



INSIDE



To science and beyond, P4



My malgudi days, P5

AMITEpoll

As WhatsApp pay goes live amongst other virtual payment methods, do you think it will aid in strengthening the concept of Digital India?

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

To vote, log on to
www.theglobaltimes.in

POLL RESULT
 for GT issue November 2, 2020

Do you think Centre's move to bring in a new law through an ordinance to deal with air pollution in Delhi-NCR region will help in improving the air quality?

Response	Percentage
Yes	70%
No	24%
Can't say	6%

Results as on November 7, 2020

Coming Next
 Heritage Series Part X

Let's 'taco' bout it

From Wok To Walks Of Life, COVID Changed Our Equation With Food

Mrinal Verma, GT Network

The UN World Food Programme was accorded the Nobel Peace Prize for the year 2020, a year that will go down in history as the year of pandemic. One would, thus, subsequently expect those working towards developing an arsenal against the virus to be lauded as peacemakers. So, it may come as a surprise to many that in a corona struck era, it was food that emerged triumphant. Amidst all the media attention to the conspicuous sufferings caused by the corona chaos, we tend to overlook the inconspicuous suffering of hunger victims. But while hunger is just one side of the food-virus potboiler; there's a happier version too – one that you find on social media as people take to unleashing their hidden chefs, courtesy – lockdowns and work from homes. Here's bringing you the happy and sad sides of this story.

The good games

Grocery shopping - what used to be an everyday task became a battlefield in the times of Coronavirus. Factors like the ration being finite, increased dread of being infected, free time on our hands, and no domestic help, came together to create a new-found appreciation for the meals consumed. With restaurants being shuttered down, 85% of the consumers changed their food habits, 30% saw a decrease in junk food consumption, according to IFIC, and 60% preferred home-cooked meals. Proof of these could easily be noticed as #dalgonacoffee garnered more than 10 mil-

lion entries on TikTok and viral posts of baked breads, pancake cereals and focaccia art were seen on Instagram. In a survey

by Hubbub, around 57% of people admitted they valued food more in the post-pandemic world, leading to a change not just in the cooking process, but also in how the world shops for eatables. Grocery store trips saw a decline of 15% within the first 3 months of the pandemic, aided by the rise of its electronic counterpart.

With online grocery startups accounting for 40% of total e-commerce funding in India and online grocery sales hitting 7.2 billion USD in the US alone till June, humanity has spiced up their love life with food even in these difficult times.



The bad blames

As much as the pandemic has come with a revelation for one section, the less privileged have, for the nth time, been forced to face the horrors of inequality as their stomachs struggle to survive. Crippled economies, bankrupt businesses, pay-cuts or no pay at all will lead to as many as 132 million more people than previously projected going hungry by the end of 2020, making this year's gain to be more than triple of any increase noted in this century. Farmers sit with rotten crops as the supply chain stands disturbed, landing as much as 50% of produce in waste, whereas countries like Yemen, South Sudan, Venezuela etc, stand on the brink of famine. India, one of the largest food producers in the world, ironically also houses more than 1 billion people who could not afford healthy diets even before the lockdown, a number that has increased in today's time.

And the effect of this COVID-triggered hunger will be seen for a long time to come as the United Nations predicts that as many as 909 million people would be undernourished by 2030. With the world hunger killing more than the virus infection, maybe it's time for us to reconsider who the real enemy is.

Following the words said by WFP at their Nobel Prize citation 'Until the day we have a medical vaccine, food is the best vaccine against chaos', we can only hope that a cure for both, world hunger and Coronavirus, will be found before too many casualties have paid the price. 🇮🇳

MUNs: the way forward

Gearing Up The Youth, The Future Changemakers To Cope With What's Coming Next

Anupriya Bhatnagar
 Vas I, XII C



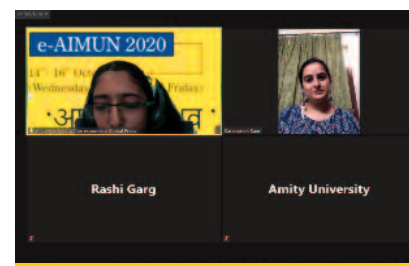
Karanpreet Kaur, Special Policy Officer, Embassy of Netherlands

A virtuoso in the field of political affairs, human rights and education, Karanpreet Kaur, Senior Policy Officer, Embassy of Netherlands is a name to cite. Known for her ardent advocacy for collaborations and partnerships between HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) in India and the Netherlands, Karanpreet Kaur has engaged in multiple researches, analyses and reports on socio-economic-political developments in India and South Asia region. As she attended the opening ceremony of AIMUN 2020 as an esteemed guest, GT re-

porter couldn't miss the opportunity to interact with her and engage in a one-on-one. We bring you excerpts.

MUNs should be a compulsory part of the curriculum... as they play a significant role in shaping an individual. The world today is facing many issues such as climate change, escalating political tensions and lately the COVID-19 pandemic. To find solutions for the same, leaders from various countries are coming together and working on bilateral and multilateral levels through institutions like the WTO, ASEAN, EU, UN, etc. For these initiatives to be successful, it is imperative that those sitting at the table possess certain skills and debate about these problems from political, scientific, economic and social viewpoints. It is important that the participating leaders have diverse views. This is where MUNs come to play, as they give the young delegates a first-hand experience to learn and acquire these skills.

Whether physical or virtual, MUNs are integral... to nurturing youth as the leaders of tomorrow. It cannot be denied that physical MUNs bring with them a certain socio-emotional feel that the current hardware and software lack to provide in online MUNs. Also, the requisite infrastructure which is re-



GT reporter with Karanpreet Kaur

quired to be able to access these online MUNs isn't available to all. Yet, at the same time, it is also true that virtual MUNs have broken geographical and time constraints with sessions becoming diverse, inclusive and participative as they include people from around the globe. As a result, virtual MUNs have broadened the spectrum of views pouring in, which was otherwise limited in physical MUNs. So, like everything else virtual MUNs too have their own pros and cons. The bottom line being-MUNs are important, whether it is in the physical realm or virtual.

Youth is a wonderful resource... and MUNs tap this resource in the right manner. Whenever there are issues lurking in the society, the adults look at them in a rigid manner which cannot be dissuaded easily. While on the other hand, when the young ones are asked to present their views on those very issues, they offer unique perspectives that yield

absolutely fantastic and unique solutions that are often the ones most required on the table. And, that's the reason why international bodies like the UN are pursuing active involvement of the youth, to be able to tap into this wonderful resource successfully. All in all, youth is the most powerful resource any nation can have, and MUNs act as a catalyst in channelising this resource in a proper way.

MUNs ensure the coming together... of the world to protect our planet. The relevance of MUN has enhanced in this globalized world. Over the course of centuries, we have seen the world evolve from cities to states to nations and now a globalized planet. The interaction amongst different communities and tribes gave birth to this wonderful world we have today. On the other hand, this globalisation and the activities associated with it have hampered our planet. Now, the duty lies on the shoulders of every country, every city, every state to come together and work to protect mother earth. And this sustainable economic progress can only be ensured by the concept of MUNs. Colloquiums like MUNs help the future policy makers to come together under one roof, analyse the problems they have to deal with and work on their skill set accordingly. 🇮🇳

...Continued on page 6



India This Week

Nandini Medhi, GT Network

While we sit on our couch just breathing, a lot of things happen around us, and sometimes in our very own country. We bring you the ones worth mentioning.



Strategic policy unit for AYUSH

News: To enable growth of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) sector, the ministry has joined hands with Invest India, a national investment promotion and facilitation agency to plan a strategic policy unit called 'Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau (SPFB)'. The bureau will help the AYUSH ministry in policy making initiatives and stimulate growth and investment.

Views: At a time when the whole world has become much more aware and concerned about one's health, it is a smart move by the government to engage and promote the growth of the AYUSH ministry. This move will certainly help in the organised spread of India's traditional medical knowledge, which has been performing wonders for the last 5000 years. The decision portrays the government's mindfulness as their partnership with Invest India will undoubtedly usher health benefits to even more households, in an age where it is needed the most.

Tanishq Jagoori, AIS Vas 1, XII D

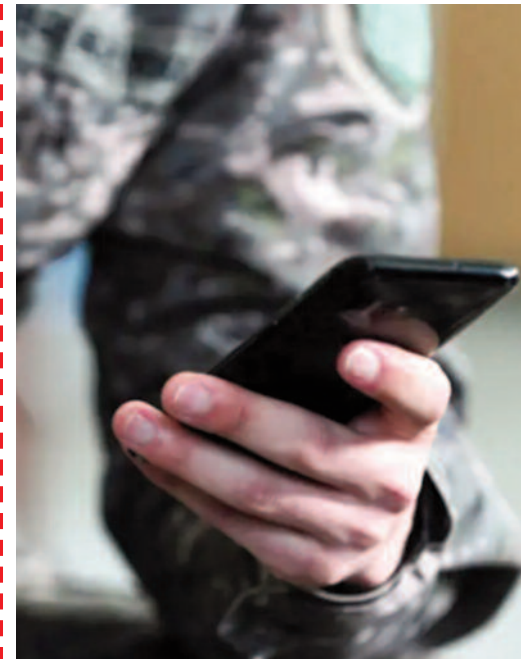


Blanket ban on firecrackers

News: Considering the adverse effects of firecrackers on COVID-19 patients as well as people with heart and respiratory diseases, the Rajasthan govt. has put a blanket ban on the sale and bursting of firecrackers. This move by the government is also an attempt to reduce the level of air pollution that engulfs Northern India during the festive season.

Views: The decision taken by the Rajasthan CM is a bold move. In a country like India, having a vast Hindu population, such a decision wouldn't otherwise be appealing to the general public. However, this is a thoughtful decision and citizens should fully cooperate with it. This move will not only help lessen air pollution but it will also protect COVID-19 patients and those suffering from health issues, by making sure that no poisonous smoke is emitted.

Saryu Sawhney, AIS Mayur Vihar, XII G



'Secure Application for the Internet' app for Indian Army soldiers

News: In line with 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', the Indian Army has launched its own secure messaging app known as 'Secure Application for the Internet (SAI)'. Similar to popular messaging apps such as WhatsApp and Telegram, SAI too, has end-to-end encryption messaging protocol and will provide secure voice, text and video calling services. The application has been developed by Col Sai Shankar and has also been tested by the government's nodal agency CERT-in empanelled auditor and Army Cyber Group.

Views: The new messaging app for soldiers couldn't have come at a better time. Given the fact that many apps were recently banned from the Indian Army due to security concerns, including WhatsApp, an app like SAI can be tremendously helpful for soldiers to stay connected to their near and dear ones. Recently, the Indian Army detected Chinese and Pakistan's online espionage agents attempting to attain classified intelligence and data. Keeping this in mind, SAI will also help ease official communications without any threat of cyber warfare.

Siddharth Kishore, AIS Gur 43, XI A

Launch of first seaplane service

News: PM Narendra Modi has launched the first ever seaplane service in Gujarat under SpiceJet's fully-owned subsidiary, Spice Shuttle. Plying from Ahmedabad to the Statue of Unity, tickets are priced from INR 1500-5000 under the UDAN scheme. Within two days of its launch, the service saw almost 3000 bookings. The seaplane service would help improve regional connectivity as well as promote tourism.

Views: The recent introduction of the seaplane services is highly beneficial for the Indian Aviation sector. This effort by the UDAN scheme seeks to connect the unconnected parts of India. Coupled with MoUs with manufacturers like Japanese seaplane manufacturer, Setouchi Holdings, will help explore the possibilities of utilising amphibian planes in a cost-effective manner.

Avisha Dhiman, AIS Gur 46, XII I



Around The WORLD

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



USA

Withdrawal from Paris Climate Agreement

The country has become the first nation to formally withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, that seeks to strengthen global response to climate change. Although announced by President Donald Trump in 2017, the decision has come into effect now due to complex UN regulations. Currently, the United States is responsible for almost 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

KOSOVO

President steps down from his position

Hashim Thaci, president of Kosovo, has resigned after being charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity, with regard to the 1990s Kosovo's independence war from Serbia. Thaci has been accused of committing nearly 100 killings of people from Kosovo Albanian, Serb, Roma, and other ethnicities.



TURKEY

Imposition of fine on social media companies

Social media giants such as Facebook, Tik Tok, Twitter and Instagram have been fined 10 million lira for breaching a new social media law passed in Turkey. According to the law, the Turkish authorities can remove offensive content from social media platforms rather than blocking access to that particular platform.



SRI LANKA

Whales rescued after mass beaching

The country's navy and coast guard, along with volunteers, rescued around 100 stranded pilot whales in the biggest mass beaching ever recorded. After a laborious rescue, the whales stranded in Panadura, 25 kms from Colombo, were pushed back into the waters using jet skis that were provided by local water sports clubs.

SAUDI ARABIA

Relaxation in restrictions for workers

With effect from March 2021, to promote employment and talent overseas, several restrictions on low paid migrant workers will be removed under the new 'Labour Relation Initiative'. "The workers can change their jobs by transferring their sponsorship from one employer to another, leave and re-enter the country and secure final exit visas," according to the government officials.



INDONESIA

Country falls into recession

For the first time in 22 years, the country has been facing recession, following a fall of 5.32% in the second quarter and a fall of 3.49% in the third quarter of 2020. Apart from agriculture, Indonesia's economy heavily relies on tourism, a sector heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been predicted that almost 3.5 million people could lose their jobs owing to this.





The human eye can differentiate approximately 10 million different colours.

A smart approach

Discussing Education: Retrospection And Resilience To The Pandemic And Beyond

AUUP

What: Panel discussion on 'Education: Retrospection and resilience to the Pandemic and beyond'

When: October 22, 2020

Where: AIBAS, AUUP

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic necessitated an alternative to face to face teaching methodology to avoid disruption in the teaching-learning process. With an objective to introduce the students to these new challenges and opportunities in the education sector, Amity Institute of Behavioural and Allied Sciences (AIBAS), AUUP, organised an online panel discussion themed 'Education: Retrospection and Resilience to the Pandemic and Beyond'. The event commenced with an invocation, following which, Dr Harish Kumar, HOI, AIBAS, welcomed the guests and gathering. In his address, Dr Harish talked about how the pandemic has become a catalyst for educational institutions to find innovative solutions to make learning efficient. What ensued was an discussion on various topics by the panelists.

Expert: Girija Baiju, principal, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Abu Dhabi

Speaking on 'Prioritising well-being of stakeholders in education amidst COVID-19', Girija Baiju informed the audience about the re-opening of schools in Abu Dhabi and the protocols being followed in order to ensure the safety of stakeholders. She also stressed on the importance of social and emotional well-being and discussed strategies to ensure the same such as conducting sessions with counsellors, helping parents by granting fee- concessions, nomination of parent ambassadors, etc.

Expert: Abhishek Kesarwani, IRPS, principal, OAK Grove School, Uttarakhand

Shedding light on the topic 'E-learning: Impact and Strategies', Abhishek Kesarwani in his deliberation, talked about the challenges, opportunities, merits and de-merits of e-learning. Convincing the stakeholders to adapt to the changes in teaching methods, equipping students and teachers with required ICT tools and immediately switching over to digitalised education were a few challenges that he spoke about.

Expert: Rupkatha Sarkar, principal, La Martiniere for Girls, Kolkata

Speaking on the topic 'Transcending the barriers of the pandemic', she elaborated on the proper usage of virtual space, barrier of evaluation and assessment, communication, etc. She also stressed on the importance of transference of skills in holistic development of children, and instill in them values like empathy so that the students understand the socio-economic problems that exist in the society and also take initiatives and find solutions for the same.

Expert: Heema Sharma, principal, KR Mangalam, Greater Noida

The panelist presented her views on 'Learning beyond classroom'. She underscored the problem of digital divide and informed the audience how the less fortunate children were deprived of education owing to the unforgiving circumstances during this pandemic. She also lauded the teachers who accepted the challenge of adapting to digital learning.

Expert: Dr Dheeraj Mehrotra, CBSE Master Trainer
Dr Mehrotra deliberated upon the topic 'Harnessing



Panelists deliberate on the topic

the power of present scenario', where he highlighted the transformed pattern of teaching and learning and stressed on the importance of updating ourselves to meet the teaching-learning needs and expectations of the present generation of young learners. He talked about the change in the pattern of learning in terms of routine, structure and communication and how teachers have equipped themselves to cater to the needs of children.

Expert: Dr CB Mishra, principal, Prudence Group of Schools, Ashok Vihar

Discussing the topic 'Enhancing Student Engagement during the Pandemic', he pointed out the need to maintain student engagement. Dr Mishra also shared the significant role of teachers to ensure the

emotional and mental well-being of all the students as they have been confined in homes for a long time.

Expert: Sujata Ghatak, principal, Techno India Goup, Garia, Kolkata

Talking about 'Weathering the Pandemic and Rebuilding the education', Sujata shared her valuable experience of dealing with the crisis. She emphasised on the challenges faced by educators while handling technology. She further stressed on rebuilding the education structure to empower the lower section of the society by formulating policies that would cater to their learning needs as well.

All in all, the panel discussion was insightful and appreciated by the participants and audience alike. 

More than words

When Play Of Words Is Not The Only Thing That Excites You To Pick A Book

Praya Pansey, AIS Vas 6, XII

When we read the Harry Potter series for the first time, other than the magic wands and the honest-to-God dragons, what fascinated us all were the magical books in the library of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Now, I'm not saying that we muggles have yet found a way to make our books growl at us (Remember The Monster Book of Monsters?) but I am saying our authors and book designers have come up with their own tricks to make the task of book reading more amusing to us.

The art of incompleteness

Have you ever been through a time when every book you pick is a bust, so you never complete even one of them, ending up wasting years of your life? In other words, you go through a 'reader's block'. Now 'If on a Winter's Night a Traveler' by Italo Calvino is not ex-

actly about that, but more about the author's block. Confused? This weird comedy is the story of two readers who, whenever they pick up a book are not able to complete it because the book is not complete. Then when they go to the library to find a copy of it, they find the

same book by another author, again incomplete! So, this book is like a reader's cum writer's block where, by the end of the story, the readers are unable to finish even a single book. Non-readers might say this is a sign from the universe! Well, maybe it is!

The art of flowing

You must be aware of the writing rule of using 'short' sentences. Well, Bohumil Hrabal broke all those rules and went on to write a book called 'Dancing Lessons for the Advanced in Age' which is literally one single sentence. Grammar nazis

can't really stand this book because of the insane amounts of conjunctions used. Imagine writing a book of 128 pages, with one full stop (thankfully)! Excuse me, I need to take a breath from all the full stops that I didn't get in between. *Deep breath*

Ray Bradbury, who were highly inspired by the concept of the story, which revolves around burning books, created an edition with a special charcoal black coating that forms a chemical reaction when light is applied. That's a special edition though. But mind you, do not, I repeat, do not go burning your textbooks, kids.

The art of jumping

Julio Cortazar was probably a person who loved experiments – just not the science ones. In his book 'Hopscotch' he gave a whole new angle to book writing. Here, he asks the readers to read consecutive chapters, but only the first fifty-six, leaving the rest as expendable or jump through the chapters following the series that the author has provided at the end of every chapter. Among other gimmicks used by the author, is the use of incomplete sentences to show a contrast between what the reader is thinking and what he is saying.

The art of burning

Are you one of those kids whose parents have strictly banned the use of fire? Well, you have an excuse to get them to lift the ban – a book that can be read by burning! (that is just one of the editions, but your parents don't know that!) Thanks to the designers of 'Fahrenheit 451' by



The size of human eye remains the same throughout the lifespan whereas our nose and ears never stop growing.



Human eye

The Science of Interstellar

Scientific Delineation Of A Cinematic Magnum Opus We All Adore

Madhav Sharma
AIS Saket, X

If you're a sci-fi fanatic, chances are that you worship *Interstellar*, a film that beautifully blends engaging cinema and enthralling visual effects that explore the future of planet Earth. Often confusing but still greatly revered, *Interstellar* mentions many concepts that may befuddle a movie-goer. So, here's a closer look into some scientific themes in *Interstellar* that may have left us all a little perplexed but nonetheless, fascinated.

Blight

Referred to as a form of fungal disease in plants, blight may

seem like an imaginative plot device but in reality, it is far from it. Concerning blight epidemics have been witnessed in the past in the US and Europe. The Great Famine, caused by potato blight, in Ireland resulted in the deaths of over a million people. During the First World War, Germany too faced a potato blight outbreak which caused over 700,000 deaths. Given the increasing levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere, it is quite likely that a similar situation is plausible in the future as well. In a recent study by NASA, some wheat crops were grown in a greenhouse with 60% more CO₂ levels (expected amount of CO₂ in a century) and

within a mere two weeks, yellow fungi had destroyed half of the crop. Scary, isn't it? **In the movie:** In the *Interstellar* timeline, blight has destroyed almost all food sources, forcing humanity to leave Earth; hence being the entire reason why the protagonist goes on the astronomical adventure in the first place.

Gravitational-Time Dilation

First described by Albert Einstein, gravitational-time dilation refers to the phenomenon of gravity and relative velocity affecting the rate of passage of time. It can be understood with a simple example of as-

tronauts at the International Space Station (ISS). As the ISS revolves at a very high velocity around the earth, astronauts age slower over there. If someone spends six months at the ISS, they age 0.005 seconds less than someone on the Earth. Similarly, on a planet orbiting close to a black hole, a clock will tick much more slowly than on a spaceship farther away.

In the movie: In *Interstellar*, the first planet the astronauts land on is very close to a supermassive black-hole. This proximity causes an extreme time dilation- one hour on the

planet is equal to seven years on Earth. Now we know why Murphy was so much older than her father!

Worm Holes

First theorised in 1916 by Ludwig Flamm, wormholes are a recurring theme in science fiction and consistent with the Theory of General Relativity by Albert Einstein. Presumed extremely unstable, wormholes are supposed to be conduits or bridges between two points in space or time which allow transportation between the two. Theoretically, such a tunnel or bridge could be traversed from one point in space to another without traveling the distance between them, creating a

shortcut that could reduce travel time and distance. But, since wormholes are supposed to be unstable, entering one could lead to it collapsing completely in the process.

In the movie: As the spaceship nears the wormhole, the wormhole is shown as spherical and not circular as usually shown in textbook drawings. It is then explained that this is due to the universe being represented in two dimensions, thus a sphere becomes a circle. Also, going through the wormhole, Amelia (Anne Hathaway) experiences her 'first handshake' with extra-terrestrial life, although later it is shown that it was Cooper reaching out to Amelia as he travels through the black hole.

To science and beyond

A Stream Of Study That Has All The Answers

Udaybhanu Singh, AIS Noida, XII

As you sit somewhere far away from me, comprehending what this article might tell you, you look around and see the world encompassing you. From your work, your phones, your room, and everything else about your existence, all of it seems to point to one thing and one thing alone – science. Science the very beginning of time, or ever since humans have started noticing it, science has been the one constant that has been around us, whether we recognised and accepted it or not. There have always been thousands of questions that waited to be answered, and as soon as they were, a few new ones would pop up; there is always a new fruit waiting to be plucked from the tree of science, and it is only through science that we prove that things already exist or will exist in the future. It is science that innovates and expands our universe beyond our imagination.

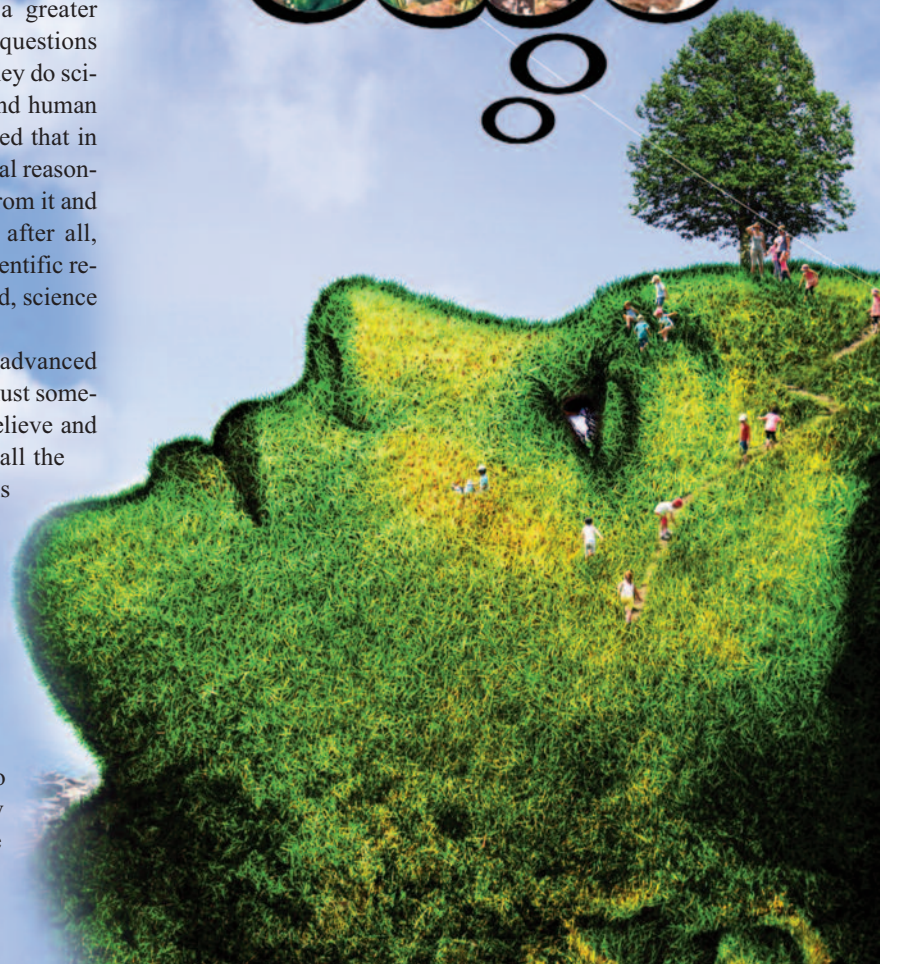
It is wonderful to see how every step taken by mankind brought it closer to the science that exists as a wonder around us, how man has evolved from merely breathing to existing, forming communities, expanding minds, discovering elements, creating factors, inventing airplanes and

everything in between. And science doesn't just stop at one invention, no; it allows humankind to use one scientific miracle to create another and yet another still, and so the circles will continue as long as humans exist to bask in its glory. Which is why, it can be said that the relationship between science and humans is exactly like a drama television series – full of twists, turns, leaps, cliff-hangers, suspense, and one where the last episode is never really the ending.

Sometimes, as one wonders 'What is life?', 'What is reality?', 'Why is everything the way that it is?', no other concept comes forward to answer these questions as well as science does. The air we breathe, this article you read, the food you eat, everything is science, and everything that 'makes sense' will always be science. Science has explained life and what ingredients it holds. We have discovered atoms, quarks, theories, gravity, planets and all we could think of, and though it is true that there still remains a larger chunk of the universe that we know nothing about, the hopes and answers of ever knowing the reality of life and existence, in its true factual form, lies only and only in the study of science. Even the greatest scientists in the world still search for an answer

to questions like 'Why were we created?', 'Does God exist?', 'Is there a greater meaning?', and yes, all these questions seem more philosophical than they do scientific, a deeper study of life and human existence in general has signified that in order to understand the emotional reasoning, we must first be detached from it and must look at it logically. But, after all, what are emotions if not just scientific reactions of your brain? Like I said, science is everywhere.

In today's world, that is more advanced than one ever seen before, we must sometimes get arrogant enough to believe and delude ourselves that we have all the answers, but the reality remains that though we may have definitely come a long way from the starting line, the finish line of understanding and accepting everything with its logics and reasons remains to be touched by the human mind. But fret not, fellow beings! We haven't come this far only to come this far; science is the law of nature and as long as we live and breathe, science will continue to grapple us and force us into the world of progress.





The human eye blinks an average of 4,200,000 times a year.

MY MALGUDI DAYS

Remembering Those Childhood Memories On The Way To Adulthood

Khyati Ahuja
AIS Saket, XII

It all starts the moment you leave college and get a job, the one you always dreamed of and worked so hard to get. Life couldn't get any better. But then June comes along, and you realise that you're an adult now, meaning no summer vacations! As you drive to work every day, you see the kids are no longer at the bus stop. Instead, they are

busy chasing each other in the park, their voices easily audible even at a distance.

There are several occasions when adulthood hits you, but come summer vacations, and it smacks you right in the face. At home, as you see your sibling sleeping in late, you look at them with all sorts of envy, before you grudgingly drag yourself to get ready for work. I reach office, cramming my legs into my cubicle, and my mind

wanders to my sibling spreading his on the couch, watching his favourite show.

I take a break, trying to wean myself and my mind from jealousy for little kids. Getting a cup of tea, I look out of the window, only to see hoardings of 'SUMMER CAMP. ENROLL NOW'. Really God? That's your sense of humour now! And within minutes I'm walking down the memory lane, when I would attend these camps –

sing, play, dance, breaking away from the usual routine of mathematical equations and science formulas. And now while these kids paint, I make presentations; while they write stories, I am busy drafting the annual profit statement. Urgh!

But the fun does not end here. I return home after a long day at work, only to find kids still playing in the society park. A stark contrast from the pan-dead silence that meets me on most

days when I return home, for there are UTs, exams, assignments and what not. Let July come and they will be hit with July tests. Will serve them right for having so much fun!

In that moment, an epiphany struck me. Summer vacations will be over. Life will again be about school, homework and tuitions. Weekends will be about preparing for Monday UTs,

when I will be sleeping in late or catching a movie. All-nighters will be pulled but at least I will get to sleep once I am back from work. And most importantly, I will not have mom nagging me all the time, asking me to study. I entered home with a smile on my face and saw my sibling sprawled on the sofa, watching his favourite show. "Not for long," I thought to myself as I headed to my room.



THE LAST MAN ON EARTH

Blessing Or A Curse? Let This Diary Be The Answer!

Farhan Siddiqui
AIS Gurugram 46, X

Dear Diary,

When I woke up this morning, I expected my phone to be buzzing with messages, tweets and Instagram posts. After all, it was not every day that you turn 18. But as I opened my eyes, the world was quiet for once. No *sabziwala* shouting at the top of his voice. No family members asking me to wake up early in the morning. Also, no birthday wishes, but I would take that over people bugging me for every little thing.

As I stepped out of an empty house, to an empty street, I realised something had happened while I was lost in the world of dreams. Suddenly, a car came my way and as I jumped out of the way, I saw no one was driving that car. For a minute, I thought that it was a serious case of people coming back from the dead. Was it Thanos? Did that purple grape snap the whole (barring me of course) universe away, instead of just the half of it? Where are the Avengers when you need them!

But anyway, this is actually good. Now, I could buy my favourite red velvet cake from that bakery my parents could not afford. With that thought, I marched there, took the cake out from behind the counter

and gobbled it all down. No people, no sharing.

After that, I made a list of things I always wanted to do, but couldn't because of people getting in my way. First, buying and wearing the most expensive, branded clothes I could find; it was my birthday after all! Of course, then I realised that wearing good clothes without anyone being there to see them takes half the fun out of it. Then I drove to the adventure park in the nearby town. But as I entered the park I realised, no one would be there to turn on these rides. I could always start them but then who would stop them. Yeah, I didn't need a repeat performance of a driverless car!

Sighing, I drove back home thinking maybe I could play some video games. My mother won't stop me; and wasn't that a sad thought. Shaking my head, I refused to indulge in self-pity. And there was no reason to feel bad anyway, I was still alive! As I parked my car, I saw through the windshield that my whole neighbourhood was on fire. The flames were quickly spreading to my own house. I quickly backed the car away, running the hell out of there. Someone must have accidentally left the gas on.

By night, I could see the smoke coming out from all over the town. I

would run away again, but I was out of diesel. The silence of this morning seemed eerie in the night, and the sound of animals growling and howling only managed to worsen this horror show. I know, I do not have a lot of time, diary. And I do not need any time either, for if not the fire then I know this loneliness will get to me eventually.

Yours truly,
The last man on earth





Happy Diet Happy World



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

Food has always been an integral part of our lives. So, this year, when the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to World Food Programme, it was giving credit where it is due. Sceptics might argue about the role of food in peace making, but even a cursory glance from close quarters goes on to reveal the vital role that food plays in building a happy world.

Our holy scriptures, too, reiterate the happiness that food brings along. The hymn 'Annastuti' in the first chapter of Rigveda, states that our food is an incomparable friend that imparts and generates happiness. While food and bliss walk hand in hand, it is only the right kind of food that can serve as a harbinger of holistic happiness.

Healthy eating is important for not just a healthy body, but also a healthy mind. The same has been emphasised in Chhandogyanishad, *Adhyaya 6, Khanda 6, Vakya* as अन्नमयं हृदि मम मनः. It means that the mind is made up of the food we eat, and that human values are nutrition for the mind. These human virtues together with the five essential nutrients make up the *panch tatva* – the five elements (fire, water, earth, sky and air).

It is for this reason that we at Amity constantly endeavour to educate children on the importance of eating healthy, right from their formative years. These learnings are reinforced through activities like fireless cooking, cook green, cook and write, celebration of special days dedicated to food, etc. Along with educating them about the benefits of eating healthy, these activities also inculcate in them values like sharing, team spirit, caring, empathy, hard work, etc; all virtues integral to building a happy world.

Good food is the foundation of genuine happiness. So, let's eat right, and make this world a happy place, one morsel at a time. 🇮🇳

The carbon foodprints



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

Every year when my household, who belongs to a remote area of Jharkhand, goes home for her annual vacations, she carries a sackful of potatoes. It left me amused when she told me that she does so because people in her village believe that urbanites are fair complexioned because they eat a lot of potatoes, so they ask her to bring lots of them. I observed that she and most of the people from her native village have healthy hair, glowing skin and eat local vegetables available in their area. In the modern jargon, they are 'Localvores' who survive on locally grown food. On the other hand, in the past 2-3 decades, we have seen urbanites consuming exquisite foods like tofu, kiwi, etc, even when their local, easily available and affordable cousins like cottage cheese, figs, etc. scramble for space in our grocery list. I find it disturbing for our environment, culture and health, as most of them are not locally found, they are imported and thus involve logistics, special storage, etc. which increases our carbon footprint. In fact, in our vedas, too, 'localvore' is a prescribed way of eating as they specify that we must try to eat what's easily found and grown within a radius of 1-2 km from where we live. So, whether urban or rural, we need to turn to localvore to eat fresh and healthy, especially in these changed times when we are all striving to maintain good health and reduce our carbon 'food' print. 🇮🇳

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Turn off the stereo(types)

For It's High Time That We Get Rid Of This Enemy Of Equality

Saloni Saxena, Alumna, Anika Joshi & Isha Gore, XI, AIS Vas 1

The word 'stereotypes' is not new, we have heard enough about them. The common ones being - only boys can play sports, only girls wear pink coloured clothes and every Indian is a true reflection of Slumdog Millionaire. We hate them all, don't we? The stereotypes that shove us into a box labelled a certain way, making us a certain type. But this is where the problem arises- that while hating them, we are the ones who let these stereotypes thrive in the society. See for yourself.

Stereotyping a la gender

'Oh, how feminine!' is what we exclaim when we see a man in a pink shirt. What adds to this exclamation is when any male is seen performing household chores. In addition, the very beings are belittled when they showcase their emotional side, or to be precise- when they cry. All such sights seem so incredible to the Indian eye. Simple, because men can't have colour preferences, they can't be good cooks, and more so, they don't come with tear glands, right? While we still struggle with the generalisations that women have gone through over the years, we fail to realise that on the other hand, we have given birth to a whole new set of stereotypes altogether. Before it's too late, let's accept the fact that the term 'robustness'



doesn't just belong to men, and that women aren't the only ones entitled to term 'emotions'.

Stereotyping a la colour

It would be a lie if we say that we

don't groove to 'gore gore mukhre' whenever it plays on radio, or that we don't exclaim at the sight of a fair-skinned person. Needless to say, most of us are guilty in this case. But then, how do we blame ourselves when the

only advertisement that ruled the small screens in the past decade, limits beauty to a particular colour? While we condemn racism abroad, we fall victims to our own fellow Indians unashamedly obsessing around fair skin. Testimonials for the same can be found in the matrimonial columns of any Indian newspaper. While someone's colour and beauty may only be skin deep, the ugliness of such stereotypes and harsh comments penetrates way deeper to the bones.

Stereotyping a la region

Our blood boils when we see Apu's hyperbolised South Indian accent in the acclaimed TV show of the 90's, Simpsons, that almost led everyone to think that this is how every Indian sounds. And yet, we find it funny to label just any South Indian as a 'Madraasi', all Gujaratis as 'loud-speakers', all Gujaratis to be 'businessmen', and to all our North-Eastern fellows- we totally feel you! It is silly you are not how you are, but the state you are from. But, how about we perceive that these traits can be one of the criteria of definition and not the complete definition itself, especially when a whole community is concerned.

Albeit, these stereotypes are here to stay for a while, more like a guest who has graciously overstayed his/her welcome. The question is - for how long are we going to entertain them? 🇮🇳



MUNs: the way forward

Continued from page 1...

The relationship between India and Netherlands is...

healthy and growing. The relationship between the two countries goes back to 17th-18th century when the Dutch had trading ports in modern day Kochi. The relationship between the two countries is not just economic, but also socio-political. In the last three years, state visits between the leaders of the two countries cemented long camaraderie and friendship between the two nations. Adding to it, the number of students going for academic purposes, professionals for business purposes, and cross-country company collaborations between the two countries has eventually increased. Also, last year, both the countries celebrated a decade of scientific collaboration and research. In addition to all this, there is a great deal of cultural exchange between the two countries given their long standing friendship.

India is a star... on the world stage in the current times. It has a growing in-

volvement in multilateral institutions like ASEAN, SAARC, EU and international bodies like the UN, including chairing the UNSC, the WTO and G20. Currently, the world is looking at India as an important player in world politics. The fact that the so-called West is towards the Indo-Pacific is a testament to the position that our country holds. Especially being endorsed is India's role in sustainable development including co-launching of the Global Solar Alliance. Moreover, India is an equal partner in the Quad (The Quadrilateral) which shows its increasing role in world politics and world economics.

India has the power and resources...

to be a global power in coming decades. One thing that everyone talks about India these days is the youth bulge, which, if utilised properly, can propel India into an economic head start. Along with this wonderful resource, well-thought government policies can further aid in the establishment of start-ups, nurturing a whole lot of young entrepreneurs, who would further

strengthen the country. If one goes by the statistics and demographics, India has the largest number of adults under 25 years of age, who are the future leaders, policy makers, technicians and scientists of the world. So, the country is well equipped with a generation of youth to handle anything and everything, so much so that they can lead the development of India as well as that of the world as a whole.

Building a chain of policy makers...

is what Amity is doing. Amity has had over a decade long legacy of organising MUNs, comprising both national and international delegations. The young minds should never miss this opportunity, and participate in MUNs with vigour because this platform helps you to develop the skills that every citizen should possess in a globalised and constantly changing world. With programmes like these, you understand diverse cultures, learn new languages, get to know different perspectives and most importantly, build your character to become a future policy maker. 🇮🇳



Dear Editor,

This is in reference to The Global Times edition dated November 2, 2020. It goes without saying that the ongoing pandemic has brought about unprecedented challenges for everyone around the world. Seeing the upheaval it had caused, the prospect of taking out a contest edition was dim. But the editorial team rallied together, with the unconditional support of our teachers and our principal, and brought forth an edition we were all proud to call our own. The Editorial Board brainstormed, researched, created drafts, designed, and relentlessly worked on each and every story to craft an edition which can provide its readers a mix of information, humour, nostalgia and everything in between. Even though this edition has been released digitally, the Editorial Board really put their best foot forward. Cheers to our entire team for making this contest issue a success! 🇮🇳

Navya Bhasin
AIS Vasundhara 1, IXA



The tower of victory

The Story Of The Bricks And Cement Of A Minaret That Still Stands Tall

India is a land abounding with wonderful UNESCO heritage sites to feast one's eyes on. Some of them being natural wonders to some being exquisite architectural marvels to many being a reflection of magnificent history and some even a sanctuary for biodiversity to flourish. Here's presenting Part IX of the Heritage Series, giving an insight into Qutub Minar, which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993.

Ashika Mittal

AIS Vasundhara 1, X A

Qutub Minar, or Qutb Minar, at 72.5 metres, stands to be the tallest minaret in the world built of bricks, having a 14.3 metres base diameter which reduces to 2.7 metres at its peak. But as its bricks and all its glory has been recorded as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this 'victory tower' that forms the main part of the Qutb Complex, sits in the heart of Mehrauli in New Delhi, India, and contains spiral staircases of 379 steps, all of them holding and narrating different chapters of the monument's story.

Chapter 1

The architecture it has seen

The construction of the monument was first ordered by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, a deputy of Muhammad of Ghor, who founded the Delhi Sultanate after Ghor's death. In its initial stage in 1199, the Minar was supposed to have only one story which would have inscriptions praising Muhammad of Ghor, but it was Aibak's successor and his son-in-law, Shamsuddin Iltutmish, who further constructed the monument and added three more

storeys. Firuz Shah Tughlaq, the ruler at the time, added another storey to the Minar in 1369, and Sher Shah Suri, in his ruling, added an entrance. The lowest three storeys of the building had fluted cylindrical shafts or columns of pale red sandstone, which were separated by balconies, and the fourth storey comprised marble and was relatively plain in design. The fifth and the final storey was made out of marble and sandstone where the flanges were made of maroon and dark red sandstone and were engraved with Quranic texts and other decorations. The Qutb complex also holds various historically significant monuments like Quwwar-ul-Islam Mosque which was constructed a few years before the Minar and was later enlarged by Shams-ud-Din Iltutmish and Alaud-Din Khalji, known to be one of the earliest mosques in the Indian subcontinent. An Iron Pillar also stands in the courtyard, bearing an inscription in Sanskrit, along with a cupola popularly known as 'Smith's Folly'; it stands as a remnant of the restoration done to the tower in 1828 where the cupola was initially installed over the fifth storey but was taken down and reinstalled at ground level in 1848 after the orders from Henry Hardinge,

the then Governor General of India.

Chapter 2

The tragedies it has seen

Maybe it was because Qutb Minar was built on the same land that once held the ruins of the Lal Kot, the citadel of Dhillika, or maybe it was all a simple coincidence and not bad luck, but the monument has seen a few not-so-great days in its long history. A lightning strike damaged the then top storey of the Minar in 1369, which was then repaired, and the mosque in the complex was also once enclosed by the carved columns of 27 Hindu and Jain temples which were demolished by Qutub-ud-din Aibak. In 1505, an earthquake hit the area and forced Sikander Lodi to repair the damages, only for an earthquake to befall it again in 1803. Even for man-made accidents, the minaret has a few noted in its book as the access to the top was permanently closed to the general public after the year 2000 due to many suicides cases. On December 4, 1981, the failure of the staircase lighting caused a stampede of around 500 visitors towards the exit, causing 47 people to be killed and many were left injured, leaving behind a bitter memory for the monument.

Chapter 3

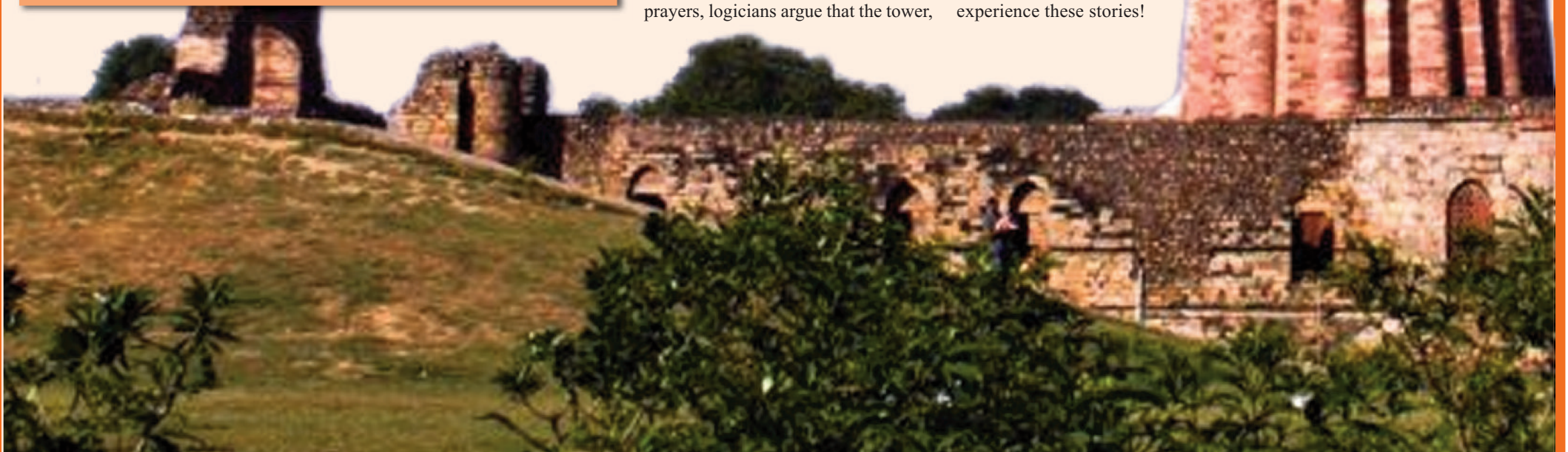
The mystery that surrounds it

Years after its origin, the minaret stands to be coated in its own marination of mystery as the proof from the past only keeps getting dicier as we move towards the future. Some theorise that it was constructed to be used as a muezzin's tower, some believe it to be built for a princess to get an unobstructed view of Yamuna, and some argue that it was meant to be an observatory. The speculation begins right from its name as one strata of historians argue that the tower was named after Qutb-ud-din Aibak, who started its construction, whereas another strata believes that it was named by Shamsuddin Iltutmish after Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki, a 13th century Sufi saint. While some argue that it was a muezzin's tower to recite prayers, logicians argue that the tower,



today, stands as a heritage site whereas the mosque besides it is in ruins, which proves that it was the sole focus of the maker. Not to mention that it would practically be impossible for the *muaddhin* to climb it 5 times a day to recite prayers that could not be heard by the people on the ground beneath him. This, again, also brushes away some claims that Qutub Minar was actually built as 'Dhruv Stambh' or 'Vishnu Dhvaj', an Hindu observatory for astronomy, as the very inscription on the monument, as translated, says 'Qutb-ud-din Aibak, on whom be the mercy of God, constructed this mosque'. With its Arabesque ornamentation and Islamic architecture, the motif and feeling of the place gives away more than a hint of where it comes from.

Qutub Minar - standing not only against the test of time but also nature and everything in between, is proof enough that what is written in history will be remembered and admired for years to come, even after the story of its origin and existence seems doubtful. As the tallest brick minaret in the world, this tower has been an inspiration and prototype for many others like the Chand Minar aka the Tower of the Moon in Daulatabad or Hast Minar aka Mini Qutub Minar in Uttam Nagar, West Delhi. So, what are you waiting for? Visit this heritage site to experience these stories!





The brave girl

Storywala



Gouri Srivastav
AIS VKC Lko, IX

Many years back, in the small town of Yorkshire lived a 12-year-old girl named Amelia. Her father had gone to New York in search of a new job and meanwhile in his absence, her mother was doing all she could to provide a living for her family. But still she could not afford to send Amelia to school.

A kind lady named Mrs Brown lived in their neighbourhood and

volunteered to give lessons to Amelia free of cost. Every evening the lady would come to Amelia's house and give her lessons. One day, Mrs Brown had to go somewhere on an urgent notice and could not afford to come. Amelia's mother had too gone on her job and had strictly told her to not open the door till she comes. Following her instructions, Amelia locked the door from inside and started doing her household chores. After about an hour, she heard some loud and peculiar noises coming from the first floor.

As she climbed up the stairs, she heard the clatter of a glass. She ran quickly to her room and saw a thief rummaging through her mother's jewellery. Looking at him, she started shouting "Thief! Thief!" The thief quickly turned around, shut the door and started threatening Amelia with a knife. The little girl was petrified but still gathered courage and as soon as the thief turned around to find rope, she tried to escape. At this, the thief yelled, "Come back here, you silly little girl!" and tried getting a hold of her

After about an hour, she heard some loud and peculiar noises coming from the first floor.

but she broke free of him. She fell back with a jerk and toppled over a shelf. A little can came tumbling down the shelf, and Amelia suddenly realised that it was the pepper spray that her mother had given her for self-defence. She quickly sprayed it all over the thief's face. The thief started sneezing uncontrollably, but Amelia did not waste another moment and immediately found her mother's sari and tried tying him with it. To her success, the thief was then helpless as he struggled and begged for freedom and forgiveness, upon hearing which, she quickly called the police. Soon the police arrived, caught hold of the thief and took him back to the prison. Meanwhile, a crowd of people had gathered around the house and started shouting "Bravo! Bravo! Our brave little girl has saved us!"

Once Amelia's mother also returned home and was told about the incident, she hugged Amelia and said, "I didn't know you were so brave Amelia! I am very proud of you!" From that day on, Amelia was known as the girl who saved the whole town from a dangerous and nasty robber. 🇮🇳

WORDS VERSE

Hues of future

Nidhi Barthwal, AIS VKC Lko, TGT English

Born with an innocent smile and pure heart
Moulded by unsteady hands, this way and that
Shaped by fickle times- good and bad
Shy, happy, naughty, sweet, unruly or sad

I may be cooped up in a shell
Do patiently unravel the story I wish to tell
Then watch the shell of shyness shatter
Coaxed by your warmth, I join the pitter-patter

Wandering minds and wavering attention
Causing undesirable, unwelcome botheration
See me unearth my interests, abate distractions
Become the erudite scholar, inspiring all factions

I may be obstinate but show me some patience



Look beyond the solid façade of indifference
You lead and then, I shall follow
Behold, I'm the revolutionary leader of tomorrow

Chide us, lead us; don't leave anything unsaid
Be our torchbearer; light the path we yearn to tread
Do not undermine the dreams we hold
We are the vibrant hues that the future will unfold. 🇮🇳

Let her be

Suchika Sumeet Notani
AIS VYC Lko, TGT SST

Her heart just skipped a beat
On being finally welcomed
In her mother's womb

She kicked, she tossed
She stretched and watched
Time that waited for her to be

With open arms joyously
She came out of the cocoon

Sacrificing the warmth

Oh! bless you little angel
For you know not what
This life has brought to thee

A mother who made you
A father who offered prayers
And together will quell your fears

Keep smiling little angel
Away from the lies they tell
Without you whose smiles swell

God ensures you blessed be
As a few verses on your arrival
I recite for you to happily be. 🇮🇳



Aaratrika with wool flowers

Wool flowers

Aaratrika Ganguli, AIS Gurugram 43, IX B

Material required

- Scissors
- Vase
- Colourful stones
- Hot glue gun/Fevicol
- Small tree branches-5
- Different coloured wool balls



Method

- Take a wool ball and cut out a 10 cm long piece from it.
- Place this piece in between your middle finger and your ring finger.
- Now, start wrapping the wool ball around your 4 fingers about 100 times. The more wool you wrap, the fuller and prettier your pom-pom would turn out to be.
- Once done, tie a knot around this wrapped wool using the wool piece in between your middle finger and ring finger.
- You will get a bow-shaped wool ball. Remove it from your fingers slowly.
- Now, insert scissors in the loops on both ends of the bow and cut them off.
- Shuffle it a bit to get a rounded pom pom. You can also cut the extra edges to make it rounder.
- Repeat the same steps and make more of these using different wool colours.
- Now, with the help of a hot glue gun, paste these pom poms on the tree branches, one on each branch.
- Your wool flowers are ready! Place them in a pretty vase and decorate with some colourful stones.

BRUSH 'n' EASEL

Vidushi Goswami
AGS Gur, XI





The world's most common eye colour is brown, but brown eyes are actually blue eyes underneath.

The seven wonders of Anna

Wisdom tale

Aarav Vats, AIS Saket, V

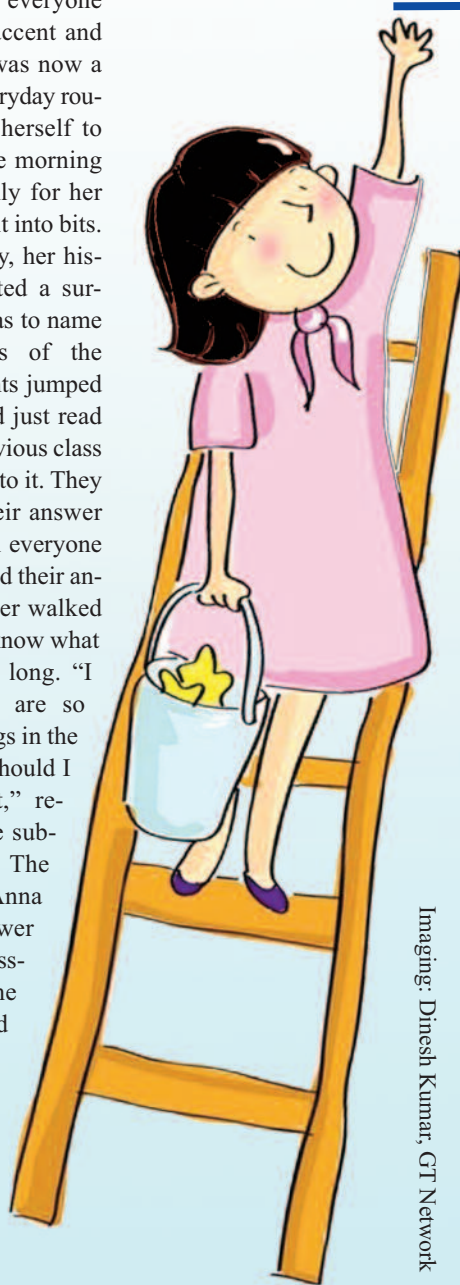
On the outskirts of a well-known city stood a small, lesser known, almost insignificant village. Today, they call it Anna's village. Yes, that's how the village is recognised now and it is no longer insignificant. All thanks to Anna and her capacity to dream, dream big! Wanting to become a doctor someday, she used to dream of studying in a school in the city where she would have access to much more knowledge and opportunities. Then what? She realised it and how!

Anna got the opportunity to transfer to a prestigious school in the city known as the League High School, on scholarship. She had just passed Grade 4 with flying colours and was psyched to begin her Grade 5 adventures in a new school. But to her utter dismay, things didn't quite go as she thought. Her first day at the city school was horrible. All her classmates made fun of her for coming from a village, and ridiculed her for not speaking well in English.

"What is my fault?" mumbled Anna as she gave in to tears. In that moment, she was almost tempted to run back to her old school but evaded the thought for she knew it would mean the end of her dreams. And things remained the same for the next

one month. Whenever Anna attempted to answer in class or give a presentation, everyone would laugh at her accent and make fun of her. It was now a part of her normal everyday routine; she would cry herself to sleep, wake up in the morning with a new hope, only for her classmates to shatter it into bits. But then one fine day, her history teacher conducted a surprise test. The test was to name the Seven Wonders of the World. All the students jumped with glee as they had just read about this in their previous class and knew the answer to it. They started filling out their answer sheets quickly. When everyone except Anna submitted their answer sheet, the teacher walked up to her, curious to know what was taking Anna so long. "I was thinking, there are so many wonderful things in the world, which seven should I actually write about," responded Anna as she submitted her sheet. The teacher was sure Anna had got the answer wrong unlike her classmates. Curious, she read the answer and while she was doing so, she had a little smile on her face. The other students thought that the teacher must be laughing at

Curious she read the answer and while she was doing so, she had a little smile on her face.



Imaging: Dinesh Kumar, GT Network



Anna's answer. Little did they know that things were going to be different from now on. The teacher decided to read the answer out loud wanting everyone to hear it and so she began, "I know that people say the Great Wall of China, Colosseum, Stonehenge, Great pyramid of Giza, Leaning tower of Pisa, Taj Mahal and Hanging garden of Babylon are The Seven Wonders of The World; but I think, the seven most wonderful things in the world are our ability to see, to hear, to feel, to laugh, to think, to be kind, and to love." Anna's classmates were speechless after hearing her answer. After all, who would expect a simple girl from a village to have such profound thoughts? The whole class broke into a round of applause and after that day, no one made fun of Anna anymore. Several years later, Anna became a doctor and that's how Anna's village came into being! 🇮🇳

So, what did you learn today?
Where you come from
does not define you.



Chocolate cake tower

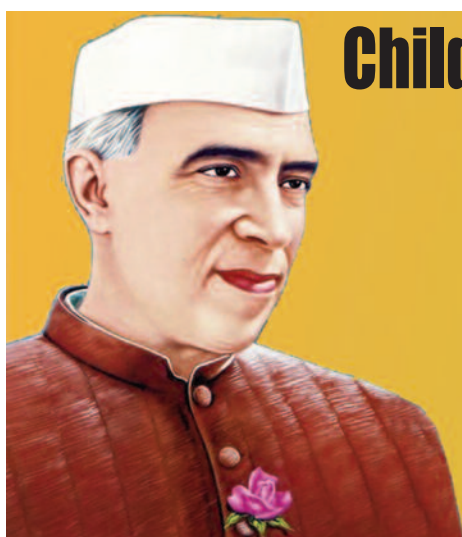
Aishi Jain, AIS Vasundhara 6, IV

Ingredients

Marie gold biscuits1 pkt	Melted butter50gm
Powdered sugar5 tsp	Cocoa powder.....½ tsp
Instant coffee½ tsp	Chocolate powder.....1/2 tsp
Milk½ tsp	Gems1 pkt

Procedure

- In a bowl, add 2 tsp powdered sugar, milk and coffee.
- Stir the ingredients well and keep this coffee mix aside.
- Next, in a separate bowl, add chocolate powder, 3 tsp powdered sugar, melted butter, cocoa powder. Mix the contents well until a medium thick consistency is achieved.
- On a plate, lay aluminium foil and cover the entire surface of the same.
- Now, take one Marie biscuit and dip it in the coffee mix.
- Place this coffee dipped biscuit on the plate covered with aluminium foil.
- With the help of a spoon, spread a layer of chocolate mix on this biscuit.
- Again, dip another Marie biscuit in coffee mix and place it on the top of the biscuit layered with chocolate mix.
- Repeat the process to form a tower of biscuits.
- Coat this chocolate biscuit tower with the remaining chocolate mix and garnish the top most layer with colourful gems in any pattern you like.
- Keep the prepared dessert in refrigerator for one hour.
- Slice and serve! Your cake tower is ready to eat.



Children's day: a new way

Avishi Agarwal, AIS VKC Lucknow, VII B

Like a dew drop on the flower
A tear trickled down my cheek
Oh! How I miss the good times
The fun and frolic with its chimes

Tireless strides in the playground
Or jumping around carefree
After hearing the school bell ring
Lil' mischiefs were when a thing

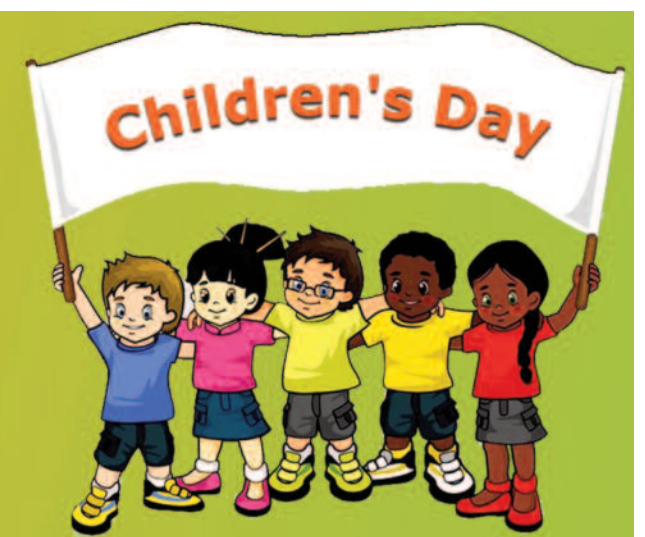
Children's day was a blessing for us

POEM

As we celebrated Nehruji's birthday
With all the happiness and bliss
And obeyed his ideals, not remiss

Now, the fete appears like a dream
Longing to be together, we scream
Our desires are like a flowing stream
And our innocent faces a little grim

This time we may miss all the fun
But kids we are, would always be
Let's together win over the wrongs
May Nehruji's ideals make us strong.



It's Me

Know me

My name: Aarav Jain

My Class: II

My school: AIS Noida

My birthday: July 9

My hobby: Dancing

My friends: Lakshya, Sargun and Aadya

My favourites

Book: Beauty and The Beast

Games: Badminton and football

Mall: DLF Mall of India

Food: Dal chawal

Teacher: Geetika Sharma ma'am

Poem: Wheels On The Bus

Subject: Maths

About me

Role model: My father

I like: Skating

I dislike: Cold drinks

I want to become: A doctor

I want to feature in GT because: I want others to know about me.



Tulip Tewari, AIS Noida, VII

Teacher: Form a sentence with the word 'sugar'.

Student: I drank cinnamon tea this morning.

Teacher: Where is sugar?

Student: It is already in the tea.



Teacher: Our topic today is photosynthesis. So children, what is photosynthesis?

Student: Our topic today!



Teacher: The first person to step on the moon was Neil Armstrong, who was the second person?

Student: It was Neil Armstrong only. He took the second step after the first.

PAINTING CORNER

Srija Singh
AIS VKC Lucknow, VI





Life in pandemic

Woes Of Introverts And Extroverts In The Pandemic

Agrata Gupta &
Zoya Ayesha Raza, XI
AIS Pushp Vihar

He is an introvert. He is an extrovert. Do these statements ring a bell? Well, we have always been trying to fit ourselves and moreover, others into these two categories while doing a personality analysis. And, when the tiny virus changed the lives of all, we mean including introverts and extroverts, the implications were interesting. Read on to know how...

Wearing masks

“Yayyy! It’s so good, now we do not need to answer irrelevant questions bombarded by people surrounding us,” remarked all the introverts around the world. But why? The mandatory wearing of masks at all times was nothing less than a blessing in disguise because it meant less chatter and more of their own space and time. Well, in case of extroverts, they were not really happy about it because masks were (and still are) a hindrance for

them to get attention and express themselves better.

Social distancing

Family gatherings, parties— a big NO and the introverts were all for once dancing as the rule of social distancing made its way during the pandemic and saved so many of their days with peace all round. Yet, a loud cry was heard on the other end, “Oh God, we cannot move out of our homes, not even meet our

dear ones. What kind of a rule is this?” And we know why—the extroverts were not happy about it, because obviously who does not like to explore the world outside freely? Ahem!

Dressing up

“Who likes to wear that straight fit jeans all day long?

What if we cannot party and move out with our friends, we still have our families with us.

Pyjamas are so comfortable,” jumping with joy said all the introverts with a flash of heart emoji in their eyes because the mighty lockdown called for a complete blanket ban on the concept of ‘dressing up’. Whereas, extroverts banged their head on the wardrobes as they missed the opportunities to flaunt their new attires, shoes, watches, bags, nailpaints, hairdos, etc. during this lockdown. Imagine the pain? Urgh!

Family-time

Well, don’t worry, this one’s where the extroverts gained the much required energy as they exclaimed, “What if we cannot party and move out with our friends, we still have our families with us. We all can try new recipes, games and other things.” On the other hand, introverts were seen struggling to find a peaceful corner for themselves as family nibbling is consistent. 🇮🇳



Stay home...

...And Be Safe From Coronavirus

Vedant Varshney
AIS Mayur Vihar, VII D

COVID-19 – the new deadly virus that started from China and has now spread to more than 200 countries. It started in November in 2019 and has brought down developed countries like Italy and America to its knees. In USA, there are more than 10 million cases and in India there are 8.4 million cases. Well, the numbers will probably increase by the time you finish this sentence. Till today, no vaccination has entered the market while there are many under trial phase as scientists all over the world are

working very hard. The symptoms of novel COVID-19 are fever, tiredness, dry cough, aches, running nose, sore throat, etc. It spreads by contact, which is why it is important for all of us to maintain social distance and stay inside our homes. Wear a mask if you are in contact with others, and if you feel sick, stay away from others. Avoid going outside or even ordering food from outside. Keep washing your hands regularly and sanitising everything around you, from your phones and laptops to your TV and tables. This is the time to show solidarity towards each other and stay at home to keep everyone safe.

WORDS VERSE

A day in a year



Avni Munjal, AIS Gurugram 43, IX D

It was this day in this year
A year that doesn't really count
That caught us off-guard
And left us home-bound

So, it was a day in a year
When I ventured out of home
On to a little corner by the road
Where stood a mobile ice-cream parlour

It was a really brief journey
My toes dressed in slippers
My pocket filled with money
To have my favourite chocolate cone

It wasn't my first summer feast
But never did I go on my own feet
I would always send my brother
As going out in lockdown, I deny

Didn't feel like clinging to the rules
This one day I had a different mood
I decided to leave my cozy bed
Hours after hours, a novel I read

But this very day in a year
Wasn't that cruel until I discovered
That the ice-cream vendor
Had a business up another hill

My hand almost reached my pocket
To let the hundred bucks breathe
But had to return half way
With water spilled on my dreams

While walking on the lonely road
A cool brisk of wind hit my face
It was then, I glanced at the trees
The bright blue sky caught my sight

The sky was difficult to recall
I saw it after four months and all
A view apart from my ceiling top
I beheld nature as my feet stopped

I think the breeze was a message
The nature sent a carriage
Or it was itself the mother earth
Who thought that I was worth

Suddenly I imagined
The trees tackling my sad face
Swinging their hands branched
Welcoming me to the open space

It was this day in a year
When I finally came to realise
There was so much to be seen
By my otherwise sleepy eyes

And this day of the year
My charming journal won
A rather wonderful account
That I would never forget

There is a bit piece left to share
The chocolate cone that left me sad
That very night, I relished the same
He got it, my amazing dad!



Fortunate In These Unfortunate Times

Mahika Banger
AIS Saket, IX C

Corona time is a time when people are struggling immensely in their mental and physical state. Especially youngsters who are physically very energetic and are in a constant need of going outside and meeting other people to take care of their overall well-being. With news of death, and destruction making the rounds, it is a time when nothing but negativity surrounds the lives of people. But amongst these negatives, there are some positive things, whether big or small, that needs to be taken into consideration when it comes to making the youngsters of our country more responsible and creative. This is a time to boost our academic prowess and simultane-

It is time

ously discover other talents within us. Earlier, many children were not able to focus on and pursue their passion because they didn't have the time but now, the one thing that we all have in abundance is time. So, get up and dig up the dormant talents buried deep inside you and turn them into something visionary, productive and fun for you to learn and possibly make a career out of.

Secondly, reflect upon your habits and responsibilities, and turn yourself into more of a humanitarian. We have seen so many people struggle financially, mentally, and physically during these times while we, the privileged ones, sit back on our couches and relax. So, this is the time to turn ourselves into responsible and concerned citizens and help the needy ones. We can do that in various ways such as by donating money and food to various NGOs, by providing masks or sanitisers to those who cannot afford them, etc. Taking such small steps wouldn't hurt us but it would surely help those who cannot help themselves. Thus, with corona, it is time to be newer and better versions of ourselves. It is also time to look after ourselves and the ones we love. Be safe and be responsible. 🇮🇳



Only one sixth of the human eyeball is exposed.

Razzmatazz 2020

When The Melodies Resonated Virtually



The first ever virtual fest of rhythm and tunes opens to a euphonious and euphoric start

AIS Pushp Vihar

The 10th Razzmatazz, an annual inter school competition of western music, was held virtually for the first time ever on Sept 25, 2020. The competition envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, to foster rhythmic intelligence of young minds, saw

participation from 26 schools of Delhi/NCR including all the branches of Amity Group of Schools. The young western classical, jazz percussionists and vocalists competed in various categories namely, solo singing, piano, acoustic guitar, unique instrument, bass guitar, drums, electric guitar and keyboard. Amity Group of Schools won 17 awards in various categories.

AIS Gurugram 46 won first prize in acoustic guitar. AIS Pushp Vihar, AIS Mayur Vihar and AIS Saket won first, second and third prizes in 'solo singing' respectively. In piano, AIS Gurugram 46 secured second position, and AIS Mayur Vihar came third. In unique instrument, both AIS Pushp Vihar and AIS Saket bagged second position. First and second prizes in bass guitar went to AIS Saket and AIS Mayur Vihar and in drums AIS Vasundhara 6 stood second while AIS Gurugram 46 & AIS Pushp Vihar shared third prize. In electric guitar, AIS Pushp Vihar won first prize and AIS Mayur Vihar bagged the second prize. In keyboard, AIS Saket stood first and AIS Gurugram 43 came third. Laura Santana, the youngest jazz vocalist of India and three alumni namely Mukul Jiwnani, Apaar Dua and Sarthak Ray, comprised the eminent jury of the competition. 🇮🇳



A young guitarist strums the tunes of hope and happiness

A day for harmony

AIS Mayur Vihar

Class VI students conducted a special virtual assembly on October 23, 2020 to observe the United Nations Day. The assembly commenced with the chanting of Gayatri mantra and a shloka for peace and harmony. Word of the day, thought of the day and news were shared following which students took a pledge to strive for peace and harmony. They recited self-composed poems and presented a skit to explore different elements of UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). While some students shared their experiences of recently held e-AMVMUN others performed on John Lennon's song 'Imagine' and Michael Jackson's song 'We are the world'. Class teachers Soniya Verma and



Students attend special assembly on the UN day

Karamveer Kaur, highlighted the relevance and role of United Nations in the modern world. The assembly culminated with the school song.

Reading to victory

Amitians Prove They Are Bibliophiles



Anika Bansal



Shubh Sharma



Krish Bhatnagar



Sameer Raghav

AIS Vasundhara 6

Six students namely Anika Bansal and Yashvardhan Madnavat (IX), Krish Bhatnagar and Shubh Sharma (X), Sameer Raghav and Ashmita Sharma (XI) won the National Reading Challenge held by CBSE from February 11-19, 2020 with re-



Yashvardhan



Ashmita Sharma

sults being declared on October 26, 2020. They were also declared the toppers from Noida re-

gion of the challenge. The competition held for the students of Class VIII-X comprised two

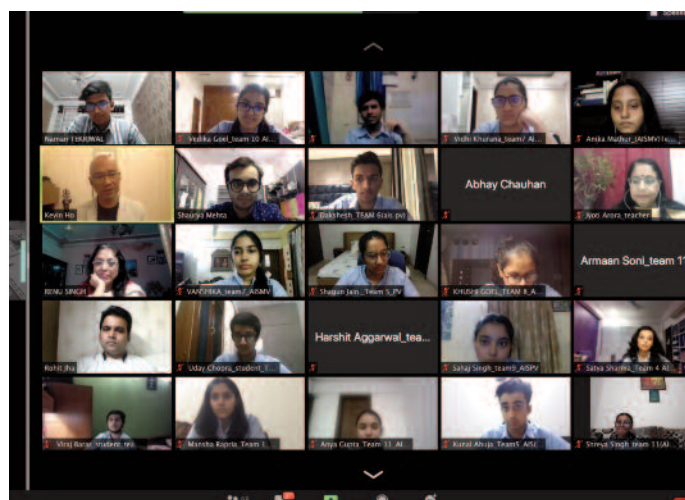
stages namely passage reading with questions and answers and a computer based reading test for speed and accuracy. The objective of the challenge was to enhance the reading literacy of students by engaging them into reading a variety of texts with speed, accuracy, ability to draw inference and reflect. 🇮🇳

Learning to take first step

Startup Workshop Hones Business Acumen Of Amitians

AERC

A three days online workshop on Amity Entrepreneurship and Start-Up Programme was held from September 28-30, 2020 for the students of Class VIII-XII. The workshop, first in the series to be organised by Amity alumni, was conceptualized by Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC), under the visionary guidance of Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan. Conducted by two Amity alumni namely Shaurya Mehta, Junior at Stanford University & Naman Tekriwal, Sophomore at Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, a total of 45 students from various branches of Amity Group of Schools participated in it. The workshop commenced with a brief insight into the conceptualisation of the start-up programme followed by a brief introduction of the guests. It provided an end-to-end knowledge of the entrepreneurship cycle, from its initial phase of evaluating a business idea to the



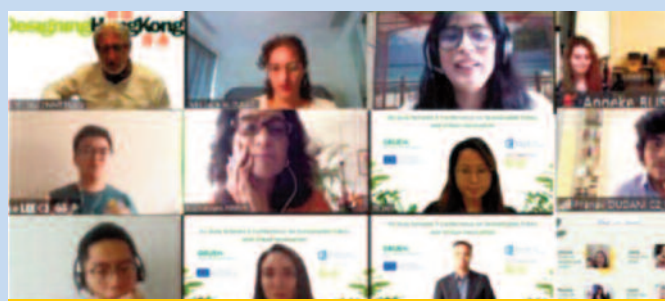
Business leaders of tomorrow learn 21st century business skills

actual business launch. Participants were further introduced to the myths and realities of entrepreneurship using myriad case studies. Various other activities were conducted during the workshop to encourage the students to work in teams with randomly chosen members and develop their ideas. Concepts like 'Target Market', 'Competition Analysis', 'Venture Capital', 'Customer Discovery', 'SWOT' Analysis and 'Lean Business Canvas' were also discussed.

The workshop concluded with 11 teams delivering PowerPoint presentations of their unique business ideas, judged by Kevin Ho, ex managing director, Barclays Asia Pacific, Hong Kong and Rohit Jha, founder, Vikings Career Strategists, India. The overall winners and the best pitch award went to team 6 comprising Adriel and Madhav Sood (AGS Gur), Anika Mathur (AIS Saket) and Dakshesh (AIS Saket) for their idea 'Patient house'. Team 3 comprising

Anirudh Pratap and Mehak Varshney (AIS PV), Ajay (AIS Noida) and Parineeta Marwaha (AIS Gur 46) bagged second position for their idea 'Who's cookin'. Third prize was awarded to team 7 comprising Anirudh Arun (AGS Noida), Vanshika (AIS Noida), Vidhi Khurana (AIS Saket) and Asmi Mittal (AIS Gur 46) for their idea 'Liaison hub'. Team 8 comprising Khushi Goel (AIS MV), Rudra Rudra (AIS Gur 46), Sachleen Shah (AIS Noida), and Udit Gupta (AIS Saket) won the special mention award for their idea 'Mood elevato'.

About the programme
Amity Entrepreneurship and Start-Up Programme is an initiative of AERC that aims to provide a unique opportunity to the young leaders of Amity Group of Schools to become successful entrepreneurs. This programme includes an annual workshop conducted by leading entrepreneurs from across the globe, that gives young minds an insight into the A to Z of entrepreneurship and the working of a start-up. 🇮🇳



Leaders of tomorrow deliberate issues of today's world

Harvard MUN 2020

Learning To Lead World

AERC

A team of 20 students from Amity Group of Schools across Delhi NCR participated and won various accolades in the special online Harvard MUN (HMUN) India, held from August 13-16, 2020. Over 1,400 high school students from more than 150 schools and 13 countries around the world participated in the event co-hosted by Harvard University's International Relations Council (IRC) and Worldview. Dhruv Bhargava from AIS Gurugram 46 and Sanjali Sharma from AIS Noida, both from Class X, won the titles of Best delegate- Cyprus and Outstanding delegate- Palau, in

legal Committee and UNGA respectively. Lakshita Aggarwal from Class VIII of AIS Saket won Diplomatic Commendation in UNEP and Archisha Veda of Class XII, AIS Gurugram 46 won Honorable Mention in UNCSW. A special appreciation award was presented to Somesh Taori of Class XII, AIS Gurugram 46, in legal committee. The delegates debated on topics like 'Combating anti-microbial resistance & public health and recreational drug use', 'Lethal autonomous weapons systems', etc. HMUN was an amazing opportunity facilitated by Amity Educational Resource Centre for the Amitians to showcase their diplomatic and leadership skills.

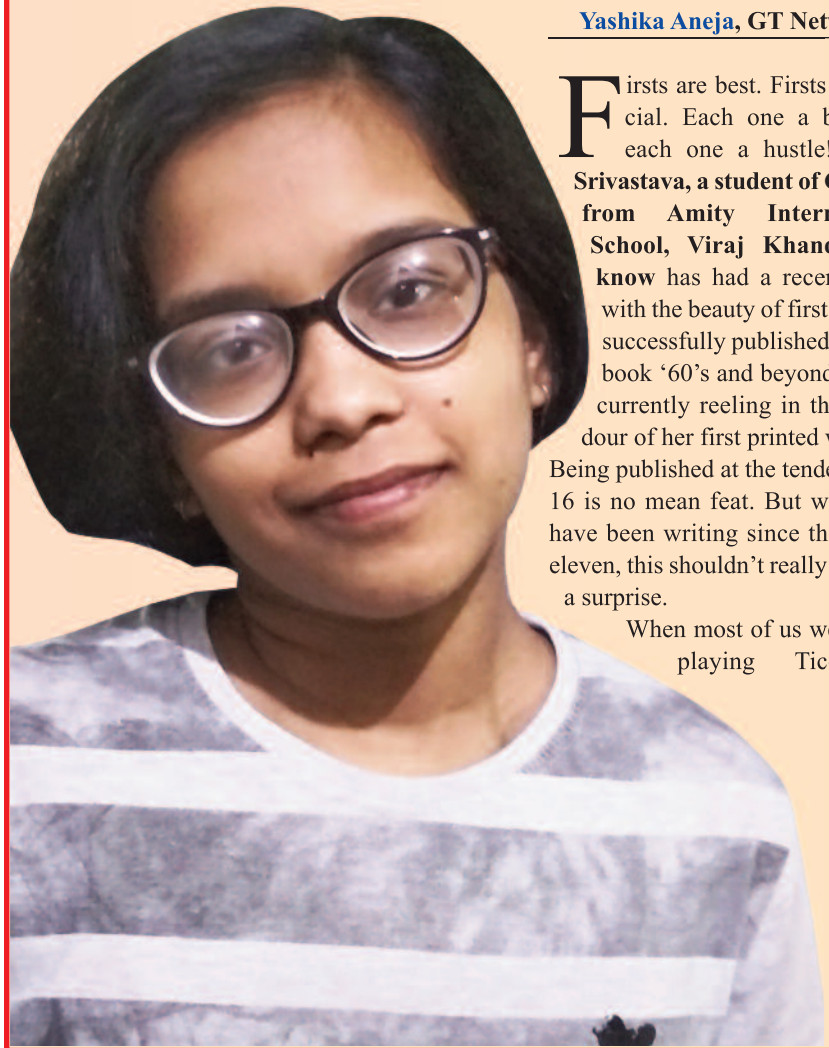
Corneas are the only tissue of the human body that do not have blood.

All top quotes contributed by
Koyal Das, AIS Gurugram 43, IX B



It is my first one...

...Says Gauri Srivastava, A Young Amitian As She Talks About Her First Book



Yashika Aneja, GT Network

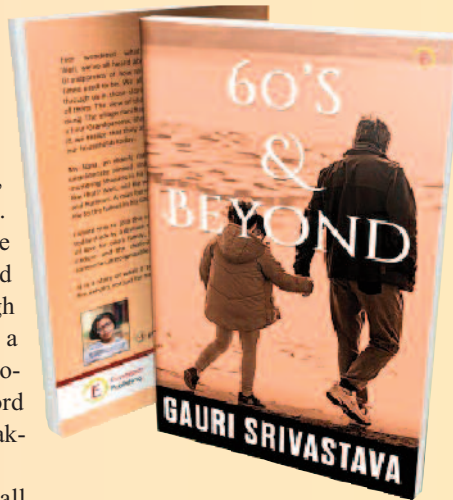
Firsts are best. Firsts are special. Each one a blessing, each one a hustle! **Gauri Srivastava, a student of Class XI from Amity International School, Viraj Khand, Lucknow** has had a recent brush with the beauty of first. Having successfully published her first book '60's and beyond', she is currently reeling in the splendour of her first printed work. Being published at the tender age of 16 is no mean feat. But when you have been writing since the age of eleven, this shouldn't really come as a surprise.

When most of us were busy playing Tic-tac-toe,

Gauri was spending her leisure time writing short stories and poems, and as an avid reader, reading classics, thrillers, and fantasies. Don't believe us? Listen it straight from the horse's mouth, "Writing is a part of my being. Even though the muse to write comes and goes as it pleases, and there are days when I write through hours and others when not even a minute, I love writing. I talk to people, listen to their stories and record them in my writings." All the makings of a great writer indeed!

Calm down! We know you are all curious to know what her debut book is about, so were we! And so that's exactly what we asked her to fill us in on next. "Well, '60's and Beyond' is a biography of my maternal grandfather who suffers from Parkinson's disease, a lethal neurological disorder. It basically talks about the life of a simple man and his simple world, showcasing what time can do to a great mind. It will give the readers a sense of how there's so much more to a person than meets the eye," elaborated Gauri with an inexplicable spark in her eyes.

We could sense it was something



coming from a very personal space. This one's going to be an emotional read you all, but would "keep the readers glued till the end" as Gauri surmised.

Intrigued to know more and making sure we don't reveal much, we asked her to shed some light on how the idea of writing the book came about. "My mom wanted me to write something about Nana, and so, having nothing else productive to do during this lockdown, I started listening to his anecdotes. It took me around one and a half months to pen them all down in a diary. Then, it had to be

typed which, trust me, was the most onerous part of the entire project," recounted Gauri with ebullience.

"Once done with the writing part, I approached a few publishing houses and eventually, picked one. The page design, book cover, preview, ISBN number, proof reading, and other things took about another month or so, and finally the book was out on October 20," she added, exuding her love for the art of writing with every word she spoke.

Accrediting her parents for understanding her passion and helping her realise it, Gauri says she writes with the sole aim to spread empathy in the world, for as she puts it, "empathy is precisely what this fast paced world needs, now more than ever."

As she signed off with a promise to come back with some more powerful stories in the future, amongst them an anthology all set to be launched this month, she left us with hope that if willed, everything is achievable.

And by the way, '60's and Beyond' is available online on Amazon, Flipkart, etc. So, what are you all waiting for? Go grab your copies today itself and don't forget to drop in a review.

First cab ride

When Your Train Of Thought Moves Faster Than A Cab

Nandini Sunil, AIS PV, XII E

It was 6 o'clock in the evening. Sana was waiting for the cab to arrive. It had been a long time since she had met her friend and couldn't wait to get there. But as excited as she was, Sana had also been fretting on the idea of taking a cab. After all, this was the first time she was going to fly solo in a cab. The cab finally arrived - a white Swift with tinted windows. She took a long hard look at the windows, the darkness of the films only making her anxious. "Oh God! Mom was right. I should have booked an auto instead,"

she thought as she entered the white car.

"Good evening ma'am, sorry I got a bit late. But I assure you that you will reach the destination right on time," said the driver. The eerily cheerful driver made Sana shift uneasily in the backseat. "Isn't he acting a little too friendly?" she muttered under her breath.

In the next moment, Sana was reprimanding herself for being 'overanalytical' and got back to scrolling through her phone. But not for long as the driver's phone rang in the very next instant. "Hello! Yes, yes. Do not worry, I'll be there on time. I am on my

way," he said.

Sana could not help but wonder, "Who is he talking to? Why is he talking about being on time? Is this about me? I should, maybe, ask him to roll down the windows."

While she was contemplating on all the possible things she could have done to avoid this situation, the driver took a different turn as compared to the regular route she was familiar with. Her senses now alert, she sprang up immediately, "Bhaiya, this is not the correct turn. Which route are you taking? This in fact is a longer route." And as she spoke she wondered if the nervousness in

her voice was apparent to the driver too.

She felt that the driver had something else in mind. "I think it is time to press the speed dial. I should ask dad to start tracking me now," she thought. "Madam, the other route is completely packed with traffic. There is no way we could reach on time had we gone that way," said the driver, unaware about the array of questions that speedily ran in Sana's mind.

Sana was so lost deep in her own pile of thoughts that she didn't pay attention to what the driver had to say. She started browsing for all the self-defense classes near her locality and planned to join one of them in the coming weekend. Suddenly her phone rang, and her friend's face flashed on the screen. She picked up and murmured, "Hi, Mehu! Ummm...I guess I'll be there in 15 minutes. You know wh..." and just then a voice interrupted, "Ma'am, we have reached the destination," said the driver as he stopped the car exactly in front of her friend's house.

"Ufff! Never mind, I am right outside your house," replied Sana and took a deep breath on the phone. Her journey of thoughts finally ended with a five star rating.

Sana chided herself for freaking out for no reason, but then she knew that a little alertness goes a long way. "Next time, I'll be alert, not anxious," she said to herself getting out of the car.



A Colourful tale

It's Exam Day For Shades

Ayushi Goel
AIS Gurugram 43, XII

It was a bright sunny day. All the colours were dressed in their uniforms, doing the final round of revision for the mid-term exam which was about to begin in an hour. Let's have a look at what the inside scene was like within this VIBGYOR School of Shades.

Blue: I will never be able to get it done. Why is this even in the syllabus? How is learning about algebra going to help me in future? At this rate, I will end up becoming a hairdresser or something. *Blue shudders*

Black: Ugh, just listening to you depresses me sometimes. No wonder they invented the idea of Monday blues after you.

Yellow: Don't worry if you do become a hairdresser, I'll be one with you. We're best friends, aren't we?

Blue: No we are not. My only best friend is Green.

Green: Thanks man! Also, just chill will you? This test is only 20% of our final grade. How will it actually matter?

Purple: You're right it won't. Honestly, if you have a rich father nothing really matters.

Red: Or a fast mind. I don't know about you all, but I'm going to ace the test like always.

Blue: Thanks for your help Red!

Red: *rolls her eyes and goes back to re-revising the syllabus*

White: You people fight like children. You know Shakespeare once said, "Give every man thy ear but few thy voice." It perfectly applies on you all.

Black: Didn't you get like an F in your last exam? I don't think you should be pointing fingers at anyone buddy!

Yellow: Ignore them all Blue.

Green: He's not going to make you his best friend. Back off!

Blue: You guys are a disaster!