

The bots are here!

A Look At The Dawn Of AI & Its Capacity To Benight The Toiling Human World

Yashika Aneja, GT Network

Setting: A corporate office

Manager: I need someone to write a business report.

ChatGPT: On it!

Manager: And craft its computer graphic.

Dall-E2: Last stroke left.

Manager: An ad rem video alongside?

Lumen5: Been on it since 0.0009 seconds.

Manager: And composing some royalty-free music to accompany it all?

Soundraw: Done!

Human: How can I help, miss?

Manager: Umm...by not extending any help, perhaps. Thank you!

A quiet revolution powered by AI is thusly restructuring the workscape. From industrial units to meeting halls, these bots are calling shots, all while humans are forced to adapt to a strange reality where they aren't needed much and are asked to stay away. Would this AI endow our workforce with unthinkable power or challenge it in ways unimaginable? Let's sought to infer.

The substitution effect

The usage of AI has increased in the last decade. The true measure of its uptake can be seen in how it took ChatGPT only 60 days to reach its 100 millionth user, and the implications of this automation in the labour market are predicted to be just as meteoric. McKinsey & Company suggests that AI related techs are all set to displace 400-800 million jobs by 2030, forcing some 375 million humans out. Certain work profiles,

especially those referred to as the 'back-office jobs' like data entry, accounting, and other clerical posts are projected to face the storms to weather this transformation, making AI, for many, the worst of tech models to have ever been invented. History, however, begs to differ with this. For one look at its annals is enough to grasp how every tech shift that mankind has ever come across has only created more jobs than it has destroyed. In like manner, AI would give birth to new jobs - autonomous and electric vehicle specialists, AI and ML specialists etc. If predictions are to be believed, areas like vocational education and machinery repair would witness up to two million

new jobs. As for the existing profiles, roles like specialists, fintech engineers, data scientists, agricultural equipment operators, etc., would also grow by a whopping 30%. Give and take, they say, is the way of the world, and evidently so!

The operational effect

Though none can say the fact that technologies driven by AI will change the way we work, to tag this revolution as a 'creative substitution' would be highly inappropriate too. For this automation is for several, if not all, firms in the working world an unfair chance at clamping down on employee unionisation and cutting costs. Case in point - sudden lay-offs conducted by National Eating Disorders Association in May 2023, when the US firm's

helpline workers unionised against it. It also leads to a colossal loss of creativity. For AI, though adept at automating tasks, struggles with creative thinking. Writers Guild of America strike, anyone? If that wasn't enough, it is also believed to cause unwanted alienation, for not only would it make the human workforce feel estranged from the decision-making processes, but it would also exacerbate economic disparities. On the flipside, AI's rise is what has made it possible for us to shift our focus on the upskilling of individuals. To attain the same, public-private initiatives, Reskilling Revolution for one, are aiming to train one billion workers by 2030. A lot of emphasis is being laid on the need to cultivate soft skills as AI cannot replicate these. So, think about it and think long and hard - what good are these jobs that the bots can replace? For these machines might understand that they need to work, but they would always need a human to tell them what to work on and how.

All emerging technologies experience the Gartner Hype Cycle. As far as AI is concerned, we are currently undergoing the 'inflated expectations' phase wherein our expectations with this new intelligence are above its current capabilities. So, know that only when the reality sets in and the software's operational capacity ripens, would we be able to ascertain its true prowess. Till then, the key is to find the right balance between technological advancement and ensuring that no one is left behind!



Imaging: Deepak Sharma, GT Network

THE GT POLL

Will the meeting of Strategic Partnership Council between India & Saudi Arabia help the nations' economic cooperation?

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

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Coming next

GT Author's Desk

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What's inside



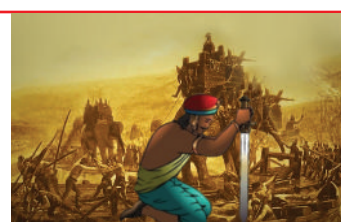
The great legal luminary
In conversation with Vikas Singh, senior advocate and president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Supreme Court of India.

...more on page 3



Did someone say fries?
Taking a look at the life of the iconic snack, french fries, the batonnet or allumette-cut deep-fried potatoes that are consumed all over the world.

...more on page 5



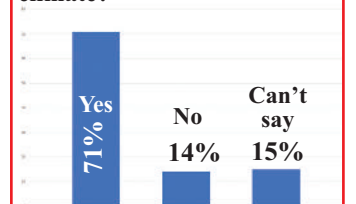
For bloodshed & peace
Decoding the gruesome and deadly Kalinga War, fought in ancient India between the Maurya Empire under Ashoka and the state of Kalinga.

...more on page 7

POLL RESULT

for GT Edition September 11, 2023

Do you think the recently held G20 summit will lead to significant changes in global policy on trade, health, & climate?



Results as on September 16, 2023

Around The WORLD

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



USA

Longest space mission

Astronaut Frank Rubio has broken the record for the longest space mission after spending more than 355 days in low-Earth orbit. Believed to be carrying out a six-month long mission, Rubio left for International Space Station aboard Russian Soyuz capsule on Sep 21, 2022. His initial return was pushed back after the spacecraft hit a snag. He is scheduled to return on Sep 27, 2023, a return that would make him the first American to spend more than one calendar year in microgravity.



EGYPT

Face veils banned

The nation's government, on Sept 12, 2023, put a ban on wearing niqab (full-face veil) within school premises for the academic year starting from September 30. The new dress code allows students to wear a head cover that doesn't mask the face. The decision to introduce this new coordinated approach regarding dress code is aimed at striking a balance between religious expression and ensuring a unified educational environment.



JAPAN

Cabinet reshuffled

PM Kishida made major changes in the latest cabinet reshuffle, appointing former justice minister Yoko Kamikawa as foreign minister in Hayashi's stead, making her the third woman to be appointed as a top diplomat in Japan. Focusing on gender equality, the new cabinet features five women, just as it did under Koizumi in 2001 and Abe in 2014. Furthermore, to maintain stability in key positions, Kishida has also retained six cabinet officials, including finance minister Shunichi Suzuki and economy minister Yasutoshi Nishimura, among others.



FRANCE

Anti-subsidy probe into EVs

The European Commission has launched an investigation into subsidies provided to electric vehicle makers in China. With global markets being swarmed with cheap Chinese electrics, whose prices are low due to huge subsidies, EU president Ursula von der Leyen, in her annual State of the Union address, said that the market is being falsely altered and it is essential that the bloc defends itself against such practices.



LIBYA

Floods cause mayhem

The floods triggered by Mediterranean storm Daniel have wreaked havoc in the nation's eastern city of Derna, killing more than 5,300 people and displacing around 30,000 more. Due to the intense damage caused by the flood, the coastal city was inaccessible via road and aid could only reach the affected region after more than 36 hours since the disaster struck.



INDIA

Agreement with Saudi Arabia

PM Modi and SA's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman chaired a meeting of Strategic Partnership Council, discussing issues ranging from energy efficiency, trade, energy security, healthcare, and defense. As part of the meet, the two countries signed eight agreements, including one by energy ministers, expanding the partnership to include renewable energy, green hydrogen, gas grids, petroleum, and electricity.



BANGLADESH

Bilateral ties with France

In an attempt to enhance bilateral ties, the country on Sept 11, 2023, signed a deal with France, committing to buy ten A350 aircrafts worth 3.2 billion USD from European maker Airbus. During the talks held, a letter of intent was also exchanged to provide Bangladesh with an earth observation satellite through collaborative efforts of Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL) and Airbus Defense and Space SAS.

News Flash

- ▶ **Netherlands:** Stolen Van Gogh painting recovered by art detective
- ▶ **Spain:** 24,000-year-old palaeolithic cave art discovered
- ▶ **South Korea:** BTS's Jung Kook becomes first Korean solo singer to win a major award at MTV VMAs with 'Song of the Summer'

The great legal luminary

An Insight Into The Bona Fide Journey Of Senior Advocate Vikas Singh

Pic: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network

Known for his cogent pitches in courtroom, **Vikas Singh, Senior Advocate and President of the Supreme Court Bar Association & Former Additional Solicitor General of India, Supreme Court of India**, is a noteworthy figure in the field of law. In addition to a remarkable legal career, Vikas Singh is a visiting faculty member of the Parliament of India, where he imparts his invaluable insights to the country's lawmakers. To acknowledge his contribution in the legal area, he was conferred with honorary doctorate degree in Convocation 2022 at AUUP. GT reporters did not miss the opportunity to delve into his vast legal acumen, and took note of some of his experiences.

From chemistry to law

I studied chemistry because my father thought that science would give me an insight into different analytical abilities, which in turn, would be beneficial for me in near future. So, I studied science and thereafter, worked in a company for nine years. At this point, I was nowhere connected to law. But soon I decided to quit and before putting in my papers, I familiarised myself with the



Senior advocate Vikas Singh with GT reporters

legal world. Gradually, I appeared for practice sessions and realised that I can do it. It was indeed a very unique start which made me closer to what I really aspired to do.

Different characters

Any lawyer who wishes to be successful must understand the pain of his client. But at the same time, one should be detached from the outcome of the case. It's almost similar to acting in a film. You get into a

character, understand that character and then get out of it as soon as the filming ends. And lawyers do this on a daily basis, and sometimes there are as many as ten cases in a day. We do different characters and we come out of the characters because if we don't come out of it, it will be emotionally wrecking.

Favourite moments

I've had some really strong cases on the division and decentralisation of power. There

INTERVIEW

have been situations where I've stood up to the Chief Justice of India and expressed how a particular matter does not fall under his jurisdiction. In fact, in 2005, when I stated something similar to a bench of the Chief Justice of India, they were all shell-shocked because they hadn't experienced something like this before. Perhaps, I was the first attorney general to stand up for what is rightfully the law and express the same fearlessly in front of everyone.

Message for Amitians

I would say, "Put your heart into whatever you wish to do." For I believe, money is not the only metric of success. You should enjoy your work and try to improve the lives of others around you. And when you accomplish the same, no one can stop you from becoming successful. 🇮🇳

Interview conducted by:

Suhani Chauhan, XI B, Moksh Gauri & Deetya Gambhir, XII D, AIS PV

Book Review

A flight of fantasy

Book: King of Scars
Author: Leigh Bardugo
Published On: January 29, 2019
Genres: Young Adult, Fantasy



Synopsis: Set in the enchanting and vivid world of Ravka, the book follows young king Nikolai Lanstov across a magical journey to find a cure for inner demons and deal with the burdens of leading a war-torn country. The book is full of breathtaking visuals, enchanting rituals, betrayals, overcoming one's demons, royal disguises and acts of war. The reader experiences these through the eyes of Nikolai as he tries to fix himself before his demons devour him, legendary wind summoner and regal Zoya Nazyalensky who has issues of her own, soft-spoken though courageous Isaak Andreyev, and charismatic undercover spy Nina Zenik who is struggling to cope with the loss of her true love and deal with her newfound powers.

Why is it worth reading: The beautiful imagery used by the author creates a world

larger than life. All the characters in the novel, including the secondary characters, have engaging and compelling storylines. The alliances formed in the book are captivating. Moreover, the circumstances in which young king Nikolai finds himself and how he deals with them are awe-inspiring and a pleasure to read. He leads a country too long at war and shallow in its coffers while dealing with every obstacle in his path, showing that charisma, optimism, and wits have a way out of any sticky situation.

Iconic quote: "Most of us can hide our greatest hurts and longings. It's how we survive each day. We pretend the pain isn't there, that we are made of scars instead of wounds."

Rating: 4.5/5

Review by: Praneel Dev, AIS Noida, XII

A game of numbers

Our Love-Hate Equation With Mathematics

Sidhant Sinha, AIS MV, XI H

The quadratic formula, the mind-boggling concepts of trigonometry, and other endless concepts comprise the beautiful world of numbers called mathematics. This uninvited guest at the party of life is like a relative who gives you gifts that you never really understand, leaving you with mixed feelings of appreciation and bewilderment. It may be a utopian world for those who like to engulf their mind in the world of the number system. All of us share these strong feelings of both love and hatred with this numerical enigma. Remember those days when we marvelled at the magic of numbers, when addition and subtraction were easily solved. Sadly, as we grew up, we were acquainted with the fact that mathematics was no longer just about BODMAS. With the alphabet becoming a part of it, our beloved playground suddenly turned barren. Most students feel that brackets, caret, and Pi, have held them hostage. For them, the playground of math transformed from a happy place to Satan's own private property. Playing with those



squiggly symbols is not everyone's cuppa. "Mathematics isn't for the weak-hearted," they say, and we are mere humans, too scared to traverse through difficulties. But a person willing to enter the gates of this utopia and cross Satan's Garden can surely ace it. Mathematics is a subject that demands time and focus. We all must give this numeric world a try and have a fair shot at entering that pretty landscape beyond. It may vex us, challenge us, or sometimes even make us question our sanity, but it is also the reason that buildings stand tall and we're able to send missions to Mars. 🇮🇳



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*Results of nationwide preschools survey rankings published in Education World, 2016 to 2019 and 2022

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DID SOMEONE SAY FRIES?

A Universally Beloved Delight That Transcends Borders



About me

Name : Jeffery the French fry
DOB : 15th century (maybe)
Nationality : Belgian (or French?)
 It's all very confusing)
Siblings : Exact count unknown
 (we got separated during frying)

addictive snacks out there, so much so that an average American consumes 29 pounds of me every year! And I am way too adaptive as well, allowing every culture to consume me in its unique way -

the Canadians serve me as poutine with gravy and cheese, Americans savour me with ketchup, the French use mustard to enhance my taste, and the Britishers vinegar. As a globally loved dish, it is ironic that my forefathers were once enemies with the world. Potatoes were originally believed to be poisonous and were, as a result, fed to hogs. People then were certain that their consumption would bring with it a variety of health problems. That's not

the case now though.

To this day countries across the globe love to claim me. Belgium, however, is my birthplace, or so I have been told. As for my name, it was the doing of American soldiers during WWI; because of my proximity to France and the fact that French is the primary language of the people of southern Belgium, they called me the French Fry. The nation, too, is every bit proud to have birthed me. Their love is such that they even constructed a museum for me. Now, rumours have it that I might have been born in Spain because it was the first country to discover the South American potato, but the claim has no facts to substantiate it, so we will let it fry. If we talk about my popularity worldwide, I have only

America to thank for it. I was introduced there in the 17th century by the former US President Thomas Jefferson. As American minister in France back then, he loved me so much that he had his slave, James Heming, groomed as a chef to bring key French recipes, including mine, back to the US.

Many variations of the French fry have since been produced, including the original fries, crinkle, curly, tater tots, tornado, wedges, and many more. Sure, mothers detest me (they call me junk), I am happy with the crisp state I am in 24x7.

With time, I have become a mere side dish to burgers, grilled steak, and fried fish, too, but I am content with the life I have lived and continue to do. Fried meals, in general, especially those containing excessive amount of carbs and sodium, should not be consumed in excess (Your mother told you so).

However, for a quick snack when nothing else dares suffice, I am indisputably filling and tasty. Aren't I?

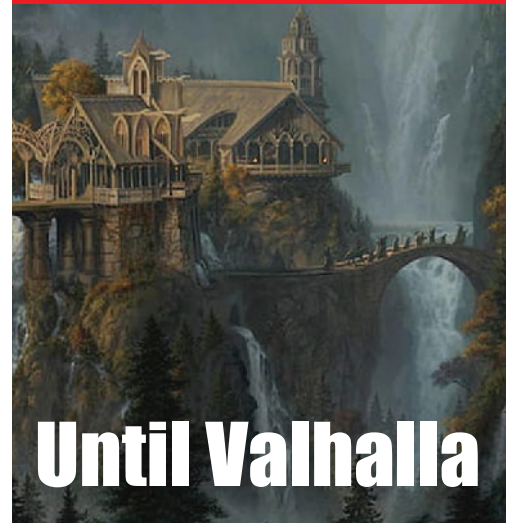
(Shashwat is currently pursuing BBA (H) Business from SP Jain School of Global Management, Mumbai)

Shashwat Purohit
AGS Noida, Alumnus

Tell me your mouth doesn't water when you hear my name and look at my oh-so-scrumptious form, and I would know you're lying. Because there's nothing quite as addictive as me, Jeff...Jeffery the French fry. Be it boomers or gen Z, my deep-fried goodness has caught the fancy of gourmards for centuries now. I, in fact, am one of the most

Autobiography

WORDS VERSE



Until Valhalla

Manasvi Panwar, AIS Gur 46, X G

Curdling crimson trickles down like rain
 Inert bodies encompass souls who abstain
 To be summoned for an eternity in Hell
 The auburn soil where hundreds lay dead

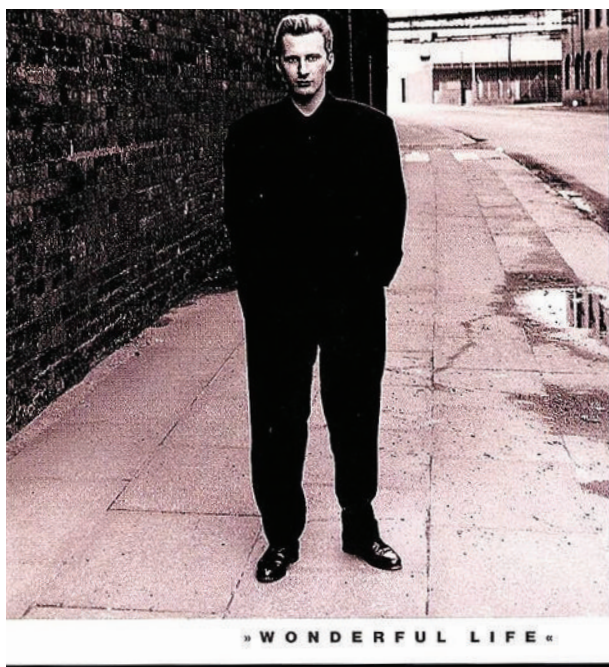
A battle so brutal that the impudent fled
 A battle that vindicates Ragnarök's dread
 Golden gateways of Heaven flung open
 A salutation to the dead warriors awoken

Amidst the large accumulation of ozone
 Aureate sunlight reveals a figure unknown
 Donned in the dazzling falcon's feathers
 Brisingamen clinking with her treasures

Freyja cherry-picked the bravest of all
 To lay wasted in Folkvangr's enthrall
 Lest the abandoned ones begin to bawl
 Because there is one father for them all

Odin accompanies all the gutsy fighters
 To Valhalla, the land of worn survivors
 Built with spear shafts and with shields
 The warriors' paradise unconcealed.

ALBUM REVIEW



THE LOVE OF DARK

Album: Wonderful Life
Artist: Black
Released in: 1987
Genre: Pop rock, new wave

Synopsis: Debut album of English singer Colin Vearncombe, also known by his stage name Black, Wonderful Life comprises 15 songs and has thus far sold over two million copies worldwide. As opposed to what its name suggests, the album has something dark lurking beneath its surface as most of its songs are melancholic ballads dealing with

pain, heartbreak, compassion, and resilience that life demands. Its songs, be it Wonderful Life, Everything's Coming Up Roses, Sweetest Smile, etc., are all different from each other, yet bind together in perfect harmony, aiming to find the deeper meaning of life. Consequently, the album, as a whole, is a unique piece of art and different from most of the music that is around today.

Why is it worth listening: The soulful music and lyrics of the album are captivating enough to make the listeners play it on loop. The songs establish a deep con-

nection with the listeners, helping them reminisce the power of fleeting memories, and further express a utopian illusion. Today, each song of the album is also supported by an appropriate video to depict as well as evoke the right emotions and sentiments. So, what exactly is it that's stopping you from giving the album a good, long listen?

Favourite song: Wonderful Life undoubtedly falls under my Top 10 all-time favourite songs list.

Rating: 4/5

Review by: Anshul Chaudhary
AIS Vas 1, Alumnus

Nurturing english experts



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

In today's globalised world, proficiency in English is a must to build successful professional and social relationships. Hence, to equip Amityans with this much-needed skill set, Amity has partnered with Cambridge University Press and Assessment, a distinguished department of Cambridge University, whose Cambridge English exams are recognised by over 30,000 organisations in more than 140 countries.

As part of this partnership, Amity International Schools in multiple locations across the country have been designated as authorised Preparation Centres for holding English qualification exams. Learning at these centres is meticulously crafted and curated for children, to nurture their linguistic skills. In fact, the faculty members receive training from experts at Cambridge University Press and Assessment to ensure that students learn in accordance with international standards. As of now, more than 20,000 students have successfully taken these exams. Not to miss, Amity has been bestowed with 'Centre of the year award- Integrated Learning and Assessment' at the Asia level along with 'Exemplary Performance Award' in 2023. It has also been given 'Excellent' rating by Cambridge University Press and Assessment in 2022.

It's Time to Say Hip Hip Hurray!

Shivam Mukherjee, a student of Class XII, AIS PV, presented his project SludgeKnight, a Cloud and AI-Enabled Sewer Cleaning Ecosystem, to a group of industry experts at the CNBC Digital India Vision 8.0. His project was one of the only two projects chosen across India after a rigorous selection process by NITI Ayog, AIM, and CNBC TV 18 Network. [GT](#)

Power of sun



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

A fascinating story in Indian mythology is that of Lord Hanuman - as a mere child, he flew all the way up to devour the Sun, mistaking it for a ripe delicious fruit. It was only on Lord Indra's intervention that this calamitous event was prevented. This story depicted for me, in my own childhood, true willpower and determination. Little did I know then that humans would one day achieve the feat of almost touching the source of all power - the mighty

Sun. Close on heels of the historic Chandrayaan-III's success, India has now embarked on its solar mission with Aditya-L1 to gain a deeper understanding of the Sun's behaviour.

In India, the Sun has always been deeply revered not only as a powerful force of nature, but also as God. The Sun God is represented in several social and cultural aspects - from the yogic surya-namaskar to archaeological marvels like Konark's Sun Temple. As we wait to receive information that Aditya-L1 will unravel about the Sun, let's also ponder over some unseen consequences. We are already grappling with the issue of space debris and more exploration could mean adding more to the pile as we preach about sustainability on Earth. Will such excursions, in some opinions as a race to colonise space, really help humans or will nature intervene and hit back to tame us? Only time will tell how we benefit from such interstellar activities and improve our lives. Till then, let's celebrate human victory over what was once considered invincible - the Sun. [GT](#)

Fuelling your inner muse!

A Guide To Defeating The Writer's Block Dilemma

Jayshree Kumar, AGS Gur, XII

Staring for hours at a blank paper on your desk or gawking at a blank screen, and yet failing to produce a concrete sentence? Writer's block, they call it. Webster's dictionary defines it as, 'a psychological inhibition preventing a writer from proceeding with a piece'; while your teacher may tag it as an act of procrastination. It maybe all of this and more. But despite the variations in definition, one truth surfacing like the rock of Gibraltar is that it exists. And any rock that you overcome on your journey, must be tiptoed on, one reason at a time.

The block that says - 'I don't know'.

Whether it is your character's next move or next perspective you want to touch, you may not know the 'next'. And that's fine because it is nothing but FOMO. You don't know what to write because you want to write something profound. But profundity cannot be forced. So, start off by writing 'ten bad ideas' and follow it up with 'ten even worse ideas'. Once, you are done, you will be astonished to see how many of them actually can help you tide your block.

The block that says - 'I don't know what to choose'.

And then there are times when you don't know what to write because you simply don't know which one to choose. Again, FOMO! You don't want to be missing out on the jackpot



of an idea that will make you the next Shakespeare. Again, jot down all the ideas in the running and ask yourself that if this was your last day on the planet which one would you choose and there you have your answer.

The block that says - 'I am giving the finishing touches'.

Well, you maybe stuck in a loop called the revision hell, seemingly perfecting your piece. But know that there is a difference between revision and tinkering. Now, revision addresses the overall structure of your piece, narrative and language. Tinkering is when you play with a word here and a sentence there, without it making any actual difference to the overall piece. Time to drop the pretence of perfectionism for it is nothing but fear masquerading as

commitment to craft.

The block that says - 'I am not as good as others'.

Bonnie Friedman calls it 'the writer's disease'. Stop looking around and comparing. Sure, there are others who might be doing worse. But like mentioned before, stop comparing. Keep your gaze at you for that is the only way forward.

There are a 100 more reasons for a writer's block, and a 100 more solutions, but we will put things in a nutshell - just start. It's like friction, stationary objects resist movement but once it's in motion that resistance just drops, and it doesn't take that effort to keep it moving anymore. So, maybe writer's block is not actually a 'block' in your way. [GT](#)



Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the poem 'Heaven on earth' published on page 9 of the GT edition dated September 11, 2023. Through the poem, a budding poet managed to express her thoughts and experiences about living on the mountains. The words she used to convey the same were not jargons or metaphors but simple expressions of personal experiences that she carefully penned down for the readers' amusement. The poem, as such, has a striking feature of taking one to the hills without them being



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present there actually; one can almost feel the fresh and cool breeze brushing against their face while reading the stanzas.

I am sure that anyone who reads this poem must have had the urge to travel to the mountains by the end of the last stanza and must have thanked our little poet for giving us a breather from the hustle and bustle of our city lives. I personally thank the writer for being so expressive, simple yet effective. At a very early age, she has depicted enormous maturity and understanding which is commendable. I extend my best wishes and blessings to her and all our new-age writers for their incredible ideas and concepts and hope to see more of such amazing reads in the upcoming editions.

Dona Guha
GT Coordinator, AIS Raipur

For bloodshed & peace

The Fight For The Land That Turned A Great Wrathful Warrior Into A Saint

Prologue

As a child, prince Ashoka had heard sundry tales of his grandfather Chandragupta Maurya's valour, the same man who had unified the Indian subcontinent under one empire. Naturally, then, ever since Ashoka had been anointed as the natural heir to the throne of Magadha in 273 BC, his only dream was to expand the boundaries of his empire. Little did he then know that the expansion, leading to a war, was about to plunge him into something that would change the course of his life and of history.

Alisha Ojha & Pari Mishra
AIS VKC Lucknow, Alumnae

Scene I: King Ashoka pacing up and down in his royal chamber

Ashoka: Yes, I am going to conquer Kalinga and make my forefathers proud.

Commander of the army: I agree, my king. Kalinga has valuable ports that serve as a gateway for trade with the far east. Its powerful navy, howbeit, has supreme control over the coastline.

Ashoka's prime minister: Kalinga also has the power to interrupt communication between our capital Pataliputra and other cities in the central Indian peninsula.

Ashoka (speaking impatiently): Yes, yes, all that is fine, but what is more important for me is its annexation, because both my



grandfather and my father tried and failed to do so. It's the only independent kingdom which is not a part of the Mauryan empire, and that needs to change. Start preparing for the war on Kalinga!

Scene II: King Ashoka and his wife walking in the palace garden

Maharani Devi: My dear husband, I implore you to rethink. After all, Kalinga has proven to be a sore point for all Mauryan kings in the past.

Ashoka: Well, I did try the friendly route. I had sent an emissary to the ruler of Kalinga, King Srutayudha, requesting him to submit the kingdom to us. He refused and now I have no choice left.

Maharani Devi: My prayers are with you, my king.

Scene III: The night before the Kalinga war commences in 261 BC

Ashoka: Give me the status of our army and that of our enemy's.

Commander of the army: Do not worry, my king. Our force is much stronger. Victory is going to be ours!

Ashoka: How can you be so sure?

Commander of the army: Sir, the Greek ambassador, Megasthenes, is doing a lot of research on the Mauryan empire for his book. He has noted that our military strength is around one lakh, consisting of 1700 horses, thousands of elephants, and some 60,000 soldiers. Our spy tells us that

the Kalinga army, on the other hand, has only 60,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalymen, and around 700 elephants.

Ashoka: Then tomorrow will be an interesting day.

Scene IV: The war is won; Ashoka roams around the battlefield

Ashoka (weeping silently): How valiantly Kalinga fought! All this bloodshed has turned the waters of River Daya red. So much death, so much pain...I can't bear this sight.

Commander of the army (speaking softly): Our estimate says that around 100,000 soldiers have been killed in the battle. We have captured 150,000 soldiers from Kalinga, but their condition tells me they are not going to live either.

Ashoka's PM: But Kalinga is now the fifth province of the Magadha empire along with Prachaya, Avanti, Uttarapatha, and Dakshinapatha. We have succeeded.

Ashoka (throwing his sword down): How does it matter? This is just a hollow victory.

Scene V: Ashoka weeps and ultimately decides to embrace Buddhism

Ashoka: After witnessing the agony on the

battleground, my heart is shattered. I have decided to mend my ways and work for the good of humanity. I am devoting the rest of my life to *ahinsa* (non-violence) and *dharma-vijaya* (victory by dharma).

Maharani Devi: What a great decision, my king. It's not war but *dharma* that will make you immortal in the annals of history. I am with you and so will be our children. They will travel far and wide to spread the teachings of Buddhism.

Ashoka: My *dharma* now is to practice honesty, truthfulness, compassion, mercifulness, benevolence, and non-violence. I will respect all religions and give them full freedom to live according to their own principles. To attain that, I am appointing a special class of high officers called the 'dharma ministers' who will foster *dharma* work and relieve human suffering.

Epilogue

Kalinga remained Ashoka's first and last war. For, post that, the only glory he sought was to lead his people along the path of *dharma* (also known as *dhamma*). His *dharma* laws were, as such, carved into rocks and stone pillars across Magadha. He also sent missionaries from his empire to other countries to preach Buddhism so that more people could adopt a non-violent way of life. His sole focus on non-violence, however, also became one of the factors that led to the eventual fall of the Mauryan empire after his death in 232 BC.

Alisha is currently pursuing BA (hons) Economics and Sociology from Mithibai College, University of Mumbai, and **Pari** is doing BA (hons) Sociology from Maitreyi College, DU.



The ghost of injustice

Illustration: Deepak Sharma, GT Network



Storywala

Eshal Ahmad, AIS MV, IX C

“We haven’t had an actual break in forever,” said Rahul’s dad. “I’m sure that this rural setting will be a wonderful detox from the hustle-bustle of the city,” his mother agreed. “A week in an ancient village with no network? I doubt it!” suspected Rahul. “Be open minded; this’ll be fun!” answered his mother as she retrieved their bags. “Why don’t you go explore the forest area? In the meantime, we’ll wait, where is the picnic basket?” she trailed off to look for the basket. Though Rahul had not intended to spend his summer break like this, he couldn’t help but be intrigued by the dark forest. “Perhaps it won’t be so boring after all,”

he thought. Howbeit, as he excitedly entered the forest, his newfound confidence started to fade. He had this unsettling feeling that he was being watched. Shrugging it off, he decided to carry on. Soon, he came across a well in the middle of nowhere. He pondered, “What good is it to dig a well here?” It looked like it had been abandoned for ages. It had inscriptions in five distinct antiquities, and no flora grew within three meters of it. The setting made Rahul break out in cold sweat. Suddenly, he noticed an elderly man with a shovel on his shoulder standing next to the well. “Who are you? What are you doing here?” Rahul inquired out of curiosity. “I am Prem Chand. I am a farmer in this area. I decided to introduce myself after seeing you here,” the man said with

Though Rahul had not intended to spend his summer break like this, he couldn’t help but be intrigued by the dark forest. “Perhaps it won’t be so boring after all,” he thought.

a smile. Rahul relaxed a bit and introduced himself in return. “Do you have any information about this well?” he inquired further. Prem Chand’s features suddenly darkened upon hearing it. “Aye! While nobody knows when the well was built, people say that some 400 years ago, a poor farmer, who failed to return the borrowed money to lenders, was forcefully drowned in it. To this day, he is believed to haunt this well,” the man answered. Hearing the spooky tale, Rahul’s urge to go back to his parents started to gnaw at him. “Oh no, the sun is setting! My apologies, but I must leave right away,” he said. “No issue. Oh, and in case your mother needs the picnic basket, it’s in your car,” said Prem Chand. Rahul jerked his head around to gaze at him in horror. But the man had vanished by then. Scared witless, Rahul fled the scene. As he struggled through the maze-like forest, no one could hear his cry for help. No sooner had he found a way out than his mother awakened him, informing of their arrival at the resort. “Was it all just a dream?” he wondered, as the same forest stood in front of him, and his mother went looking for the picnic basket once again.



Brown butter COOKIES

Sriansh Singh, AIS Noida, XI I

Ingredients

- All-purpose flour 1/2 cup
- White sugar 5 tsp
- Brown sugar 1/2 cup
- Unsalted butter 1/4 cup
- Salted butter 1/4 cup
- Salt 1/2 tsp
- Vanilla essence 2 tsp
- Instant coffee 1/2 tsp
- Baking soda 1/2 tsp
- Eggs 2
- Sugar free dark chocolate 2/3 cups
- Ice cube 1

Procedure

- In a saucepan, add some unsalted butter and salted butter together and mix them well.
- Put the butter mix on low flame and let it boil till it becomes deep amber in colour.
- Now, add an ice cube to this melted brown butter mix and let it cool down a bit.
- In a bowl, sift flour, baking soda and salt.
- Once done, add some brown sugar, white sugar, vanilla essence, instant coffee, and brown butter in it and blend all the ingredients properly using a hand mixer.
- Now, add two eggs to this batter and whisk it all to give it a light brown colour.
- Then, knead the batter until it gets a dough like consistency.
- Add some dark chocolate chunks to it and using the folding motion, incorporate them into the dough.
- Cover the dough with plastic wrap and let it chill in the refrigerator for 12 hours.
- Next, take a baking sheet and spread some butter on it.
- Then, sprinkle a little bit of flour all over the baking sheet. This will prevent the dough from sticking to the sheet.
- Now, using a cookie scoop, scoop out balls of dough onto the baking sheet, spacing them roughly 2 inches apart.
- Put the cookie dough balls in the oven and bake them at 200 degrees Celsius for around 15-17 minutes.
- Your butter cookies are ready! Keep some aside for your guests and dig in on the rest.

Read Play and Win 31

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

Q.1 Name the American theoretical physicist featured on page 4.	Q.2 Which school hosted the 14th edition of AMIGMUN?	Q.3 The album 'Wonderful Life' was released in the year _____.
Q.4 Who is the author of the book 'King of Scars'?	Q.5 Which country has put a ban on wearing niqab?	Q.6 How many jobs are set to be displaced by 2030?
Q.7 Which school organised panel discussion on the cause 'Anti-Bullying'?	Q.8 Name the war fought between Mauryan Emperor Ashoka and the ruler of the state of Kalinga.	Q.9 On which page can you find the article 'Blocking the writer's way'?

Name: Class: School:

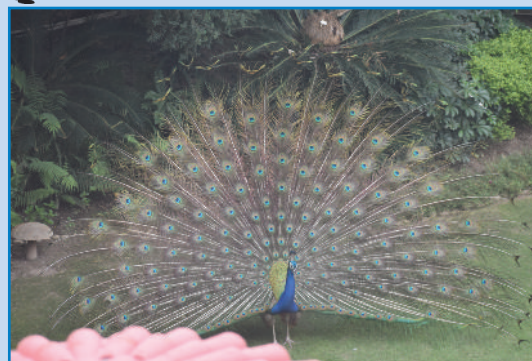
Results of Read Play & Win-30: **Nivid Khurana**, AIS Saket, VIII B; **Oviyan Yadav**, AIS Gur 46, VII F; **Jessica Grover**, AIS Vas 6, IX B

Tongue twisters

- A happy hippo hopped and hiccupped.
- I slit the sheet, the sheet I slit, and on the slitted sheet I sit.
- Give papa a cup of proper coffee in a copper coffee cup.
- Zebras zig and zebras zag.
- Wayne went to Wales to watch walruses.

CAMERA CAPERS

Aarnav Lokesh, AIS Noida, IX K



A flamboyant performer!

Send in your entries to cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in

A new beginning



Wisdom tale

“After a few minutes, the car came to a standstill. An accident had taken place on the road ahead, leading to a massive traffic jam.”

Aditi Agarwal & Anjini Sethi
AIS Gurugram 43, X C

Today was an important day for Yuna. All her dreams were to come true. For, ever since she was a teen, she had been addicted to music and was consistent in uploading her videos on YouTube. Now at 26, she already had a huge fan following, and today, she was going to perform live at her own concert.

Yuna was excited but a little nervous too. “I must get dressed now,” she thought out loud and turned to her lovely niece, “Aimee, could you help me select a dress?”. “The yellow gown with lacy edges!” suggested Aimee and Yuna complied. Having geared up, she left for the venue. As she sat in the car, she instructed the driver - “Drive faster, please,” for the last thing

she wanted was to be late, but, to her utter dismay, that’s exactly what happened. After a few minutes, the car came to a standstill. An accident had taken place on the road ahead, leading to a massive traffic jam. “I have barely 15 minutes left,” Yuna cried. “Even if we take a new route, it’ll take us at least 40 minutes,” said the driver. “Then just drive me back home,” a dejected Yuna sighed and responded.

As she got back home carrying a broken heart and a guitar on her shoulder, she couldn’t decide which felt heavier. Her brother Harry was back home by then, and upon seeing Yuna, he began to question her about the concert. Yuna cried and ran straight to her room. Harry followed her still to know what happened. “There’s nothing to tell. I guess I’m just an

unlucky girl who dreamed too much,” she sobbed. Harry knew his sister well enough to know when to stop prodding, so he did. “Hey, let’s watch something to lighten the mood. Aimee, could you switch the TV on?” Harry said to his daughter, hoping that it would distract Yuna. “The concert arena was bombed” - the news anchor roared as soon as the TV was turned on, leaving everyone in shock. “A bomb blast at my concert? Does this mean...” Yuna let the sentence drift away. The way things transpired was a little hard for her to believe. What a narrow escape she had had, after all!

Upon hearing the news, Yuna broke into tears. This time, though, the tears were those of relief. For she had not only been given a second chance, but a new life. She knew now that in God’s scheme of things, hard work and talent would never go waste. And that she was the luckiest girl ever. 🙏🇮🇳

So, what did you learn today? God has a great plan for everyone and everything. Trust him!



Chinese lantern

Ankana Sangar, AIS Vasundhara 6, VI B

Material required

- Coloured A4 sheets
- Scissors
- Tape
- Stapler
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Glue
- Glitter
- Sequins

Method

- Take a colourful A4 sheet, and using a ruler, measure and cut one inch off its shorter end (alongside its width). Keep it aside to use it as the handle of your lantern later on.
- Vertically fold the rest of the paper in half.
- Now, hold the folded sheet horizontally and from its folded edge, make some incisions on it, spacing each about 1.5 cm apart.
- Make sure the incisions you
- make are one cm short of touching the open edge of the sheet.
- Once done, unfold the paper and roll it vertically to form a lantern. Secure the roll using tape or stapler.
- Now, staple the handle we made in step one at the top of the lantern as shown in the picture. Decorate your lantern with glitter and sequins.
- Your Chinese lanterns are ready to adorn your walls!

My super dad

Avyaan Talwar
AIS Gurugram 46, VII B

Dad, you are my greatest gift
Between us, there isn't any rift
For not only are you bravely bold
But you also have a heart of gold

I have lots and lots of fun with you
You are my only hero, that's true
You help me follow the right way
And motivate me every single day

You work hard for my comfort
For that, I admire all your efforts
You treat me like your friend
My love for you will never end.



Click a high resolution picture (1 MB or more) of the entry and mail the same to: editor@theglobaltimes.in. The best entries will be published in GT.

Best entries for colouring fun



Agrata Dhiman
AIS Gurugram 46, VII



Daiwik Singla
AIS Mohali, I B

Breaking the silence

Learning To Combat Bullying Amongst Children To Create A Better Tomorrow!

Youth Power is an annual social leadership programme organised by The Global Times, where different teams from Amity schools engage in varied social causes in several stages. One of them is 'Panel Discussion' where experts from different walks of life discuss several aspects of the chosen social cause. Here's presenting **Part III** of this exclusive series, based on the panel discussions organised by YP teams in 2022-23, and a host of opinions as experts debate on 'Anti-Bullying', the cause chosen by the YP team of AIS Pushp Vihar.



The panellists with the Youth Power team of AIS Pushp Vihar

Cyberbullying - a growing threat

Panellist: Rakshit Tandon

Founder & director, Hackdev Technology Pvt Ltd.

"Having interacted with millions of kids nationwide as part of my two decades long experience in the field, I have realised that a complete erasure of cyberbullying is the need of the hour. For online sexual abuse cases are rising, with children even as young as 7-10 years old falling prey to it. Teaching cyber-hygiene and netiquettes to this vulnerable lot, thus, should be our number one priority. If they start consuming age-appropriate content, a lot of cyberbullying can be controlled. Besides, unlike traditional bullying that was confined to a small circle, cyberbullying's reach is vast, leaving a lasting digital footprint that can haunt a child repeatedly. To prevent that from happening, our immediate attention and action is needed."



To act or not to act is the question

Panellist: Dr Kshitiya Wason

Professor & head, Department of Psychology, DU

"Bystanders in bullying are inactive observers who witness instances of real-life or cyberbullying without acting, thus inadvertently contributing to the harm inflicted on victims. In contrast, upstanders display a proactive mindset by raising their voices against unfair and hurtful behaviour, thus shielding people from becoming victims of any form of bullying. Empathy, as an emotional ability, is something that can help transform the former lot into the latter, and by virtue of that, help diminish the power of bullies and break the cycle of abuse. So, if you experience anything that is demeaning, bullying, or degrading in nature, please do not be a bystander. Report it!"



Detect bullying in the classroom

Panellist: Maj Gen Gural Singh Bal (Retd)

Senior advisor & dean of students welfare Amity University, Manesar

"In order to detect bullying, educators should be vigilant and observant of the changes taking place in a student's behaviour, especially if he/she is hesitant to come forward. Frequent interactions with such students is one way of noticing this and finding any signs of distress or unease. When educators identify a child being put down, they should focus on building their self-esteem through innovative methods that encourage respect and admiration from peers. For acknowledging and valuing their differences, be it mental or psychological, is crucial to create a supportive and inclusive environment where the issue of bullying can be addressed effectively."



Part III



Expert Speak

Ensuring online safety for all

Panellist: Sunil Barsaiyan

Cyber cell incharge, Amity University

"Creating awareness about cyberbullying is crucial, but it is equally important to utilise the available provisions to address such behaviour. Social media platforms offer tools to report negative content, the only thing then required is a coordinated effort from users to actively report it. Users should also be cautious when using hashtags and should consider the reach of their content before posting, as unknown audiences may contribute to negativity. Protecting privacy, thus, is vital. To attain the same, individuals must review their privacy settings, restrict permissions for third-party apps, and refrain from oversharing personal data online."



Overcoming bullying

Panellist: Ameeta Mohan

Principal, Amity International School, Pushp Vihar

"To overcome fear, children must cultivate resilience and mindful reactions to taunts and comments. A strong mindset allows them to do just that and helps them navigate through challenging situations positively. Engaging in physical games like basketball or football also creates a positive atmosphere which helps to get rid of fear. Other than that, shedding of self-imposed stigmas too is vital for their personal growth and emotional well-being. Encouraging children to embrace these strategies would empower them to face adversities with confidence and strength throughout their lives."



Find strength in role models

Panellist: Charvi Mendiratta

Alumna, Amity International School, Pushp Vihar

"My mother has always been a profound role model for me, inspiring me with her hard work and instilling in me the virtues of resilience and self-belief. Apart from her, my teachers at Amity, too, have been incredibly supportive throughout my school life. Their presence, even outside school, helped me overcome negative comments and regain confidence. I encourage others to communicate with their teachers to foster comfort in times like these. Also, talking to parents during tough times proves invaluable. Embracing these connections has played a significant role in my growth, and I hope it does the same for you too."



Innovation high

Amitian's Elevator Pitch At The CNBC Conclave



Shivam Mukherjee at the conclave



Panelists at the CNBC conclave

AIS Pushp Vihar

Shivam Mukherjee's project, 'Sludge Knight - A cloud and AI-enabled sewer cleaning ecosystem', was selected as one of the two projects from ATL Labs across India to be showcased at CNBC Digital India Vision 8.0 - Techade of Youth on August 18, 2023. The conclave was held in partnership with Google Workspaces and NITI Ayog, New Delhi.

Shivam's project was selected after a rigorous selection process and approval from NITI Ayog, AIM, and CNBC TV 18 Network. He presented his idea to a distinguished gathering comprising industry professionals, CEOs of multinational companies, and high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Science and Technology department. The event was graced by Rajeev Chandrashekhar, union minister of science, communications, elec-

tronics, and technology, who in his address emphasised on youth's role in shaping the future of innovation in India. The event witnessed over 300 attendees, including several dignitaries from across the globe, indulge in discussions on topics such as social technology driven by innovation, navigating India's digital regulatory landscape, generative AI with Google Duet AI, startup innovation in India, and digital payments: the future. [G+I](#)



Students give performance on the theme 'Matrutva'

Hindi Natya Utsav

AIS Mayur Vihar

On August 24, 2023, the school organised its 11th inter Amity Hindi Natya Utsav on the theme 'Matrutva (mother's love)' for the students of Class VI-VIII. The fest aimed to kindle a love for Hindi language amongst Amitians. The performances were judged by Dr Satyendra Shukla, assistant professor, Ramjas College, and Dr

Neelam, associate professor, Hindu College. The budding actors of Amity impressed all with their impeccable acting and presentation skills. AIS Vas 1 bagged first position, followed by AIS Pushp Vihar and AIS Saket in second and third position, respectively. AIS Vas 6 won the consolation prize for Best Dramatist, while the award for Best Costume was bagged by AIS Mayur Vihar.



Young design thinkers engage in the making of design

Design thinking

AIS Vasundhara 6

To introduce the students to the five steps of design thinking namely, empathise, define, ideate, prototype and test, the school organised story enactment and 3-D puppet making activity for the students of Class VII on August 28, 2023. During the activity, students discussed the meaning of these elements of design thinking and created puppets with specific

physical traits using the same elements. They worked together in groups of five and enacted vivid stories with the help of puppets created during the activity. The activity helped students gain an insight into the cognitive, strategic and practical procedures used in the process of design thinking. Moreover, it also inculcated collaborative work skills in the young minds, making them more adept in clear communication and coordination.

The art of diplomacy

AIS Gurugram 46

With an aim to inculcate the understanding of diplomacy and public speaking skills in students through simulation of United Nations Assemblies, the 14th edition of AMIGMUN was organised from July 24-26, 2023. The event began with an auspicious lamp lighting ceremony followed by a beautiful opening video showing the behind the scenes of AMIGMUN 2023. Chef-de-cabinet, Kusum Kapoor further moved the event by introducing the secretary general, Gatik Yadav, who then heralded the three-day conference with a thump of the gavel. More than 450 student delegates from Class VIII-XI of the school and 10 alumni (as part of Executive Board) deliberated over global issues in six committees namely: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), World Trade Organisation (WTO), High Level Panel (HLP), United Nations



Delegates receive award by school principal and other guests

Human Rights Council (UNHRC), North Peace Summit (NPS) and AIPPM (All India Political Parties Meet). These committees discussed agendas such as, situation in Ukraine in the light of Russian aggression, impact of tariff and non-tariff measures with emphasis on carbon border taxes, resolution of the Syrian crisis, right to digital privacy and weaponisation of social media, North Atlantic peace treaty and formation of a united opposition front in view of upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The International Press released SaMUNchaar Patra, the official daily newsletter which described the AMIGMUN 2023 experience with its eloquent articles. Awards were presented to the respective committees during the closing ceremony. Trophies of appreciation were also given to the entire secretariat and Executive Board for their valuable contribution. School principal Arti Chopra congratulated all the delegates and applauded their critical thinking and communication skills. [G+I](#)



Team Elephant Whisperers with President Droupadi Murmu

Amity's Oscar hour

The 95th Academy Awards were truly special for Amity as Vidhaat Raman, an alumnus of AIS Noida, walked down the red carpet as part of the team behind the Oscar-winning film *The Elephant Whisperers*. Vidhaat was responsible for the film's sound production, which played a major role in the film's success. In a one-to-one with **Yashi Sharma, XII J & Sanjana Chauhan, XL, AIS Noida**, he shares his journey of change from a software engineer to an Oscar-worthy sound engineer.

The tale of transition

During my time at Amity, my involvement in various extracurricular activities such as music, singing, and sports gave me an insight into diverse careers beyond coding. This led me to venture into the world of films where I developed a passion for sound engineering and the rest is history! My journey as such is a testament to the unexpected turns that life can take and how one can achieve anything with an unwavering pursuit of passion. The dream of global recognition is a sentiment many harbour when embarking on their career, but the speed at which it has materialised for me is exceptional and gratifying. However, the victory at Oscars wasn't a solitary feat; it was a culmination of our sound team's collective efforts.

The structure of support

When I made the decision to go

into filmmaking, my family's initial response was naturally one of caution, as this is an uncertain industry. But they recognised my passion and offered their wholehearted support. What also helped me was my proficiency in nine languages, which is a byproduct of chance encounters and diverse surroundings. Growing up in a multilingual environment, I naturally absorbed languages through interactions with family, friends, and my surroundings. This linguistic

diversity definitely proved to be an invaluable asset in my professional journey. Similarly, Amity has played a pivotal role in shaping my character, outlook, and perspective towards everything. The institution's diverse environment exposed me to a wide array of people, ideas, and activities, fostering connections that contributed significantly to my growth.

The set of skills acquired

The problem-solving mindset cultivated during my engineering studies became invaluable when navigating the dynamic and unpredictable terrain of filmmaking. And when you work on a film like *The Elephant Whisperers*, you learn so much about life too. The documentary's potent social message highlights the interconnectedness of humans and animals. By conveying this message in a humane manner, the film possesses the potential to inspire genuine change by fostering empathy and understanding within audiences. Among all the projects I've been a part of, documenting the farmers' protest in Delhi, however, stands out as a personal and professional pinnacle for me. Immersing myself in the lives of the protesting farmers and sharing their living conditions was a deeply profound and impactful experience.

The aim for Amityans

Embrace exploration and seize every opportunity. The institution offers a treasure trove of resources and mentorship that can shape your character and career. So, pursue your passions with zeal, and as you traverse through the path, remember to relish the journey.



Vidhaat Raman

Let's get this bread!

Fact file

Devang Narula

AGS Gurugram, Alumnus

- Derived from France, with a daily consumption of 30 million, baguettes are made using thin dough which mostly consists of four ingredients - flour, water, yeast, and salt.
- Ciabatta is a type of Italian white bread which is flat in shape and has a floury, crispy crust. It was created in response to the popularity of French baguettes.
- Originated in ancient Egypt around 1500 BC, sourdough is leavened using wild lactobacillaceae and yeast - one of the oldest methods of grain fermentation.
- Croissant is a kind of flaky, buttery French pastry that got its name from its historical crescent shape.
- A popular food item since the Mughal era, naan is a *tandoor* oven-baked or *tawa* fried flatbread commonly



found in the cuisines of Central Asia as well as India.

- Referred to as the oldest form of bread in the world, pita was actually originated some 4000 years ago in the Middle East.
- Pretzel is a German bread that's famous for its knot-like shape.
- Mostly consumed on Jewish ceremonial occasions and holidays, challah is made using egg yolks that lend it a beautiful golden colour and rich taste.
- Found in the Indian subcontinent, roti is a round flat and unleavened bread made from stone-ground whole wheat flour and water.

GT Travels to Andhra Pradesh



Shriya Pasricha, AIS Gurugram 43, IX B, poses with her copy of *The Global Times* in front of Lord Venkateshwara Temple in Andhra Pradesh. Believed to be where Lord Venkateshwara took the form of an idol, the temple is also known as Tirupati Balaji Temple and Tirupati Temple.

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