stories, treats and the yummiest of food by my grandma. My grandpa used to bring boxes of mangoes from the market, and every evening after dinner, we would sit down with our whole family to gobble them. I had a great time during that vacation and I will always cherish it."

Adite Sharma, AIS Vas 6, X D

"The most memorable summer vacation for me was the 2020 summer break that I spent with with my lovely family. Though I had never imagined that I would be stuck inside the four walls of my house for so long, this time actually gave me the opportunity to rekindle my relationship with my family. With the fast-paced lives that we were living, we could hardly sit together as a family and chat. This COVID summer vacation as such helped us revisit the good old days when family time was the most important part of the day for us. Besides, I also got the chance to spend more time on my hobbies, which is always a good thing." Saumya Soni, AIS Jagdishpur, XII

Who prompts someone during the summers? Not us. Let's take a break!



In 2004, scientists discovered a planet named 55 Cancri E, which is composed mostly of carbon and one-third of pure diamond.



# Happy Birthday, ma'am

Prerna Diwas - A Celebration Of Love For The Woman Who Infuses Love In Lives





All the esteemed dignitaries present at the event wish the Chairperson

#### **Amity Group of Schools**

appy Birthday, Chairper-667 son ma'am! We wish you La long and healthy life." "We love you, ma'am. You have given us the best platform to showcase our talent." "You are our role model, ma'am." Several expressions like these reverberated in the air during 'Prerna Diwas', a celebration to mark the birthday of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, a visionary leader and a mother to countless Amitians, on April 27, 2022.

The celebrations began on April 27, 2022, with an auspicious hawan organised by AIS Pushp Vihar. The pious ceremony was attended by the students of Amitasha and Atulasha in person and by

and other heads of Amity Group of Schools virtually. It was followed by the virtual interaction of the students of Amitasha and Atulasha with the Chairperson, wherein the students extended their heartfelt birthday wishes and she heartily expressed her special love for them in return.

Adding grandeur to the celebrations, AIS Saket hosted Prerna Diwas virtually that was attended by the entire Amity Universe. The occasion was graced by Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Universe; members of the Chauhan family; distinguished vice chancellors from Amity Universities all over the world; and heads of other Amity institutions.

that showcased the visit of the Chairperson to different Amity Group of Schools over the last 30 years. A presentation on Amity International Schools engaging students in multiple activities to protect and nurture Mother Earth was also showcased. The virtual audience was overwhelmed when all the schools shared their birthday wishes through self-composed poems and handmade birthday cards.

In addition to this, a special candid Q/A session between the Chairperson and Amitians from different branches of Amity Group of Schools was organised. The session illuminated the evening as the Chairperson poured out her heart quoting love as her biggest strength,

Little ones wish the Chairperson by caring for plants

The highlight of the event was the address by the Founder President, where he expressed that 'wisdom' is the most important gift from God as it helps one choose the right path. The address was followed by heartfelt birthday wishes from vice chancellors and eminent heads of various Amity Universities. A presentation showcasing glimpses of the Human Values Quarter celebrated by Amity University from January 27-

the Chairperson was also shown. The event reached its crescendo, with the Chauhan family members sharing their love filled wishes for the Chairperson. The celebrations concluded with Chairperson responding to all the warmth and love shared by everyone. In her address, she propounded the youth to adopt Founder President's life mantra of BHAAG and relate to nature, to be humane, passionate, and responsible for



**Children conduct a special school assembly on human values to celebrate Prerna Diwas** 



A message of love for the Chairperson

# Earth Day celebration

#### **AIS Jagdishpur**



board decoration, craft making, slogan writing, garbage segregation, small tree plantation, poster making, dance on deforestation, hanging garden, etc. They were sensitised about the importance of conserving natural resources and that of celebrating Earth Day. G

### **AIS Gwalior**

lass VI-IX students participated in a special assembly based on the theme 'Heritage' held on April 25, 2022. The assembly held to commemorate World Heritage Day (celebrated across the world on April 18) aimed at apprising students about the rich culture and heritage of river Godavari. It began with an auspicious lamp lighting ceremony, followed by a melodious musical tune depicting the beauty of river Godavari, played by the students of Class

World Heritage Day Persevering To Preserve

### **AIS VKC Lucknow**

o commemorate the special occasion of World Heritage Day, students of Class VII showcased presentations of the famous UNESCO world heritage sites on April 20, 2022. Through their enchanting presentation, they not only created awareness amongst the students about the importance of these heritage sites but also highlighted their vulnerability and need for conservation. The best presentations were selected by a jury and awarded certificates. G

theme 'Invest in our planet' to mark Earth Day on April 22, 2022. Students from Class Nursery to VIII participated in activities like bulletin



VI-VII. A speech by Arnav Chatturvedi (IX) and a quiz conducted by Kunal Singh (VIII) enhanced the knowledge of children about the river. Through a ramp walk, Class II-III showcased the benefits of the river for life on earth. The highlight of the programme was an enthralling dance per-

formance, portraying glimpses of river Godavari, by the girls of Class VIII-IX. School principal Manju Singh addressed the students and stressed upon the importance of conserving river Godavari. The assembly concluded with the school song and the National Anthem. **G**T





**Students of AIS VKC Lucknow strive to save the heritage** 



Diamonds are nearly as old as Earth itself. *All top quotes are contributed by* Nibir Das, AIS Vas 6, X D



The little wordsmith

### Lauding Praavika Singh, The World's Youngest Author, For Her Exemplary Feat

### Stuti Kalra, GT Network

rawing that (im)perfect scenery with two mountains, a river stream, and a sun; creating a make-believe world; putting a topping on that biscuit to create that wow dish; making it to the first stage assembly... we've all managed to achieve these tiny achievements as toddlers. But then there are some little ones whose achievements are actually noteworthy. Praavika Singh of Class KG, AIS Vasundhara 6, is one such rare jewel who has been accorded with the honour of being the youngest author in the world by the World Book of Talent Records (2022) for her story book titled 'Lion and The Bone'. GT met this effervescent 4.6-year-old storyteller who adores toys, loves bike and car rides. Her unique story revolves around the value of humanity and friendship, qualities so crucial during these challenging times. In fact, when asked which animal or character from her storybook

does she love the most she was quick to reply, "I love All the Animals".

As we listened in awe to Praavika reading out excerpts from her award-winning story, with perfect pronunciation and enunciation, her mother shared how Praavika loves to pick up any incident from real life to weave an imaginative tale. Praavika's teachers too are all praises for her. "She is a brilliant and a confident child, and actively participates in all the class activities. In fact, her genius oratory skills were witnessed by all when, during a class assembly, she essayed the role of Chandra Shekhar Azad and delivered long dialogues with ease and aplomb. She especially adores the picture talk sessions, during which she creates her own stories by looking at pictures," says her teacher. While the knack for storytelling comes naturally to

Praavika, her parents and school must be equally lauded for nurturing this little wordsmith. The journey of the world record began when two noted authors and artists, Dr Tilak Tanwar, director of Golden Sparrows publishing house, and Arti Malhotra, an author and an RJ with All India Radio, spotted Praavika's creative side and approached her parents to know more. They discovered that the child's creativity was being enhanced manifold due to Jolly Phonics taught at her school. A slew of brainstorming and interactive sessions later, the idea of a storybook began to take final shape. Sentences spoken and written by Praavika were recorded and stitched together as an illustrative story book, which also contains sketches and paintings by the toddler herself. The book was then submitted to World Book of Talent Records for perusal. After meticulous scrutiny of content, creativity, and credentials, Praavika was conferred the title of the youngest author in the world on March 28, 2022, and she continues to write happily ever after!



# Author's Desk



Be right back

## As Ads Air One After The Other

### Shyla Basu, AIS PV, XII

Howeeks, Rohan finally sat in front of the television where the premier of the much-awaited superhero film (you name it, you get it! Do we care? Only Rohan does! Rohan, who? \*pretends not to hear you\*) was set to start. As he settled with a bowl of popcorn, we managed to digress your mind a wee bit just like the ads do (won't take a genius to figure out when). What followed next is a must watch/read. awkward silence (read time for personal attacks, ouch!). As Akshay Kumar en-"he-who-must-not-be-named" dorsed aka menstrual hygiene at that, the silence spread (Indian households, you see). With even more reasons to feel uneasy now, and right before his mother could turn to him (perhaps, to pacify the similar sturm und drang raging inside her) and ask about his academics or worse, his whereabouts this day last year, Rohan devised multiple excuses, ranging from bathroom breaks to getting snacks, with an eye to exit the room at once. The loud ads in the backdrop acted out as indicators of when he could make a safe and sound return. "Maybe when it's Nirma time," Rohan thought out loud.



#### **Phase I: No eye contacts, please!**

"Mera naam Mukesh hai...", the famed precautionary ad against tobacco played on the screen for the umpteenth time in its entirety; if only Mukesh knew he was going to be the face forever, he would have perhaps stopped taking it pronto. Anyway, Rohan, frightened yet chomping on his popcorn still, thought it wise to avert his eyes from the gruesome images that followed. His family, au contraire, fixated their eyes on the changing hues of his elder brother's face. Need we dwell more? Cough on it, we say.

### **Phase II: Escaping to evade**

With the first ad break came the dreaded

### **Phase III: Give me a break, will you?**

Halfway through the movie, and nearing that one awkward scene inchmeal, Rohan pleaded the lord of ads to intervene before he is forced to gauge out his own eyeballs with the nearest spoon. Whiteknighting to his rescue came the Diamond biscuit ad 'cos "diamond biscuit, diamond biscuit, *jab bhi mood ho khaa lo*...diamond biscuit". Flabbergasted at the quick response, Rohan made the jingle his anthem for life. Bursting into it every now and then, even at the expense

of being judged by his brother for knowing the lyrics whole, Rohan vouches for it still. *Ye* Fevicol *ka Mazboot jod hai, tootega nahi*.

### **Phase IV: Going from bad to worse**

As Rohan and family closed in on the climax, biting their nails and awaiting the



Kurram Karram the bunny did. Incandescent yet managing to get through still, Rohan and well, Rohan alone finished the movie. As the credits rolled immediately after, he tried to process and understand the ending, only for the Vodafone dog to snap him back to reality. Ads, I tell you!