



Be the change



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

Change is the law of universe. It is this law which has ruled civilisations. Dynasties and leaders have risen to power and economies have advanced over centuries. Nature itself has changed tirelessly. Winds of change always come laden with immense possibilities and limitless potential to learn, grow and evolve. These winds sometimes can be stormy and thunderous, ripping apart everything that comes their way, but such winds always leave behind the seeds of new possibilities and create the fertile troughs for new growth, new era, new culture & new civilization.

21st century thus has been a witness to a multitude of reforms, revamps and revolutions. Perspectives have been reoriented, people are more aware and societies more empowered. While this positive change is an outcome of an inevitable process, a great part of this change can be attributed to citizens who have been change makers. Be it Former President late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam who altered the conventional definition of leaders and educators or crusaders like Kailash Satyarthi who work zealously to make the society a better place; 21st century has stood witness to a slew of change makers.

Amity universe believes in creating such change makers, who can be the change we want to see. It is our constant endeavour to nurture leaders who learn from old and create the new, the thinkers whose thoughts change the way the societies think and work. 'Youth Power Program' and 'Model United Nations' are such boulevards where our young minds are challenged to learn, explore, engage and evolve. They are encouraged to put their ideas to work and learn what needs to be changed and tread the path to usher that change. My dear Amitians, keep pushing the boundaries of knowledge and intellect for the world to change and evolve. 🇮🇳

Winds of change

'The secret to change is to focus all your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.'
Socrates



Renu Singh
Principal AISN

Dear students, Each day that you enter the four walls of your school, you are fostered in a conducive environment of academic stimulation. We, Amitians, are eternally indebted to our Chairperson Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan for providing us with excellent infrastructure and unfathomable opportunities, which equip us to bring a positive change in the world. Realise, recognise, and appreciate these prospects, and harness your true potential. You, the students of today, must fulfil the vision of the Founder President, Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, and step forward to lead and light the way of billions.

Children, the winds of change are here, and they call upon you to take on great social and economics responsibilities. As it has been illustrated in the enriching articles of this Contest Issue, we must strive to keep up, and in fact, improve upon the revolutionary transformations that are taking place across the globe. Sharpen your minds, take advantage of the facilities that surround you, and emerge as refined individuals who are ready to take on the entire world. Your parents, teachers, and mentors, will support and guide you as you take on this journey of self enlightenment, which knows no limit, but at the same time, promises a destination of edification. I congratulate my Editorial Board students for creating such an outstanding issue which has encompassed all aspects pertaining to the change we witness around! 🇮🇳

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The age of misinformation

We really don't even take a second before forwarding a message to our circle of friends on social media. This is quite harmless until we start sharing rumours or any kind of misinformation, unknowingly. Soumya Sharma, AIS Noida, XI J explores why some kind of discretion is necessary to ensure we are not adding fuel to the misplaced fire.

Step I: Message Sent

We are a society. And like in most societies, word travels fast here. Fast forwarding emails, copy pasting chain messages, taking the dreaded screenshot, all carried out through a mere touch — quiet, simple movements that mean no harm to anyone at all. However, that's just the small picture; the bigger one offers a completely different view altogether.

Amidst the bazillion messages that we forward every day, there are many we shouldn't have. From the HIV-blood infused Frooti to plastic Kurkure to gangs of women kidnapping school children- we all are guilty of not only believing these tidbits but also forwarding them to the entirety of our contact list. In fact, they've spread to a laughable extent- last August,

when Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself had to debunk a viral story that claimed he had urged citizens to boycott Chinese-made firecrackers. *Mitron*, not only does fabricated news of this sort create unnecessary tensions, it also defeats the purpose of social media — to keep people informed and connected.

Step II: Message Received

Human beings tend to overlook the next bit — the inevitable consequences and repercussions. Wrong information in the wrong hands can even incite violence within a community. For instance, in Jharkhand, a WhatsApp message warning against child kidnappers caused wide-

spread panic, leading to violent vigilantes lynching seven innocent men. A simple message mindlessly sent forward might be the catalyst in a series of unfortunate events. For example, religious extremism often starts out as small posts on Twitter but turns into communal riots and even societal divisions. In layman's terms, it's time we rechecked that text before recklessly pressing 'send'.

Step III: WhatsApp Uninstalled

In the first nine months of 2016, the Indian government turned off the internet a whopping 22 times in various parts of the country to prevent the spread of misinformation and rumours.

However, this solution is not a permanent answer.

As avid users of various social media platforms, the least we can do is be sensitive and discretionary about what we send and receive. To summarize the internet in the words of Zayn — 'it's a paradise, and it's a warzone'. Let's remember that the next time our phones beep with notifications!



Graphic: Nishchay Sinha, AIS Noida, IX L

God and His Followers

What if God was addicted to social media? What if he too felt disappointed for not having enough followers? What if He too was insecure...

Ritika Mathur & Sanya Grover
AIS Noida, XII I

"Narayan, Narayan! Bhagwan Ji, have you had a look at your Instagram lately?"

God looks up from his copy of the Bhagwad Gita. "I've been on hiatus," he says carefully. "Why?"

"Tch. Were you aware that your follower count has dropped by nine percent?" Narada Muni enquires casually. He watches with glee as God's eyes comically bulge out of their sockets. "Nine percent?!" God scrambles for his iPhone. Narada supplies his own Samsung helpfully.

"Android?" God sniffs. "No thanks." He scrolls through his Instagram, frowning deeper and deeper every second. "It's true! What on earth brought this on?" "I hear that there are..." Narada Muni lowers his voice conspiratorially "...new Gods in the market." He revels in the resulting dramatic gasp. "And that's not all! There's this new absurd notion. People claim that they're atheist!" Narada continues. God tilts his head inquisitively. "Atheist? That's not mentioned in my Hindu dictionary."

"It means that you don't believe that God exists."

"No! This is ridiculous. I'm telling you, this is all because of Paresh Rawal and

his Oh My God. I will sue him for defamation. At this rate, my image will be ruined!" God squawks in indignation at a picture of a young girl doing the splits. "Hashtag Dance Is My Religion." "What kind of caption is that?!"

"There's more," Narada starts. "There is a new guy.

His name is Buddha. Seems like a real human-magnet these days. He gained almost 4 lakh followers overnight."

"Four lakh? Is that even possible? This is bad. This is really bad. I need to call the squad."

"Oh, they know already. They should be calling you right about." God's phone rings "...now," Narada Muni finishes.

"Hello? Rama?" God begins. "Calm down, calm down. Yeah, I know, I heard... what? No, relax, Rama, no one's gonna steal your wife again... what? No, we are not getting exiled, relax. I'll fix this, okay? Yeah, Jai Shree Krishna." He cuts the call with a heavy sigh. "Look, we need to do some damage control. I'll call Shiva and tell him to look into the matter with his third eye. He is said to be the Hacker of Gods."

God scowls. "Let me stalk this Buddha guy first, then I'll move on to Jesus."

Silence ensues for a good two minutes. "I'm surprised. Narada, their content is so good!" God wails, waving a photo of Bodh Gaya in Narada's face. "Yes! So vibrant, so soothing! And look at Jesus' feed. So risqué, so edgy. I love it." "So they're a little cool," he admits begrudgingly.

"You're not... gonna fight them?"

"Hm... I don't think so."

"You won't even unleash Baba Ramdev on them?"

"Nah."

Narada is more than a little disappointed, but then the phone pings. "Ah... it says, Buddha requested to follow you." God is a picture of nonchalance.

Narada fails to hide the smile tugging at his lips as God discreetly presses 'follow back'. 🇮🇳

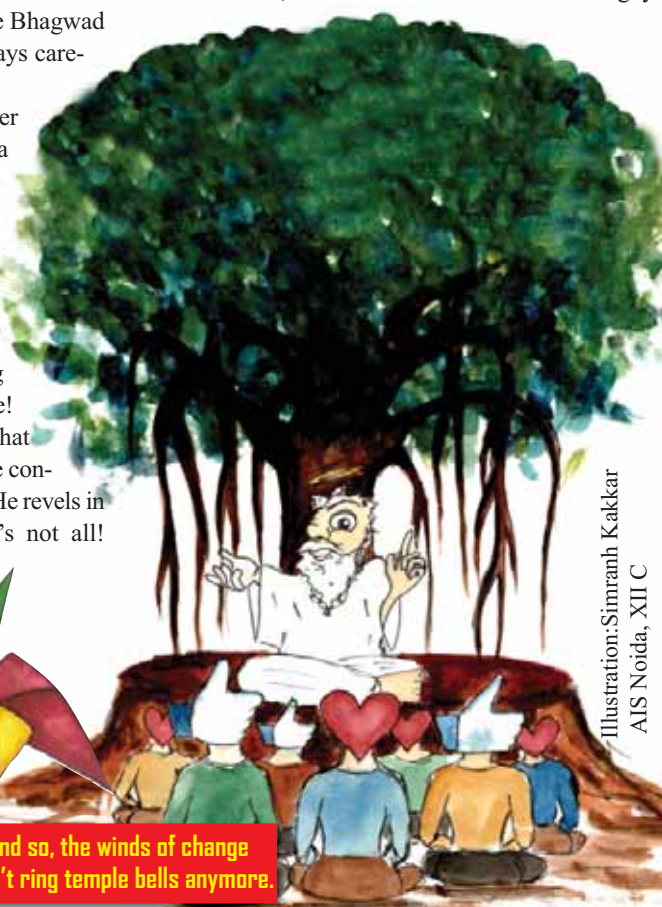


Illustration: Simranh Kakkar
AIS Noida, XII C



And so, the winds of change didn't ring temple bells anymore.

Of innovation and imagination

The experience of creating a GT Contest Issue is akin to a living classroom, bubbling with enthusiasm and creative ideas; and where the students hone multiple skills through application. My sincere gratitude goes to the Chairperson, Dr (Mrs)

Amita Chauhan for providing us with this wonderfully effective learning platform, a niche, an identity — 'The Global Times'.

To handle deadline pressure along with the constructive criticism,



Priti Khullar
GT Coordinator

to step out of the comfort zone, sharpen up management skills and stay competitive are the perks of being the Editorial Board members. Every year the editorial board comes up with a distinctive theme by exploring every aspect of the same. There was scarcely a day when I wasn't spell-

bound by the expertise, ideas and enthusiasm of the team and their persistence, exploration and expression of the theme- 'Winds of Change'. Kudos to the budding journalists of AIS Noida who have consistently held up the superior standards through their sensitive simulation of real world journalism. All the best to you all as you strive for excellence and transcendence!