

This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, Saket, as a part of the ‘GT Making A Newspaper Contest’. Each page of this unique edition carries a special story handcrafted by the school’s editorial team as a part of the competition. The inter-Amity newspaper making competition witnesses different branches of Amity schools across India churn out their own ‘Contest Edition’ which are pitted against one another at the end of the year, culminating with GT Awards. So, here’s presenting the third edition of ‘GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2020-21’.

Do you think monetisation of the various underutilised public assets, as per the National Monetisation Pipeline, would help give a much-needed boost to the Indian economy?

a) Yes b) No c) Can’t say

To vote, log on to www.theglobaltimes.in

Do you think that the ‘Texas Heartbeat Act’, the law banning abortions in the US state, is antithetical to women’s dignity, equality and autonomy?

Response	Percentage
Yes	38%
No	32%
Can’t say	30%

Results as on September 12, 2021

Climate Change Adaptation – Adapting To Life In A Changing Climate

Change begets change

Sarthak Sahoo, XI F & Leela Ajeet, X, AIS Saket

“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent; it is the one most adaptable to change,” said British naturalist Charles Darwin. Today, as the climate clock ticks with rising heat, the world is due to a taste of truth: prevention is not enough.

From Smoke to Mirrors

What’s Up?: With 30% of all of our carbon footprint arising from industries that are crucial for national development, efforts at preventing such conditional evolution are rejected. The standards for the environment in growing economies are poor owing to the focus on development. **Poor Prevention:** In spite of global commitments, fossil fuels hold more than 70% of the share of the global energy market. This is because the positive effects of hydrocarbons are felt on a global scale, while negative on a local level. This in turn leads to heuristically biased judgement inhibiting action by governments. We should then move to a remedial model of reducing carbon footprint as opposed to the popular preventive tools which have failed so far. **Adapting To It:** The role of technology has to be realised in contrast to minimising releasing carbon in the first place. Case in point - carbon capture technologies that are crucial to reduce the carbon already preva-

lent in the atmosphere, sequestering it for other use. As of 2020, there are 21 global operating carbon-capturing projects as 44 remain in development and investment in green technology increases. *The cogs and coughs permeate through the tenuous yet blinding air.*

Drop by Drop

What’s Up?: Glaciers play a significant role on earth and their melting leads to manifold blights. As our protective cover melts, we have ‘cold- runoffs’ which affect the downstream temperatures and endangers fisheries. Reducing glaciers leads to the loss of habitat of walruses, arctic foxes, reindeers, etc., thereby adversely impacting the rich biodiversity of our planet. **Poor Prevention:** Efforts of mass reduction in the melting of the glaciers have not been successful as the 6th IPCC report predicts that just 500 bn tonnes more of CO₂ emissions would leave only a 50% chance of staying below 1.5°C. This means that the Arctic going ice-free by 2050 is most likely in all assessed scenarios. **Adapting To It:** Since dwindling water



Illustration: Abhilasha Kuba, XI E and Bipanchy Hazarika XI F; AIS Saket

supply, a symptom of glacial retreat affects hill communities the most, dwellers of the Italian Alps now use alternatives such as burning wood chips to generate electricity, instead of hydroelectricity. Those in the Peruvian Andes focus on saving as much as possible of what is left by upgrading the water infrastructure to prevent waste. *The white peaks disappear away as the lone polar bear watches on.*

Poseidon’s Early Callings

What’s Up?: From destructive erosion, wetland flooding, aquifer and agricultural soil contamination with salt, and lost habitat for fish, birds, and plants, a deluge of problems descend on us as the sea levels rise. Already, flooding in low-lying coastal areas is forcing people to migrate to higher ground, and millions more are vulnerable to flood risk and loss of basic services due to higher coastal water levels. **Poor Prevention:** In spite of attempts at intervention by governments, organisations, and individuals to rarify the effects

of rising sea levels, climate scientists predict a possible increase of up to 2 metres in sea level by the end of the century. **Adapting To It:** Houses on stilts and floating houses are flood mitigation methods being used in coastal regions. New infrastructure for homes, businesses near the sea now factor in the effect of rising waters into their building plans. Sea walls, dykes and flood barriers are also being made to keep structures on land safe from the sea. *A visit to the archipelago is best done now, or you may not be able to at all.*

As we traverse the thicket of the COVID-19 crisis, we have seen that adaptation is the gradual means to normality. Climate change is inevitable in varying degrees around the world owing to natural and artificial reasons. Humans then have to do what humans have done best - adapt to it. How do we stand the test of Darwin’s prognostications? To leverage human ingenuity and indomitable will to live is the sole road to a better and only future.

The 3Ps of sustainability

Zitin Munshi On The Need To Create A Sustainable World

Sarthak Sahoo, XI F & Madhav Sharma, X D, AIS Saket

“Every minute there is someone thinking of a new innovation, a new business idea, a better life that will be good for both the ‘planet’ and ‘people’,” says Zitin Munshi, founder, Next Mile Co. Having explored different geographies such as Botswana, the United States, and the United Kingdom across different types of organisations, Zitin evaluates the status of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) internationally within the entrepreneurship sphere. In a conversation with GT reporters, she sheds light on the three Ps of sustainability- people, planet and performance, which benefit enormously from a sustainable business.

Of people

The preface: My first acquaintance with the concept of sustainable business was when I started working at Hin-

dustan Unilever Limited. It is there that I understood how an organisation can make a meaningful difference if it wishes to. Not only is this good for their business performance, but also for the planet. For me, it was something new and I realised the narrative of business was changing. **The practicality:** When we talk about the notion of sustainable development, each country or locality has its own set of challenges and opportunities. For example, if we take a cross-country example between Botswana and India, the overall atmosphere differs significantly in terms of the culture, economy, demographics, etc. But, on the other hand, awareness about sustainability as a concept is nascent in both countries. In the entrepreneurship space, the idea of building a sustainable business is also new for them both. However, it is heartening to see that entrepreneurs are open to embedding principles of sustainability, especially if it makes business sense.

Of planet

The plan: The SDGs have to be made locally relevant to the challenges being faced. In the case of



Zitin Munshi with GT reporters

India, state governments should work on their respective districts right down to the village level, contributing to the SDGs that will help reach the scale we want at a national level. This is also being pursued in India by the NITI Aayog, the UNDP and several other organisations. Having these multistakeholder partnerships create more locally relevant on-ground impact. They also allow for innovative solutions which make sense at the grass-root level, and are especially useful in a country as diverse as India. **The picture:** In spite of the pandemic’s disastrous consequences, we have realised that if we step back, the air clears up. For instance, we saw the Earth’s Overshoot Day of 2020 was delayed by a month compared to 2019. This allows us to rejuvenate our sustainability efforts. One more thing that the pandemic has taught us is to

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always go in good faith towards the best day, but also always be prepared for the worst day.

Of performance

The periphery: The SDGs have very defined goal statements and they appear to be ambitious in nature. However, I believe that if only we aim big, we will gain something close to it. In the case of the SDGs, we need to work together at all levels and find ways to fill in the gaps which are local in nature so that solutions are also local and locally relevant. If these small local challenges are overcome, we’ll actually go a long way to fulfill the 2030 goals for the world. **The path:** The goal of sustainability is something that we can work towards right now. Whether we walk to school, carpool or start a social awareness campaign, we can pursue this goal. What we need right now, globally and locally, are leaders who have empathy and who think, act and advocate for the long-term well-being of the planet at large.



Zitin Munshi, Founder, Next Mile Co.

